

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 13, 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, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were present. Council member, Robert Lewis was available by telephone. Council member, Desiree Lake was absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul was available by Facetime; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Doug Brown of Barry Isett & Associates was on hand. Members of the public in attendance: Bill & June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Tricia Mezzacappa and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved checks #16643 through #16699 from the General Fund.

Discussion – Mr. Breidinger asked what was paid with check #16666 payable to Monarch. Mr. Gehman replied that they were risers for the manhole covers. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved check # 2062 through #2063 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from July 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes for the July 9, 2018, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved the July 2018, Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment –

June Smith from Main Street – Ms. Smith reported that she has new neighbors and they are parking in the wrong direction on the street for extended periods of time. Ms. Smith also stated that there have been several near misses when trying to pull out

of their driveway because their neighbor's cars are blocking their sight of view when pulling out onto the street.

Engineer's Report –

Doug Brown from Barry Isett & Associates was on hand to discuss the bids for the new Public Works building. Two bids were received and the recommendation was to accept the lower bid of \$58,833.00 by Dutchman Contracting, LLC. A short discussion was held.

Mr. Brown also stated that if Council wished to add the installation of rain gutters and downspouts it can be done as a change order to the contract. Mr. Brown said he would get additional information regarding this installation

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council accepted the bid by Dutchman Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$58,833.00.

Council President James asked for a voice vote. Mr. Breidinger – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis (by telephone) – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved up to \$6,500.00 of engineering costs to Barry Isett & Associates to check site plans and shop drawings, inspect construction, administer contract and grant program and close out project. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved an additional \$1,895.00 for gutters and downspouts. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Dees questioned the cost of the cement floor and the difference between having it poured now or after the pole building was completed. Mr. Brown offered to get the cost of the cement floor.

Mayor DePaul asked Mr. Brown that when they prepare the advertisement for a future bid to make sure that the Office, namely Ms. Heebner, approved it first.

Mr. Brown also asked for additional items Council would like to apply for in the next grant. Suggestions were made for the following – fencing, landscaping, emergency lights, parking lot, security system, generator, exterior lighting and sidewalk.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor DePaul talked about the utility pole that is located on Spring Street near the trestle. The Mayor spoke with Met-Ed to relocate the pole. They agreed and they will contact the cable company to have their lines moved. Once the pole is moved the final section of the sidewalk can be completed.

Solicitor's report –

The Solicitor stated that he had litigation to be discussed in Executive session.

President's Report –

Council President James thanked Joan, Dane and David for all the work put in to the National Night Out. He also wished to thank everyone that had provided donations of food for the night.

Mr. James attended the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission meeting on July 31st. He said there was a discussion about completing the bike path in West Easton to connect the bike path to Wilson and Palmer. Mr. James said there were discussions on projects such as rain water runoff.

Mr. James also commented that in 10 years the Route 33 corridor will run out of open space due to the building of stores and warehouse/distribution centers adjacent to the highway.

Office Report –

Mr. Gehman spoke to Council. He first stated that Tree Line Tree Service will be clearing the hillside near the playground on Wednesday, August 15th, weather permitting. Secondly, Mr. Gehman distributed to the Council members in attendance a projected 2019 budget that the office has prepared based on current and past numbers. He stated that special items that Committees would like to be included in the budget would need to be added.

Mr. James asked if the budget could be emailed to Mr. Lewis.

Policies, Resolutions, Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Mr. Breidinger announced that he and his fiancé would be getting married on October 6, 2018 and that the fifth generation of Breidingers will be born on March 19, 2019.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Lewis, scheduled three meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 17th at 6:00 pm. the second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22nd at 6:00 pm and the last meeting was set for Wednesday, August 29th at 6:00 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Bolash, scheduled a committee meeting for Wednesday, August 15th at 4:00 pm.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – The committee chair was absent but meetings were scheduled for Monday, August 20, Tuesday, August 21 and Wednesday, August 22 at 6:30 pm by Mr. Dees.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee –Mr. James had nothing to report and no meeting was scheduled.

Utilities Committee – Committee chair, Mr. Mammana, stated that the committee did meet and discussed the pros and cons about having a rate study done. The committee also agreed to have Delta Wash pay \$9,000.00 toward what is owed for their sewer charges. He also scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, August 23rd at 6:00 pm.

Recreation Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Breidinger, had nothing to report and did not schedule a meeting.

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Dees, noted that a letter approving the grant for an inspection and feasibility study of the trestles over Iron and Spring Streets was received Mr. Dees also stated that the Borough received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation requiring an inspection of the trestle within 60 days of the date of the letter.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved Barry Isett and Associates to find and use a bridge engineer approved by PennDOT to inspect the trestle. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Old Business – None

New Business –

President James spoke about inviting District Attorney John Morganelli to speak to the Borough Council prior to the September 11th Council meeting. Mayor DePaul interjected that he had spoken to the District Attorney and he was available to meet at 7:00 pm on August 27th if the Council was willing to have a second meeting for the month of August. When told there would be no second meeting in August, Mayor DePaul said he would call District Attorney Morganelli to cancel his scheduled meeting.

Mr. Lewis disconnected his telephone connection at 7:20 pm.

Additional Public Comment –

Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street – Asked if Council had a response to her letter that she had sent requesting that her name and title be added to the Borough website, Facebook page and added to the quarterly newsletter.

Mr. James replied that no decision has been made regarding the request. The letter has been sent to the appropriate committee for further discussion.

David Bogusky of Ninth Street – Asked what is the status of the Police department? Mayor DePaul stated that Rob Mahady has passed all his exams. He is ready to be sworn in by the County.

Mayor DePaul asked Mr. Thatcher the status of the Police Station. Mr. Thatcher replied the there is some finesse work to be done but the structural work is done.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the proper way for this to be done is establish the police department, hire the Police Chief and then have him sworn in by a County Judge.

Entered Executive Session – 7:30 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:00 pm

After exiting Executive Session, Council President James stated that Council discussed legal matters and personnel matters.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved to join the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce at an annual fee of \$400.00. Mr. Dees stated that Ms. Lake agreed that the cost of joining the LVCC was a good deal and would also make additional grants available to the Borough. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to increase the number of hours worked by the Borough Manager, Joan Heebner, to 40 hours per week but reduce her rate to \$21.85 per hour. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees; seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved providing Borough Manager, Joan Heebner, a key employee working 40 hours a week, Capital Blue Platinum PPO, option #1, medical benefits through the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce – No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved to adjourn. Motion passed 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

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