

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

APPROVED

The second monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. 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, Pete Mammana and Paul James were present. Robert Lewis called in and was available to cast his vote. Thomas Nodoline was absent. Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Mayor, Gerald Gross and Borough Manager, Joan Heebner were absent. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, James Jankowich, Bruce Walter, David Bogusky, Vinnie Fodero, Genie Solano, Robert J. Mahady and Drew Zavada.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved check #16204 through #16220 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved check #2044 from the Sewer Fund.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment – None

Entered Executive Session – 6:32 p.m.

Exited Executive Session – 6:40 p.m.

Council President DePaul stated that Council had entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Council President DePaul stated that the Personnel Committee recommends that the Borough hire Robert Mahady as an independent consultant.

Mr. DePaul continued by giving the qualifications of Mr. Mahady and also stated that two people he knew, who work for Northampton County, gave unsolicited references favoring Mr. Mahady.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved hiring Robert Mahady as an Independent Contractor at \$25/hr for 20 hours/week.

Discussion – None

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes (voted by telephone), Mr. DePaul – Yes. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Engineer's Report – None

Mayor's Report – None

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian discussed establishing a lease with the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company in renting the old Borough hall for the Police Department. The basics were agreed to and the building needs to have electric restored. The lease calls for a payment of \$1 at the beginning of each 10 year term with two 10 year renewal options.

Upon motion by Mr. James; seconded Mr. Dees; Council agreed to enter into a lease agreement with Safety First Volunteer Fire Company to lease the former Borough building.

Discussion – None

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. Lewis – Yes (voted by telephone), Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Nodoline – Yes and Mr. DePaul – Yes. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Office Report –

Mr. Gehman reported that the 2018 Borough Budget and the 2018 Council meeting dates were advertised on Thursday, November 23rd. Council should be able to vote on the budget at the December 11th meeting.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul met with the owners of a new business, Delta Wash, now located at 601 East Street and their Engineers. The owners and engineers have

agreed to install meters to measure the intake of spring water and the discharge into the sewer system.

Mr. DePaul also unveiled the plan for changing how sewer charges are currently billed. The sewer portion of the bill is currently billed at a fixed rate: Residential - \$82.00 and Senior - \$63.00. Under the proposed plan 3 units or fewer would be billed at a flat fee of \$20.00. Anything over would be billed at \$5.60/unit. (i.e. 4 units would cost \$22.40, 5 units would cost \$28.00).

Mr. DePaul stated that Palmer charges \$5.50/unit with a minimum charge of \$27.00 for fewer than 5 units. He also stated that Forks charges a minimum charge of \$40.00 for 8 or fewer units and they charge \$6/unit.

Mr. DePaul opened the floor to questions.

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street – Asked is there a plan to be able to deduct for filling a swimming pool or using a sprinkler system. Answer – A bypass meter could be used to calculate the exception.

Asked how often would the charges be billed? Answer - Quarterly

Vinnie Fodero of East Street – Asked for whole numbers of the system.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Mr. Dees asked if the Borough had reached out to Nathaniel Kober. Nathaniel Kober was interested in becoming a “junior” Council member.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Budget has been advertised. No meetings are planned at this time.

Highway/Property Committee – Committee chairperson, Henry Nodoline has requested a meeting with Ryan Kern from Barry Isett & Associates on Thursday, November 30th at 10 am.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee for Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chair, Mr. James scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, asked to schedule a Committee meeting for Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation – None

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees mentioned that the Grant Committee will be meeting with Mary Himmelberger of Barry Isett & Associates on Friday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. in regards to grants that would be available in 2018.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment

Jim Jankowich of Ninth Street – Asked if Mr. Mahady could enforce Borough code. Mr. DePaul stated that Mr. Mahady could not enforce Borough Code until he was officially hired as a Police Chief rather than an Independent Contractor.

Mr. H. Nodoline commented that he is noticing work being done in the Borough and the resident has no permit. He feels that the Borough should be going after residents that are not getting permits.

Bonnie Mammana of Tenth Street – Asked if a list of work that requires a permit could be put in the next newsletter

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street – Asked when UGI had planned on resurfacing Spring Street.

Mr. Gehman replied that as of Monday, November 27, UGI had no plans on resurfacing Spring Street until the other projects in the Borough were completed.

Entered Executive Session – 7:41 p.m.

Exited Executive Session – 8:09 p.m.

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

Motion passed 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by:

David W. Gehman, Borough Senior Clerk