

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2021

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30pm 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, David Bolash, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present. 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: Carl Pierson, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, Steve Klaver and Trude Hargraves.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved expenditures as presented. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from January 2021. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the January 11, 2021, Council meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for January 2021. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer Report – None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner thanked Mayor DePaul for donating so much of his time to the Borough. In recent months, Mayor DePaul has spent many hours plowing and salting the roads and working on several of the vehicles. Mayor DePaul said he does it for the community.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA is in the process of applying for a 15 year, ten-million-dollar bond. This would allow the EAJSA to cover their upkeep and renovations. The sewer plant is running well.

Solicitor's Report – None

President's Report - Mr. Dees mentioned the snowstorm and said the Borough is doing the best it can with the resources it has. He thanked Mayor DePaul for the good job he has done. Mr. Dees once again sent out a text alert.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reported that he has arranged to borrow speed signs from the Colonial Regional Police.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul reported that there have been multiple problems with our equipment and vehicles, including our trucks and plow. One of the vehicles needed a new gas tank and both trucks needed new tires. He feels the Ford can go for a while yet and the GMC was not meant for deep snow like we have now.

Mr. James made a motion to approve up to \$3500 to repair the Palmer SUV police car, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed, 6-0.

Round Table – Ms. Jones Brown:

-encouraged everyone to check out the new Mary Meuser Library website; it is very user-friendly.

-also encouraged everyone to join a virtual book club.

-attended a gardening workshop. The leader of the workshop has offered to work with the Borough on perennial and vegetable gardens.

Mr. James made a motion to call in Bean Construction for one or two days, not to exceed \$10,000, to get rid of piles of snow from the major snow event; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. Discussion was had. Motion passed, 6-0.

Mr. Decker suggested looking into trucks offered at auction by the State.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Zoom meeting was set for February 22nd, 5:30pm.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees reported that the committee met and discussed ordering tickets, part-time police officers and ordering solar-powered speed signs from Eloncity at a cost of \$5829. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to order speed signs from Eloncity as presented in a quote, at a cost of \$5829; seconded by Mr. James. Motion passed, 6-0. No discussion.

Legal and Technology Committee – Zoom meeting was set for March 2nd at 5:30pm.

Utilities and Fire – Meeting set for February 23rd, 6pm, at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Meeting was set for March, 1st, 3:30pm.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – Mr. Mammana made a motion to accept the resignation of Ron Nixon; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. Motion passed, 6-0.

New Business – A letter of interest to serve on council was received from Mr. Steven Klaver. A voice vote of Council confirmed Mr. Klaver's seat on Council by a vote of 6-0. Mr. Klaver will officially join Council on February 10th, after serving at a February 9th zoning hearing.

Public Comment (Open) – Bruce Walter, 9th Street, expressed plowing concerns; asked about sidewalks not being cleared and asked if garbage pick-up would still happen this week.

Leon Stull, 2nd Street, believed the February 9th zoning hearing had not been properly advertised and did not think letters had gone out to residents within 200 feet of the property in question. Ms. Heebner informed Mr. Stull that the Borough has received an invoice from the Express-Times for the two dates that the hearing was to be advertised and that she sent out approximately 60 letters to all the residents within 200 feet of the property. Mr. Stull shared where he felt the snow was too high to see at an intersection.

Trude Hargraves, 2nd Street, understands this was an unusual snowfall but she feels she will have trouble getting her car out of and into her garage.

Carl Pierson, 9th Street, mentioned spikes in the curb/sidewalk of one of the resident's property and asked if they are what punctured one of the tires on one of the trucks. He was told that they were.

Executive Session Entered 7:43pm – Exited 8:01 pm.

Council discussed legal matters.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded by Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
