

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 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, Thomas Nodoline, Robert Lewis and Pete Mammana were present. Paul James was available by telephone. 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, Vinnie Fodero, Jeff Breidinger, Jr., Leon Stull, Nathaniel Kober, Georgene Gross, Natalie Gross and Spencer Gross.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #16221 through #16252 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #2045 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Deposit and Receipts for November 2017.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the November 13, 2017 meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes from the November 27, 2017 meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Public Comment –

Wes Beers of Spring Street – Mr. Beers asked Council to clarify how many years and the term of the lease of the “old Borough Hall. Mr. Beers said he heard that the Borough had a 30 year lease for a \$1/month or year.

Council President DePaul clarified the situation that the Borough has entered into an agreement with the Fire Company for a 10 year lease at \$1/year with the right of an additional 10 years.

Mr. Beers asked Council about why the Borough was renting the old Borough Hall building from the Fire Company. Mr. Beers expected that it would take \$50,000 to bring the building up to code. Mr. Beers stated that the old Borough Hall needed a new ceiling, new floor, paint, the furnace replaced and the bathrooms brought up to ADA compliance.

Council President DePaul stated the he and Dane Thatcher have already looked at the old Borough Hall and they estimated that the repairs needed would be between \$5,000 – 7,000.

Councilmen Dees suggested that Mr. Beers stay for the second Public comment section because he will bring up that subject.

Nomination of Junior Council member -

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the application of Nathaniel Kober to be a Junior Council member.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council authorizes the participation in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Junior Council Person Program.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Council President DePaul asked Mayor Gross to introduce Nathaniel Kober who is a junior at Wilson Area High School and is interested in being a junior Council member. Mayor Gross had Nathaniel Kober take the pledge of office. Nathaniel Kober was then seated at the Council table next to Mr. Dees.

Engineer’s Report – None

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Gross gave his final Mayor's report. He again asked Council to investigate getting a new guardrail at Third & East Street. He stated that if it was icy and a car would hit the guardrail in the condition the guardrail is in it probably would not stop a vehicle from going over the embankment.

Council President DePaul stated that he has contacted PennDOT and is awaiting a call back from a company in Bath that provides them with guardrails.

Mayor Gross also suggested that the Borough enforce the ordinance for trash collection and have residents use sealed cans when putting the garbage out at the curb for collection. He suggested setting a mandate.

Council President DePaul asked Ms. Heebner to put this in the newsletter.

Finally the Mayor thanked the taxpayers and residents of the Borough during his 52 years of public service and highlighted some of the accomplishments during his term in office.

Mr. DePaul stated that Mr. Dees, Mr. Mammana and he attended the D & L Rails to Trails meeting and he thinks the Borough is on the right track to joining it.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated the hearing date in regards to the Mezzacappa matter was on December 5th. He hopes that a decision would be reached in the next few weeks.

The second item was the Conditional Use application. The Borough has 60 days to hear the application. Solicitor Goudsouzian asked Council if they wanted to schedule a hearing on the application now. The 60 days would expire at the end of January. The hearing of the Conditional Use application would also need to be advertised.

Councilman Dees suggested the January 8, 2018 meeting to hear the Conditional Use application due to possible weather concerns.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved advertising the hearing for the Conditional Use application of West Easton LP for 92 Main Street at the January 8, 2018 Council meeting and to have the appropriate individuals from the Borough to review the application prior to the meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Solicitor Goudsouzian has more in regards to the Conditional Use application for Executive Session.

Office Report –

Ms. Heebner stated that we needed to authorize the Bean, Inc. Contractors for snow removal services. Council President DePaul said that the Borough authorizes Bean every year.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved Bean, Inc. Contractors for snow removal services.

Discussion – Motion passed 7 – 0.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul started the discussion on the old Borough Hall to be used as the Police Station.

Councilman Dees asked if the electric was reconnected because he had been told that work is being done. Mr. DePaul stated that the electric has not been reconnected and property of the Fire Company has been removed.

Mr. DePaul stated that he discussed the repairs with Dane Thatcher and they estimate the repairs to be \$5,000 - \$7,000.

Mr. Dees told Mr. DePaul that he should come to Council with estimates for all the work that is to be done.

Mr. DePaul handed the gavel to Mr. H. Nodoline and Mr. DePaul made a motion to spend \$5,000 - \$7,000 on the basic repairs of the building. There was no second.

Mr. H. Nodoline agreed with the repairs that Mr. DePaul stated but he estimated the repairs would be about \$10,000. Mr. H. Nodoline asked Mr. DePaul if Dane Thatcher would be doing all the repairs, Mr. DePaul replied "No."

Mayor Gross made the comment that the Borough should have someone from Barry Isett & Associates come and inspect the building to see what is actually needed and find out if there is asbestos in the building that would need to be removed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by T. Nodoline; Council approved to have the Borough Code enforcement officer to inspect the new "Police Department' building (301 Sixth Street).

Discussion – Mayor Gross stated, "Let the building be inspected and then make your decision about the repairs." Mr. Dees made the comment that Council took it's time and went step-by-step to establish the Police force, why rush through making repairs to the building.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Wes Beers of Spring Street – offered a building owned by his son. He stated the building was move in ready, handicap accessible and had its own parking lot. He stated that he would rent the property to the Borough for \$1,000/month.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance –

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council agreed to advertise the millage rate for 2018. The millage rate will be 11.7 mills.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Round Table –

Councilman Dees asked Ms. Heebner if Nathaniel Kober could receive a copy of the monthly Boroughs magazine. He also asked if she could find out if Nathaniel would be eligible to attend the “Boot Camp.”

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – None

Highway/Property Committee – None.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – None

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – None

Recreation – None

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees met with Mary Himmelberger of Barry Isett & Associates to formulate a plan on what grants are available. Mr. Dees said that Mary Himmelberger spoke with Brian Cope of Northampton County and there appears to be a grand plan for the Two Rivers Trail that involves Wilson Borough and West Easton Borough and involves the train trestles. Mr. Dees said he plans on meeting with Scott Palinkas of Wilson Borough to begin talks about things that could be mutually beneficial to both boroughs.

Old Business –

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the 2018 Borough Budget.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment

Vinny Fodero of Delta Wash (East Street) – Mr. Fodero asked about the meters that the Sewer Authority recommended them to install.

Council President DePaul state he attended the meeting and the Sewer Authority approved the meters the Delta Wash had planned on installing. Mr. James agreed.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the meters that were approved by the Sewer Authority.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Leon Stull of Second Street – Asked if Dane Thatcher would be allowed to install a water heater in the building if it was a commercial property.

Mr. DePaul said that it was since it is on Borough property.

Jeff Breidinger, Jr. of Third Street – Just asked for clarification of the hiring of Robert Mahaday as a Consultant moving forward with the Police Department

Mr. T. Nodoline left prior to the start of the Executive Session.

Entered Executive Session – 7:47 pm

Exited Executive Session – 7:59 pm

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

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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