

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 9, 2018

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 Paul James in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken and Council President James noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were present. Council member, Desiree Lake was absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Police Consultant, Rob Mahady was present. Members of the public in attendance: Bill & June Smith, Leon Stull, David Bolash, Bruce Walter, Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Tricia Mezzacappa and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #16590 through #16642 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved check # 2059 through #2061 from the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Dees asked Ms. Heebner if the Borough is reimbursed for the water shut-offs. Ms. Heebner replied the Borough recovers the fees either by the current resident paying the fee or when the property is eventually sold. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from June 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes for the June 11, 2018, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the June 2018, Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Appointment of Council member –

Mr. James stated that Council received letters from two interested residents willing to fill Mr. Nodoline's seat on Council. Ms. Mezzacappa and Mr. Bolash were given an opportunity to speak.

Mr. James opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Mammana nominated David Bolash for the vacant seat on Council. Nominations were then closed by Mr. James.

Council President asked for a voice vote on the nomination. Mr. Breidinger – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes. Mr. James – Yes.

Mr. David Bolash was approved to fill the vacant seat on Council.

Mayor DePaul then swore in Mr. Bolash as the new Council member.

Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves from Second Street – Ms. Hargraves stated that she understands that Pennsylvania passed a law that you can now purchase and use fireworks but her neighbor at 319 Second Street shot aerial fireworks over her house. A neighbor of Ms. Hargraves would back-up her claim.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the law is no fireworks should be set off within 150 feet of a structure. Fireworks being set off anywhere in the Borough would be in violation of the law. The problem is that Law Enforcement cannot enforce the law.

Leon Stull from Second Street – Mr. Stull asked Council to have a hole at the intersection of Keystone and Front Streets be repaired.

Council President James asked Mr. Thatcher to look at and repair the hole.

Engineer's Report –

Ms. Heebner read a report provided by Doug Brown of Barry Isett and Associates. Solicitor Goudzousian explained the request further.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council waived the land development process for the Ridge Street property for the Pole Barn Project to ensure transparency and to bypass the Planning Commission. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor DePaul passed out photographs of the before and after of the guard rail project completed at Third & East Streets in the Borough.

Mr. DePaul said leftover blacktop was used to repair the alley behind the church up to Keystone Avenue.

Mr. DePaul reminded everyone that the next Mitigation meeting will be on Wednesday, July 19th at 3:00 p.m. at Muhlenburg Hospital.

Lastly, Mr. DePaul told Council he has obtained office furniture that he will donate for use in the Police Department.

Solicitor's report –

The Solicitor stated that the Mezzacappa litigation has been settled. Further discussion is needed in Executive session.

Office Report –

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved using \$10,000.00 from the disbanding of the Northampton Gaming Commission to match the \$10,000.00 CIPP grant for the War Memorial Park. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Barry Isett & Associates to submit the application for the War Memorial Park. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Ms. Heebner also provided an update on the ongoing code enforcement issues regarding The Hubcap Store and Delta Wash.

The Hubcap Store is still operating a Bike Shop without getting the proper authorization from the Borough (Zoning Hearing Board). Council President James stated that there are more trailers on the property.

Delta Wash is installing a larger meter to record the discharge into the sewer system and a lint trap. Mayor DePaul stated they were close to completing the work.

President's Report –

Council President James commented that the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference is scheduled for October 12 through 14 (Friday through Sunday). Councilman Dees stated that anyone attending the conference should share what they learned with other members of Council.

President James again reminded everyone that they need to complete the NIMS training on the Emergency Management Systems.

Mr. James also spoke to the public in attendance that there remains an opening on the Zoning Hearing Board and also the Vacancy Board. He also mentioned that due to his work hours, he will need someone to replace him on the Wilson Recreation Board.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees stated that he thought it would be a good idea to have the basketball nets taken down during the construction of the new sidewalks at Gerald W. Gross Park. After speaking with Mr. DePaul and Dane Thatcher it was decided not to take down the nets due to the amount of time to do so. It was recommended that Council members just keep an eye on the concrete after it is poured until it sets.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Lewis, scheduled two meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 23rd at 6:00 pm. and the second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 25th at 6:30 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – The committee chair was absent but a meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 25th at 6:00 pm.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James stated that he met with Mr. Breidinger and discussed codification and recommendations to update. No new meeting was scheduled

Utilities Committee – Mr. Mammana said that the committee did not meet. He also scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, July 17th at 6:00 pm.

Recreation Committee – Committee chairman, Jeff Breidinger, stated the committee did not meet and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 17th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Gehman stated that the Borough's National Night Out is to be held Tuesday, August 7th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Matt Dees had nothing new to report and no meeting was scheduled.

Guest – Rob Mahady – Police Consultant

Mr. Mahady addressed Borough Council. Mr. Mahady stated that he took a tour of the Borough and found 64 cars in the Borough with expired inspections, 32 cars were over 6 months and 30 cars were expired more than 1 year.

Mr. Mahady also said that he has spoken with the Sheriff's Department. He also spoke with the Police Chief of Palmer Township. Palmer Township has radios that the Borough can have for the Police Department.

Finally, Mr. Mahady stated that there are a few items that need to be completed to satisfy the check list from Homeland Security. He has made arrangements to complete the check list in the next week.

Mayor DePaul asked Council to give authorization to Rob Mahady to purchase necessary items for the Police Department. Councilman Dees questioned giving authorization to a private individual.

Solicitor Goudsouzian suggested the Council wait until the Chief is officially sworn in then give him authorization. The Solicitor also stated a limit should be placed on the authorization.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved paying \$300.00 for the psychological test required by Homeland Security. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Councilman Dees suggested that Mr. Mahady meet with the Public Safety/Personnel Committee on Wednesday, July 25th at 6:00 pm.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment –

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull commented that the contractor never showed in regards to making the repair to his sidewalk.

Nancy Stout of Second Street – Ms. Stout commented that the contractor doing a sidewalk report did not put stone down. The contractor wanted to pour the concrete right on the dirt.

Entered Executive Session – 7:46 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:17 pm

After exiting Executive Session, Council President James stated that Council discussed potential litigation.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved a letter be sent to Delta Wash requesting \$9,000.00 be paid in good faith and held in an Escrow account for amount owed for their Sewer bill. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn. Motion passed 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:21.

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