

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2020

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:37pm using Zoom videoconferencing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Roll was taken; Council President, Matthew Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members – Paul James, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present. Council members, Ron Nixon and David Bolash were absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner and West Easton Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: David Bogusky, and Leon Stull.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved expenditures as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from June 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the July 13, 2020, Council meeting, with additions: Mayor DePaul wanted his comments about changing the wording to the resolution included in the minutes. Mr. Mammana made a motion to make additions to the minutes; seconded by Mr. Decker. Discussion was had. Motion passed 3-2, Ms. Jones Brown and Mr. Dees were the dissenting votes. Motion to pass minutes with additions then passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for June, 2020. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer Report – None

Office Report -Ms. Heebner brought council up to date on:

-the compromised sewer lateral on private property at 84 Main Street.

-Hurricane Isaias damage, the usual flooding along Lehigh Drive and a tree on East Street was being held up by live wires.

-three estimates have been received to remove the tree along Iron Street. The lowest estimate came from Treeline Tree Service at \$675. The other 2 estimates were \$850 and \$875.

-asked Council to cover all bases by passing motions to transfer \$25,000 from the General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund and to transfer \$250 from General Fund to the Community Activities Fund, as per the approved 2020 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Mammana; seconded by Mr. James to approve the transfer of \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund, as approved in the 2020 Budget. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. James; seconded by Mr. Mammana to approve the transfer of \$250 from the General Fund to the Community Activities Committee Fund, as approved in the 2020 Budget. Motion passed 5-0.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA would be electing a new president and that there are still ongoing problems with people flushing rags and cleaning wipes, etc. This is wrecking havoc on the sewer system.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he had an item for Executive Session.

President's Report – Mr. Dees reported that:

- we came through the recent storm with little damage.
- council should brush up on Roberts Rules of order; they can be found at robertsrules.com.
- as borough representatives, everyone should be wearing masks at in-person gatherings.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul stated that:

- the Work Release Center people are on furlough, not at the DUI Center.
- he's had phone calls about swings not being up.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to put the swings back up. Solicitor Goudsouzian asked if the borough knew how far apart they were, etc. We did not. Ms. Jones Brown withdrew her motion until she can get more information to ensure social distancing requirements.

Round Table – Mr. James made a motion for the Borough to donate \$500 to CACLV; Mr. Mammana seconded it. Discussion was had. Motion passed 3-2. Dissenting votes were Mr. Dees and Mr. Decker.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Meeting was held July 20th; they reviewed the budget. A meeting was set up for August 20th at 6pm.

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Decker set up a meeting for August 17th at 6pm.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – The meeting scheduled for July was canceled; a Zoom meeting was set for August 18th at 6pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – Zoom meeting set for August 25th, 6:30pm.

Utilities and Fire – Mr. James reported that his committee met with Fire Chief Bogari. The Fire Company has applied for 501C status; their goal is to consolidate with another local company.

The Borough will continue to cover their day-to-day expenses. A meeting was set for August 26th, 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown reported that:

- the Committee set September 19th as their first Community Clean up date, with a rain date of September 26th.
- the flag mural is tabled until Spring 2021; they would still like residents to continue to collect red, white and blue bottle caps.
- they would like to get started on their first stormwater drain painting with the title “Drains are only for Rain”; clear epoxy, matte finish, is the best for this project.
- plans for a perennial garden is tabled until 2021.
- National Night Out is canceled for this year.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion for approval, not to exceed \$250, for paint/epoxy for mural supplies; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting was set for August 13th and/or August 17th at 5pm. The meeting will start on Zoom and then the group will meet up at the park.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – Basic plans for Phase 2 of the Pole Barn Project have been given to Council. BIA plans on having detailed plans ready for the August 24th meeting, for Council to approve the plans and to put the project out to bid through BIA. Council was advised to review the basic plans and that any minor changes wanted should be submitted ASAP.

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – None

Executive Session Entered 7:50pm – Exited 8:08 pm

Discussed possible litigation and possible police hirings.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to hire and swear in, upon approval by Chief Mahady, up to 3 part-time police officers on a one year probation period; seconded by Mr. James. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. James, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

8/10/2020