

## **BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**June 13, 2022**

### ***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; Council President Paul James noted there was a quorum. Council members – Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Kenny Decker, Jr. were present. Council member Steve Klaver was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager Joan Heebner and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves, Bill and June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Jim Jankowich, Carl Pierson, Leon Stull, Robin Strawn and Andrew Flood.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from May 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the minutes from the May 9, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for May 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)** – Mr. Pierson had to leave the meeting; he said if anyone had any questions on his letter to feel free to give him a call.

**Engineer's Report** – Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to follow the recommendation of the Engineer, Doug Brown from Barry Isett & Associates, to reduce the security for the Laurel Hills Development project by Two Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars and 37/100 (\$291,258.37) which will result in a remaining financial security balance of Eight Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen Dollars and 99/100 (\$831,215.99); seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion for payment, based on accounting for previous payments and adjusting the retainage from 10 percent to 5 percent, to Kobalt Construction in the amount recommended by engineer, Doug Brown, in the amount of \$140,256.10; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner informed Council that the office server had crashed several times in recent weeks. She referred to the estimate provided by Curt Scott which includes a new server, transferring of all information, configuration, rack cabinet, re-wiring of environment and more. Mr. Dees made a motion; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown to approve the spending of \$10,455 to Mr. Scott to replace the borough server and update equipment as listed in the estimate. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Heebner mentioned that just today she had received word that the Borough was awarded a total of \$155,100 towards the removal of the trestles. Council agreed that she should find out what it would cost to remove one trestle before deciding what they wanted to do with the grant. She also reported that she also received information on the Northampton County GROW grant today and has not had a chance to see what all is involved with this grant.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James shared that EAJSA made an amendment to their fees and charges; it will only affect bigger users like Crayola. They have approved an electrical system evaluation.

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Goudsouzian reported that an Executive Session was held via Zoom, May 23, 2022; 6:04pm-6:23pm. In attendance: Council members - Paul James, Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana and Dave Bolash. Absent: Kenny Decker, Jr and Steve Klaver. Also, in attendance: Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, Mayor Dan DePaul, Engineer Douglas Brown and Manager Joan Heebner. Topic discussed was litigation. No official action was taken.

**President's Report** – Mr. James thanked the office staff for their support in the organizing of the Memorial Day event. He thanked Trude Hargraves for her reading; Mayor DePaul for his help in setting up; and June and Bill Smith for their help in setting up.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady reported that due to the shooting in Texas, the part-time officers, that all work at schools, have been asked to put in more hours at their schools. He plans on setting up the lines for speed enforcement. He enjoyed being part of the Wilson graduation parade. Chief Mahady thanked June and Bill Smith for their shoveling of the Police Station sidewalks during the winter. Their volunteering to help is greatly appreciated.

**Mayor's Report** - Mayor DePaul thinks now would be a good time to get the letters out to residents whose sidewalks are really bad.

**Round Table** – Ms. Jones Brown reminded everyone that she is our representative for the Mary Meuser Memorial Library. The Library will have a summer reading program for ages 0-100; every time you check out a book you get a raffle ticket to put toward winning a basket.

### **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – None

**Property and Roads Committee** – None

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – None

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – Mr. James set up a meeting for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm at Borough Hall.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown is happy with the results of the dog waste bags. There used to be approximately seven piles a week and now maybe there are only two. The bags are attached to “No Dogs Allowed in the Park” sign and are intended for use on the sidewalks around the park, not in it. She is looking into grants for new park equipment; the two she has checked out so far have not worked out. She hopes to be able to work on patching the drain murals this week. The bottle cap flag mural is looking good. Ms. Jones Brown will meet with an arborist to look at the trees at the park to make suggestions, free of charge.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – Mr. Dees made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Klaver from council; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Public Comment (Open)** – Leon Stull, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, asked what the engineers from Barry Isett & Associates were doing up around his property. Ms. Heebner explained they were checking on the outfalls as part of the MS4 requirements.

-Bill Smith, Main Street, asked who owns the trestle over Main Street. It is believed to still be owned by the Railroad company. He said there were trailers parked back on the property and that the owner on Main Street had once again, twice total, mowed grass into the street and on the sidewalks.

**Executive Session** - None

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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