

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 23, 2018

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 Paul James 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 Paul James, Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, Desiree Lake and Jeff Breidinger, Jr. were present. Henry Nodoline was absent. Nathaniel Kober, Junior Council member was absent. Mayor, Dan DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Drew Zavada, David Bogusky, Leon Stull and Rob Mahady.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #16488 through #16515 from the General Fund Account. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes with correction from Council meeting held on April 9, 2018.

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked that his explanation of a voting delegate be changed to “each borough has a vote in electing officers to PSAB.” Motion passed 6 – 0.

Engineer’s Report –

Mr. Doug Brown of Barry Isett and Associates attended the Council meeting to provide Council with information on the bids for the sidewalks to be put in along Gerald W. Gross Community Park.

Mr. Brown told Council that there were three bids and the lowest bid was from The Vanic Company, Inc. in the amount of \$45,400.00. The other two bids were \$68,305.00 and \$146,000.00. Mr. Brown recommended that Council accept the Vanic bid.

Mr. Brown acknowledged that the lowest bid is above the amount of the grant. Council had two options to consider. First option, have the additional monies taken from Borough funds. The second option is to ask Frank Brooks of Northampton County

for additional funding for the project. Mr. Brown noted that Mr. Brooks has not yet received the CDBG monies from the Federal government.

Mr. Brown provided Council two alternatives to move forward with the project. The first alternative is to award the contract on the condition that money is received from the Federal government. The second alternative is to hold off on awarding the contract (Council has 60 days from the date the bids are opened to award the contract). The drawback on this alternative is that it delays the start of the project.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to delay the awarding of the contract to give more time to come up with additional funds

Discussion – Ms. Lake asked, “How would the delay affect us?” Mr. Brown replied that it would result in a later starting date. Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner asked if she should prepare a letter to Frank Brooks for the additional funding.

Council President James called for a voice vote. Mr. Breidinger – Yes, Ms. Lake – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Brown told Council that the engineering fees for the project should they decide to have Barry Isett & Associates do the inspections and prepare the paperwork for payment would be \$4,000.

Mayor DePaul asked about the bidding process. He asked why use PennBid. Mr. Brown replied that PennBid is free. PennBid makes their money when a contract is awarded they charge the company who received the contract a fee. Mayor DePaul said he felt that using PennBid eliminated the “small” business from bidding on the project. Mr. Brown replied that using PennBid is the norm or standard in the industry.

Mr. Dees asked if a company would get a bid package not through PennBid could they bid on the project. Mr. Brown stated that even if they got a bid package not through PennBid they would need to place their bid through PennBid.

Ms. Lake wondered why so few bidders and where the “heavy-hitters” were. Mr. Brown stated that this is a relatively small project.

Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Asked for confirmation as to the number of companies that entered a bid for the project. Council President James said three. Ms. Hargraves also asked if the new sidewalks were only on Fifth Street and Seventh Street. Councilman Dees replied yes, that Iron Street is a state road and PennDOT would then need to be involved.

Mayor’s Report –

Mayor DePaul spoke to Council about attending the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Mitigation meeting on April 19th. He again invited anyone from Council to attend any of these meetings. They are informative.

The Mayor also stated that he is working with Mary Himmelberger from Barry Isett & Associates in applying for the 2018 CDBG grant. He stated that at the meeting he attended the monies are looking to be used on infrastructure. He would like to have the streets that have not yet been done to be slurry sealed and beginning in 2019 start a seven year plan to have the streets Nova chipped.

The Mayor stated the he, along with Councilman Nodoline and Dees toured the Borough and looked at curbs by drains and found several that were in need of repair. These were also included in the grant application.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he had nothing to report other than what needs to be discussed in Executive Session.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, updated Council on Delta Wash. A stop work order was issued on April 9th. The Borough office was notified last week that Delta Wash was still operating. Joseph Hoffman of Barry Isett and Associates was contacted and citations were dropped off at the magistrate.

The Hubcap Store has paid on their fines but no action has been taken care off.

Mayor DePaul stated “The pole barn money can be released.” Councilman Dees asked if the cost included a concrete floor. The Mayor replied “it does not.”

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved putting the pole barn out for bid with specifications meeting the Monroe County grant specifications
Motions passed 6 – 0.

President's Report –

President James wanted to remind everyone that they should be taking the NIMS training online.

He also reminded Council to return insurance forms to the Borough office.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees spoke that Northampton County was disbanding the Gaming Authority. Councilman Dees said he wrote an opposition letter. With the Authority being disbanded, the Borough will receive \$31,440.00 to be used for infrastructure and/or community areas.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chair, Mr. Lewis, stated that the Finance Committee did meet and discussed investing money. He said that the Committee is now looking into PLGIT (Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust) to invest funds. He was surprised to find out that the Borough already had an ordinance allowing the Borough to participate. Mr. Lewis said the Borough would need to designate an authorized signor for the account.

Mr. Lewis set a Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, May 9th at 6:00 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – The committee did not meet. Tentative meetings are set for Tuesday, May 1st and Wednesday, May 2nd at 10:00 am.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Committee chairwoman, Ms. Lake, stated the committee did not meet and no meeting will be scheduled at this time.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Council President James stated there was no meeting scheduled. No meeting was needed.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, stated that the committee discussed sewer rates and is looking into other consulting forms Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, May 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee – Jeff Breidinger, Jr, Committee chairman, stated that the committee met and reviewed the Memorial Day celebration. No meeting was being scheduled at this time.

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees, stated the committee did not meet and scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, May 1st at 5:30 pm.

Old Business –

Mr. Gehman informed Council and the public in attendance that on Thursday, May 3rd the West Easton Scholarship Committee will meet to decide who is being given the scholarship for this year and everyone is invited to participate.

New Business – None

Public Comment

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Ms. Hargraves mentioned about two vehicles that have been sitting near her home. One is located at Keystone and Second, the other is on Center Street between Second and Third. The second vehicle has an out-of-date inspection sticker.

Drew Zavada of Ridge Street – Mr. Zavada said there are two pick-up trucks near his home that have not moved.

Nancy Stout of Second Street – Ms. Stout told Council about a pot hole on Second Street

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Ms. Hargraves also mentioned an issue with a neighbor and the garbage being stock piled in the back yard.

Council President James said he would speak to the resident and handle it.

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull stated that there is a pothole at Keystone and Front for the last 5-10 years.

Rob Mahady, Borough Police Consultant – Mr. Mahady addressed Council and said that the Borough is still waiting on approval from Homeland Security. We need this approval so that we can communicate with the County 911 system and also begin making purchases for the Police Department.

Entered Executive Session – 7:37 p.m.

Exited Executive Session – 8:01 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dee; Council approved to put out to bid the road work (slurry seal). No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council agreed to adjourn. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Meeting ended 8:17 p.m.

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