

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2020
APPROVED

The reorganizational meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Borough Mayor, Dan DePaul in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Mayor DePaul swore in Janie Jones Brown, Pete Mammana and Ron Nixon to a new term. Council member, Dave Bolash will be sworn in at a later date.

Council members in attendance were Paul James, Matt Dees, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown, and Ron Nixon. Mayor Dan DePaul; Solicitor Chad DiFelice substituting for Steve Goudsouzian; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Senior Borough Clerk, David Gehman, Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher; Treasurer, Carl Pierson and Police Chief, Rob Mahady were in attendance. Members of the public in attendance were Bill & June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter and Kenneth Teske.

Mayor DePaul opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Mr. Dees was nominated by Mr. James. Mayor DePaul moved to close nominations. Mr. Dees was elected Council President. Vote was 5 – 0.

Mayor DePaul opened the floor for nominations of Council Vice-President. Mr. Dees nominated Mr. James. Mayor DePaul closed nominations for Vice-President. Mr. James was elected Council Vice President. Vote was 5 – 0.

Mayor DePaul opened the floor for nominations of Council ProTem. Mr. James nominated Mr. Nixon. Mayor DePaul closed the nominations for Council ProTem. Mr. Nixon was elected Council Pro Tem. Vote was 5 – 0.

Mayor DePaul asked if there was anyone from the public in attendance that would be willing to head up the Vacancy Board. There were no volunteers.

Mayor DePaul turned the gavel over to new Council President Dees.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the Council meeting held December 9, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment –

Bruce Walter – Ninth Street – Mr. Walter asked now Council President, Mr. Dees if he had submitted a letter withdrawing his resignation. Mr. Dees replied that he had.

Ken Teskey – High Street, Glendon – Mr. Teskey asked for an update in the matter with I.Q. Fibers. Mr. Teskey reported that he recorded high decibel readings when the pneumatic discharge occurred. Mr. Dees agreed that there is a high level of noise and stated the Borough is pursuing the IQ Fibers situation.

Carl Pierson (Treasurer) - Ninth Street – Mr. Pierson confirmed what Mr. Teskey reported. Mr. Pierson stated that while riding his bike on the tow path he heard the loud cannon-like noise every 5-10 seconds plus the humming of the motor.

Bill Smith – Main Street – Mr. Smith stated that he and another resident saw chemical containers outside the building. He also stated that the noise from the laundry is starting between 5:30-5:45 a.m. and trucks from the laundry are making noise when exiting the business as they ride over a manhole cover. Mr. Nixon stated that the Borough should ask for the MSDS paperwork for the container contents and asked Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher to check if the manhole on Main Street needed a different sized riser to eliminate the noise from the trucks.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business –

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved Resolution 2020-01 Disposition of Records, 2012 – 2015. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved a donation of \$20,000 to the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved a donation of \$9,000 to the Mary Meuser Library. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved a donation of \$150 to the Suburban EMS. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved a donation of \$1,000 to the West Easton Scholarship Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved a salary increase to \$15/hour for snowplow operators. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the rate of \$19.30/hr for Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the rate of \$23.10/hr for Borough Manager/Secretary, Joan Heebner. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the rate of \$16.33/hr for Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved the rate of \$12/hr for Summer/Temporary Helper, Brandon Moffitt. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Entered Executive Session – 7:00 pm

Exited Executive Session – 7:30 pm

Mr. Nixon, having won 2 seats on Council in the November election, publicly declared that he has taken the 4-year Council seat, relinquishing the 2-year seat.

Mr. Dees noted the 2-year seat must be appointed by the end of January.

Council President Dees asked for a motion for adjournment.

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to adjourn. Motion passed 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned 7:31 pm.

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