

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2020

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, Matthew Dees, in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; President, Mr. Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members – Paul James, Dave Bolash, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present. Council member, Ron Nixon was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Brian Panella substituted for Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher and Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, June & Bill Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargraves, Dale King, Kenneth Teske, Robin Strawn, Tricia Mezzacappa, David Bogusky and Wes Beers, Jr.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #17537 through #17568 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #A5159 through #A5201 from the General Fund Online bill pay. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved payments #X0047 through #X0050 from the General Fund Online payments. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved activity from 2/10/2020 through 3/9/2020 from the Debit account. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved payments #B5012 through #B5013 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from February 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the February 10, 2020 Council meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for February 2020. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items)

Tricia Mezzacappa, Ridge Street – Ms. Mezzacappa asked if the approval list for the checks could be printed out and made available to the public. Council President Dees said they would be posted prior to the meeting.

Engineering Report - None

Office Report

-Ms. Heebner announced the Community Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 4, 2020. Check-in time is 11:30 am. A rain date is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2020.

Sewer Report

-Mr. James provided additional information regarding the sewer pipe repair in the Lehigh River.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances

-Council President Dees read out loud Resolution 2020-14 “Resolution Opposing the PSP Service Fee included in Governor Wolf’s Proposed 2020-21 Budget.”

-Motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammanna to approve the Resolution;

A discussion was held on the \$20,387 service fee that would be paid by West Easton, if Gov. Wolf’s proposal is passed.

Public Comment – Ms. Tricia Mezzacappa opposed the Resolution. She believes the fee is fair and the Resolution “is an insult to the police.”

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Solicitor’s Report

-Solicitor Panella stated that he had items to be discussed in Executive Session.

President’s Report

-Council President Dees attended a meeting with County officials regarding a new recycling grant. The purchase of a new leaf vacuum was received with positive feedback.

Mayor’s Report

-Mayor DePaul stated he disagreed with the differences in pricing being charged by the state depending upon where you lived in correlation to the charging of State Police Coverage.

Guest – Verizon

-Representatives from Verizon were on hand to discuss the proposed pole antennas to be placed in the Borough. The antennas will be used to boost Verizon’s signal in the area. There would be 5 antennas placed on existing Met-Ed poles and new pole on 9th St., compensating the borough with payment of \$270/yr.

Round Table

-Mr. Dees asked about the \$18,000 shortage in the Sewer rates. Mr. James explained that the Utilities Committee is considering a possible change of the sewer charge from a flat fee to a usage based fee based on the water used.

-Mr. James scheduled a Utility and Fire Service Committee meeting for Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:30pm

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Chair, Mr. Mammana stated the committee met and discussed the renewal of the Certificate of Deposits. The recommendation is to keep the CDs with PLGIT. Mr. Mammana scheduled a Business and Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm. He also invited the Borough Treasurer, Carl Pierson, to attend.

Property and Roads Committee – Chair, Mr. Nixon was absent from the meeting. Mr. Bolash stated that he had reviewed the sidewalk work that was done on Second Street and suggested that the contractor be contacted to provide a quote of possible additional work. Mr. Bolash scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Chair, Mr. Dees stated in addition to the committee members that the Mayor, a Borough resident and the Chief Mahady attended the meeting.

-Chief Mahady provided an update in regard to the Police Department.

-Mr. Dees scheduled committee meetings for Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Wednesday, March 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Mayor to draft a letter to be forwarded to Pennsylvania State Police when Chief Mahady is ready to activate the Police Department. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Legal and Technology Committee – Chair, Mr. Bolash stated that the committee did not meet due to illness. Mr. Bolash scheduled a meeting for Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chair, Ms. Jones Brown stated that the last committee meeting had two residents participate as volunteers. Ms. Jones Brown provided updates on the upcoming events.

-Art in the Park – May 2, 2020 from 2 – 3 pm rain date Saturday, May 9, 2020 and Keep America Beautiful – looking to have the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts participate - no date as of yet.

-Ms. Jones Brown scheduled two meetings, Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:45 pm and Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 5:45 pm.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Chair, Mr. Decker stated that the previous meeting was canceled and he scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6:45 pm.

Unfinished Business –

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved to accept the proposal from Curtis Scott Computer Service to provide IT service for the Borough office and Police Station. at a cost of \$550/month. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved to give a 60 day notice to EZ Micro Solutions that the Borough will be ending their agreement to provide IT services. A discussion was held. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Council President Dees asked the Solicitor to explain the property easement allowing UGI to build a Pressure Reduction Station off Ridge Street on Borough Property in which the Borough was compensated \$25,000 for a 15' x 30' area. A discussion was held after the Solicitor's explanation.

New Business - None

Public Comment (Open) -

Kenneth Teske – Glendon – Mr. Teske thanked the Borough Council for staying on top of the situation regarding the noise from IQ Fibers.

Bill Smith – Main Street – Mr. Smith asked about the Drug Treatment Center, possible asbestos removal, and Delta Wash sewer payments due.

Carl Pierson – Ninth Street – Stated that there are two lights located near his home that are still the old style lights.

Leon Stull – Second Street – Mr. Stull expressed opposition to changing Sewer billing from flat rate to actual usage.

Bruce Walter – Ninth Street – Mr. Walter stated the he has been told that the Verizon antennas to be installed in the Borough vibrate.

Wes Beers, Jr. – Spring Street – Mr. Beers asked why he is now paying two sewer and refuse bills. Ms. Heebner stated because he has two units in the property he owns.

Executive Session Entered 8:21 pm – Exited 8:54 pm

-Mr. Dees stated the Council discussed legal matters in Executive Session.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Solicitor to collect Sewer fees of \$1,000 or more owed by any business. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

- Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Upon written approval from the Solicitor, Council will enter into an agreement with Verizon for the installation of the six pole antennas. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. James; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

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