

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 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.

Roll was taken; Council President Matthew Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members – Paul James, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Janie Jones Brown and Steve Klaver were present. Council member Kenneth Decker, Jr. was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Douglas Brown, PE, from Barry Isett and Associates was present.

-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 September 2021. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Minutes from September 13, 2021. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0, with Ms. Jones Brown abstaining since she was not present at that meeting.

Public Comment – None

Engineer Report – Douglas Brown, PE, went over the one bid received for the Storage Building Project. The bid for the total project came in at \$299,910. Mr. Brown recommended that Council approve the bid. Mr. James made a motion to approve a conditional award of the project to Kobalt Construction, based on the approval of the grantors to our change in the scope of work to be done and subject to the final approval of the engineer, solicitor and staff; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Brown left the meeting at 6:45pm.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reported that:

-we have received the new leaf vac. The Borough's net cost for the leaf vac will be \$4250 (10%) of the total cost of \$42,500.

-Trick or Treat in the Borough will be, as always, October 31st, 6-8pm.

-the Volunteer Fire Company let us know they felt they had to cancel the Halloween parade due to not having enough help to run the parade efficiently.

-Mayor DePaul found a list of recommended grants for Northampton County and that we were listed on it for a police car as requested, but we have not received formal notice yet. We are hoping for good news.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA is working on their budget. We had one major water event and only one manhole cover popped up, in Easton, so that was good news.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies – Mr. James made a motion to advertise AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE PENALTIES FOR LATE PAYMENT OF SEWER AND REFUSE SERVICES; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian had legal items for executive session.

President's Report – Mr. James made a motion to approve a \$250 transfer from the General Fund to the Activities Committee Fund per the 2021 budget; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed, 6-0. Mr. James made a motion to approve a \$25,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund per the 2021 budget; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees mentioned the leaf vac delivery and that it was a 90/10 grant. He thanked Ms. Heebner for handling the paperwork. He thanked former council member, Ron Nixon, for working with Dane Thatcher, maintenance, in coming up with what vac would work best for the Borough. He asked if everyone was happy with the graphics on the vac and said they could be changed if they wanted. Mr. Dees stated that there would be discussion on the funding of the Volunteer Fire Company in Executive Session.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady mentioned there have been some minor repairs to a police car. He said the officers issuing parking citations has removed a lot of problems and feels the Borough is moving in the right direction. He plans on having officers at the park more and noted that trash had been dumped and benches turned over.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul discussed:

- the police checking on abandoned and problem cars.
- the delivery of the leaf vac. Our timing was great in ordering as the vendor had not been sure they'd be able to deliver it in time for this year.
- we are waiting to get an official letter from the County on the police car grant.
- he received a donation of an oxygen tank and masks for the police cars.
- he received a donation of a first aid kit from the new owners of All Seasons; it is so big it is in a backpack.
- he noticed trash being put out too early in the borough, so letters were delivered to the people to inform them not to put out trash until the night before it is scheduled to be picked up.
- Northampton County records show that no grants were put in for Safety First.

Round Table – Mr. James commented on the flag mural that Ms. Jones Brown's committee oversaw and what a phenomenal job was done. Ms. Jones Brown thanked Mr. James for his help.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Mr. Mammana stated that the committee discussed General expenses at their September meeting. He set up two meetings: October 13th and 27th, at 6pm, at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees set up a meeting for October 21st at 4:30pm at Borough Hall.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Bolash plans to set up a meeting next month.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James stated that they continue to discuss sewer rates. He scheduled a meeting for October 20th, 6pm, at Borough Hall and hopes to reach out to Fire Chief William Bogari, Jr.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown stated that the Flag Mural is finished. She thanked Mr. Dees, Mr. James, Robin Strawn, Sharon Niko and Marshall Brown for all of their help. She reminded everyone they still need donations of plain rocks to be dropped off at the rock garden. She set up a meeting for October 27th at 4:30pm on Zoom.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Mr. Klaver stated that he'd like to go back to his Property and Roads Committee report. He said he'd divided the borough into three sections, one section for each committee member, to check out the sidewalks and curbs. Some of the information has been passed onto Mayor DePaul.

Public Comment (Open) – None

Executive Session Entered 7:15pm – Exited 7:54pm

Council discussed legal matters.

Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve a payment of \$10,000 from the Volunteer Fire Company's contingency fund to Safety First Volunteer Fire Company No. 1; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
