

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council President Dan DePaul in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken and Council President noted there was a quorum. Council President Dan DePaul, Council members Henry Nodoline, Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana and Paul James were present. Thomas Nodoline was absent. Mayor, Gerald Gross; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Jim & Elaine Jankowich, Leon Stull, David Bogusky and Robert J. Mahady.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved check #16171 through #16203 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved check #2042 through #2043 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved #340921 from the Liquid Fuels Account.

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked about the amount of the check. Ms. Heebner replied it is the amount received from the state plus insurance less the bank's minimum balance requirement.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposit and Receipts for October 2017.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the October 9, 2017 meeting

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes from the October 23, 2017 meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Council President DePaul asked Dane Thatcher if the Deer Crossing sign had been put up on Spring Street. Mr. Thatcher replied that the sign was on order.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for October 2017.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked if the Treasurer's Report reflected the grant money for Second Street. Mr. Gehman replied that the grant money has been received from the county and has been deposited into a new account. The money will be used to reimburse General Fund since the Second Street expenses were taken from General Fund

. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment –

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull stated that a good job was done on Second Street but he is concerned with his sidewalk and curb in front of his home. Mr. Stull said that the curb is 2 – 2 ½ inches higher than the sidewalk and his wife has stumbled at least once due to the height of the sidewalk.

Mr. Stull also asked if Spring Street was going to be resurfaced by UGI. Mr. DePaul agreed that Spring Street was in bad condition.

Guest –

Robert Mahady of Nazareth, PA is a retired State Police officer. He agreed to meet with the Public Safety/Personnel Committee on Tuesday, November 14th at noon. Mr. Mahady retired from the PA State Police after 25 years in August, 2017. He retired as a Sergeant. He spent 12 years at the Belfast barracks. Mr. Mahady also spent time in the Internal Affairs division of the State Police and also as a Fire Marshall Patrol officer.

Mr. DePaul stated that Mr. Mahady was the best of the applicants for Chief of Police. Other applicants were from Stroudsburg, Voorhees, Allentown formerly from Florida and a patrolman from Wilson.

Engineer's Report – None

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Gross asked if the guardrail at East and Third Street could be replaced. He stated that the guardrail is made up of Railroad ties and should be replaced with a regular bumper rail. Mayor Gross is concerned that if someone would hit the current guardrail, it would not stop a vehicle from going over the embankment.

Mayor Gross mentioned that two clips of ammunition were discharged at 196 Third Street. Mayor Gross called the State Police. The State Police did send an officer to investigate. Mayor Gross met with the owner of the property. The Mayor asked the home owner to provide to the Borough a list of people who are residing at that address.

Mayor Gross requested a copy of the trash ordinance. He asked Council to revisit updating this ordinance after an incident with a neighbor. The neighbor's trash was ripped apart by a wild animal. He suggests that trash be put out in cans only.

Mayor Gross asked Council to make sure that the Borough has enough liability insurance in the budget as the Borough moves forward with the Police Department.

Lastly, the Mayor wanted to congratulate everyone that was on the ballot. He will be out there watching.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated what he had to discuss needed to be in Executive Session.

Office Report – None

President's Report –

Council President DePaul stated that the Delaware & Lehigh River Trail will be hosting a Founder's Day – 30 year anniversary – at Hugh Moore Park on June 2, 2018. Music and refreshments would be available.

Secondly, repairs on the Black & White jeep are estimated to be \$479.95 or \$619.95 if the oxygen sensor is replaced. They are willing to waive the \$25.00 inspection fee.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to spend \$620.00 for repairs to the Black & White jeep.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Mr. DePaul started a discussion on changing the sewer rate. He stated that the current commercial rate is \$3.75/unit of water used. The Borough now has a new business, a laundry beginning operations in the Borough. They estimate that they will use less than 5,000 gallons per day. Council President DePaul stated that the Utility Committee is looking at charging \$5.50/unit.

Mayor Gross said the Committee should compare rates as far as residential versus commercial.

Council President DePaul continued that the Water Authority and the Department of Environment Protection are also getting involved in the operation of the Laundry.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees asked about having the new Council members attend a PSAB “Boot Camp” and if PSAB could be contacted about holding it locally, as they did two years ago.

Council President DePaul stated he has already contacted PSAB asking them to have a “Boot Camp” in the area.

Ms. Heebner mentioned there is a free webinar on December 5th and 6th from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The webinar provides basic information for new Council members.

Ms. Heebner also sent an email to the person interested in being a Junior Council member.

Mr. Gehman commented that the Borough office has received to complaints about fences being put up before obtaining a permit. Solicitor Goudsouzian said that the Borough should send the Code officer. If there is a violation have him site the resident. Then let the resident obtain a permit.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Chairperson, Robert Lewis asked to schedule meetings for Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30 pm

Highway/Property Committee – None.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee for Tuesday, November 14th at noon and Tuesday, November 21st at noon.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, asked to schedule a Committee meeting for Friday, November 17th at 6 pm. The meeting previously scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st was cancelled.

Recreation – None

Mr. James reminded Council that he will be attending the Wilson Recreation Board meeting and ask if anyone had any concerns to be voiced.

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees plans on meeting with Mary Himmelberger of Barry Isett & Associates and formulate a plan on what grants are available. He is looking at possible grants that would pertain to the trestle, MS4, the parks or trails.

Old Business –

A discussion on the 2018 budget was started by Council President DePaul.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis; seconded by Mr. James; Council voted on a donation of \$9,000.00 to the Mary Meuser Library as requested.

Discussion – Mayor Gross stated that the usage among Borough residents has increased over last year. Mr. Dees stated that if the library could provide medical insurance for our employees he would be in favor of the increase.

Mr. DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Mammana – No, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – No, Mr. H. Nodoline – No, Mr. DePaul – No.

Motion turned down 2 – 4.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved a donation of \$8,700.00 to the Mary Meuser Library.

Mr. DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – No, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. DePaul – Yes.

Motion passed 5 – 1.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved advertising the budget with approved change.

Council President DePaul asked for a voice vote. Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. DePaul – Yes.

Motion carried 6 – 0.

Council President DePaul stated that he and Councilman Mammana attended a meeting held by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. These meetings are mandatory if the Borough expects to be reimbursed for disaster relief. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 16th at 3:00 pm at the Best Western off of Route 512. These meetings will continue through December 2018.

New Business –

Ms. Heebner asked if the renovations to the War Monument were being postponed until spring of 2018. Mr. Thatcher commented that the foundation that is being requested to be built is to be 30” deep.

Additional Public Comment

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull asked if you need a zoning permit for a fence.

David Bogusky – Mr. Bogusky as the Solicitor who is responsible if someone falls on your sidewalk.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the homeowner would be ultimately responsible or could be sued in the event of a fall.

Entered Executive Session – 8:03 pm

Councilman Lewis left at 8:15 pm

Council H. Nodoline left at 8:30 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:21 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Dees; seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn meeting.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
David W. Gehman, Borough Senior Clerk