

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

**September 14, 2020**

## ***APPROVED***

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:34pm 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. Council member, Ron Nixon was 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, Trude Hargraves and Leon Stull.

- Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.
- Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from August 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6– 0.
- Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the August 24,2020, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.
- Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for August, 2020. Motion passed 6 – 0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None**

**Engineer Report – None**

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner reported that the Borough received the “Notice to Proceed” from Northampton County for the West Easton Storm Sewer and Road Resurfacing Project. We are able to hold this grant over to 2021 due to COVID-19.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA:

- changed the verbiage that used to require all swimming pools emptying to notify them, to just essential swimming pools, ie: hotel and high school swimming pools.
- is looking to collect and process fat, oil and grease and is hoping for a 3-5 year payback and to eventually generate money. It would cost 4.3 million to build the trap; they are doing the study now. It is in the design and engineering phase.
- checked and there is no problem with the meter at 5<sup>th</sup> and Iron Streets.

**Solicitor’s Report** – Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he had Right to Know litigation to discuss in Executive Session.

**President's Report** – Mr. Dees stated that he had considered moving the Council Meetings back to Borough Hall, but due to the uptick in Covid-19 numbers, he decided not to hold in-person meetings. He noted feedback from local schools indicates that there are already 10 cases in children, after only 2 weeks of schools re-opening. He asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to return to public meetings, which would over-ride his decision to continue using Zoom. Mr. Bolash made a motion to start public meetings in October; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Discussion was had. Motion was defeated 6-0. Following the vote, Mr. Dees noted it will now take a vote of Council to return to in-person meetings.

**Chief of Police Report** – Chief Mahady reported that he issued 131 written warnings and 20 verbal warnings, most included parking, inspection and registration violations. He had 11 reported incidents; 2 unfounded criminal mischief reports. He hopes to hire and have the Mayor swear in 2 part-time officers soon.

**Mayor's Report** - Mayor DePaul reported:

- George Johnson has an electric gate that leads to the propane business; we need to get the codes and emergency codes to Fire Chief Bogari and Police Chief Mahady.
- he ran into Ron Carlson from Advanced Disposal recently and it was confirmed that Waste Management will be taking over Advanced Disposal at the end of this month; they will still honor our new extension.
- to keep in mind for the future if we want to go to public meetings that the Ladies Auxiliary is holding their Bingo again in the Social Hall with approximately 50-75 people.

**Round Table** – None

### **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – Meetings were set-up for September 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Bolash stated that he's been in touch with contractor, Frank Bubba & Sons, Inc, about the sidewalks on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and figures they'll be able to do the work in September or October.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – Committee discussed fines and printing tickets for the Police Department.

**Legal and Technology Committee** – Meeting set for September 21<sup>st</sup>, 5pm.

**Utilities and Fire** – Meeting set for September 30<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, want to start working on sewer rates again.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown:

- asked for a motion for \$20 for the art design fee to the printer for t-shirts; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.
- stated they would be painting their first storm drain, at Gross Park, across from the fire station.
- said where the tree was taken down at the park looks great, very happy with the job.

- shared that the Parks and Recreation Committee had received a \$50 gift card for Home Depot.  
- requested that a sub-committee be set up with Sharon Niko and Robin Strawn. Council President Dees assigned Robin Strawn and Sharon Niko as a sub-committee to Parks and Recreation.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee – None**

**Unfinished Business – None**

**New Business – None**

**Old Business** – Mr. Bolash made a motion to accept the Advanced Disposal contract for one additional year; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Public Comment (Open) –**

Leon Stull – Asked if there was going to be Trick-or-Treat in the Borough; he was told yes.  
Asked if the Borough Parade was still on; he was told it was still being decided.  
Asked about a tree in the alley between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, branches hanging low.

Trude Hargraves – feels the hole behind her house is getting bigger. She stated it started out as a few inches and is now a foot wide.

**Executive Session Entered 7:38 pm – Exited 8:16 pm**

Legal matters were discussed.

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, to have the Solicitor send a letter to Delta Wash and take appropriate action. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. James asked for an update into the Hubcap Store clean-up situation.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager