

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 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, David Bolash, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. were present. Council member, Desiree Lake and Junior Council member Nathaniel Kober were 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. Members of the public in attendance: Bill & June Smith, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, Renee Foust and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved checks #16700 through #16751 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check # 2064 through #2065 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved the minutes for the August 13, 2018, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

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

Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Stated sources of the Express Times and Lehigh Valley Live as reporting that two detainees walked away from the “DUI” Center/Work release program.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the program is work and return. The persons eligible for the program are lower level, non-violent offenders. The Solicitor stated that the Courts decide who is eligible.

Mayor DePaul commented while clearing the streets of cars during the recent road construction there were two detainees from the Work Release program that had cars parks in the Borough. They were reported and the Borough was told that they would be returned to the prison.

Engineer's Report –

Ms. Heebner had three resolutions that Barry Isett & Associates asked to be passed.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to apply for the LSA – Monroe County Grant (Resolution 2018-037). No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to apply for the LSA – Northampton – Lehigh County Grant (Resolution 2018-038). No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the addition of a 36" commercial side to the pole barn building and the elimination of the sidelight panels. This change adds \$1,070.00 to the contract.

Discussion – Mayor DePaul said he met with the Property Committee and with the contractor regarding the additional door. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Office Report –

Ms. Heebner reported that this year's Halloween parade will be on Monday, October 29th. The parade will stage at Tenth & Low Streets at 5:30 p.m.

Trick or Treat will be on Wednesday, October 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Ms. Heebner asked Council if they were ready to award the Spring Street Alley tree trimming project. She stated that the lowest estimate was from Woodpecker Tree Services for \$5,500.00.

Mr. & Mrs. William Smith of Main Street stated they have used them for work done on their property and were happy with the job done and the price.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council awarded the Spring Street Alley tree trimming project to Woodpecker Tree Services for \$5,500.00. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the Ridge Street property where the Borough plans to build the Maintenance Building was actually two separate parcels. He suggested that Council consolidate the deeds for the parcels into one.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved consolidating the two parcels into one and have Council President, Paul James, sign the transfer deed.

Discussion – Mayor DePaul asked if there were fees associated with the transfer deed. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated there is no transfer tax involved only a filing fee. Motion passed 6 – 0.

President's Report –

Council President, Paul James, said he would defer his discussion until Executive Session regarding Code Violations.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor DePaul stated that after attending the previous Council meeting via Facetime there is a big difference between attending in person and attending via an electronic device.

Mr. DePaul told Council that the Borough's Fire Chief is requesting a meeting on Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. with the Public Safety and Personnel Committee.

The Mayor mentioned about using Keytone Engineering for the inspection of the trestles that in the Borough. Mr. Dees told Mr. DePaul that the inspection requires more than just visual inspection. The Borough needs to find out what the trestles can support weight wise, possible uses or if it is better if the trestles are torn down or replaced. Mr. Dees also reminded the Mayor that the Borough along with Wilson has obtained a grant to cover approximately 50% of the cost of the inspections. Council President James made the comment that the Engineer would need to be PennDOT certified. Ms. Heebner said the Borough needs to know what the inspection will cover.

The Mayor commented on the roadwork that was recently done in the Borough and that the measurements that were originally calculated were off. He also stated that not all of Spring Street Alley was to be done.

The Mayor said he met with Delta Wash and that is moving forward.

Finally, Mayor DePaul started a discussion on purchasing a police car or multiple police cars. After much discussion it was decided that the purchase of car(s) would be by the recommendation of the Borough's Police Consultant or Police Chief then approved by the Borough's Council.

Policies, Resolutions, Ordinance – None

Round Table – None

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Lewis, scheduled the following meetings: Wednesday, September 12th; Thursday, September 13th; Friday, September 21st and Wednesday, September 26th. All meeting would be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Highway/Property Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Bolash, scheduled a committee meeting for Wednesday, September 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Committee member, Mr. Dees, scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, September 19th following the Highway/Property Committee meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. and requested that the Police Consultant attend the meeting.

On the following evening, Thursday, September 20th the Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. with the Fire Chief of the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James scheduled a committee meeting for Monday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Utilities Committee – Committee chair, Mr. Mammana, stated that the committee met and at their meeting discussed purchasing an emergency generator for the Borough, billing Delta Wash on a quarterly basis and purchasing electric at a lower rate. Mr. Mammana scheduled the next committee meeting for Tuesday, September 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Breidinger, scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, September 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Dees scheduled a committee meeting for Thursday, September 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Old Business –

Council President James asked Ms. Smith to verify with District Attorney John Morganelli if October 8th at 6:00 p.m. prior to the next Council meeting would be suitable for him to meet the Borough Council

New Business –

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Councilman, Robert Lewis, to attend the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. The estimated cost is approximately \$500.00. There was no discussion. Motion passed 5 – 1. (Dissenting Mr. Dees)

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to use Bean Contracting Inc for snow removal at the presented rates. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Additional Public Comment –

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull asked Council why the Borough was permitting Great Western to continue to dump what they have been excavating from Avona on the Borough's Ridge Street property.

Mayor DePaul stated that Great Western has broken up the concrete slab that was on the Ridge Street property to prepare the property for the pole building. Councilman Dees said that it is only a temporary situation that would be cleared.

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street – Asked two questions. First of all, he wanted to know if all Council members have been certified in NIMS. Council President James stated, no. Mayor DePaul stated that he and Mr. Mammana have been attending mitigation meeting for the past year so that if a situation occurs the Borough would be reimbursed.

Secondly, Mr. Walter asked for an update on the MS4 project. Mayor DePaul stated that plant vegetation has been discussed to be planted in a runoff ditch but nothing has happened. Councilman Dees noted that this is an unfunded mandate from the government.

William Smith of Main Street – Commented on the man-made pond on the old Reda Mill property. He stated that the water is no longer clear and recently there were dead fish along the sides of the pond. He also has concerns that the excess water is flowing into the Lehigh River is not as clean as it used to be.

Entered Executive Session – 7:35 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:10 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved a new Computer Network Use Policy. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor DePaul again asked about purchasing the fully loaded Police Vehicle for \$3,500.

Mr. Mammana put forth a motion to purchase the vehicle for \$3,500. There was no second to the motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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