

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 9, 2018

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 and Council President James noted there was a quorum. Council President Paul James, Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Henry Nodoline, Pete Mammana and Jeff Breidinger, Jr were present. Council member Desiree Lake and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober was absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman and Borough Treasurer, Carl Pierson were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Bruce Walters, Trude Hargraves, David Bogusky, Steve Klaver and Rob Mahady.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #16465 through #16487 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check # 2052 through #2055 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from March 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes for the March 26, 2018 Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the March 2018 Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Ms. Hargraves asked about a comment made by Tricia Mezzacappa at the previous Council meeting in regards to her litigation.

Solicitor Goudsouzian explained Ms. Mezzacappa's comments and provided an update to the litigation.

Ms. Hargraves also mentioned that voter registration ends on April 16, 2018 for the Pennsylvania primary on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Engineer's Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, provided the Engineer's Report. Ms. Heebner noted that the pre-bid meeting was held on Friday at Gerald W. Gross Community Park. Engineer, Doug Brown, asked to have Council verify which plan they actually wanted. Plan 1 provided for a straight sidewalk but had a 2-foot grassy area between the curb and sidewalk or Plan 2 the sidewalk would be against the curb with a cut around for the trees.

The plans were discussed and no motion was made to change Council's decision on Plan 1.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor DePaul stated he had a discussion with Matt Dees regarding uses for the County grant. Possible uses were for the War Monument and an additional pavilion.

Mayor DePaul also suggested that Council revisit Councilman Nodoline's suggestion to build the pole building this year rather than waiting.

Ms. Heebner made the comment that Council voted to hold off until next year. Councilman Dees suggested that we contact our Engineer and the County to see if the Council's decision can be changed.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated the only item he had to discuss was for Executive Session.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, reported on two ongoing zoning issues in the Borough.

First, Delta Wash was given until Friday, April 6 to complete work. They did not. The Borough's Code enforcement officer posted a "Stop Work" order on Monday.

Secondly, issues with "The Hubcap Store" have not improved even though they have paid on the fines the court has levied. Joe Hoffman stated that he can cite "The Hubcap Store" again and report that the problems are not being resolved.

President's Report –

Council President Paul James asked for volunteers to replace Leon Stull on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Council President James thanked Borough Manager, Joan Heebner, for her work on the annual Egg Hunt. He also thanked Council members who helped hide the eggs.

Mr. James reminded everyone about taking the NIMS training. He stated that the site is quite user friendly and you can do a little at a time.

Policies – None

Resolutions –

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved Robert Lewis as the Voting Delegate to the PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey, PA on June 10-13, 2018.

Discussion – Mr. Breidinger questioned why this needed to be done. Mr. Lewis explained that each Borough is given a vote to elect officers of the PA State Association of Boroughs. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the destruction of records from 2007 – 2010.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked how soon would the files be destroyed and type of files are these? Ms. Heebner replied that the files would be destroyed as soon as possible and all files are paper. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees let everyone in attendance know that an incident happened on his school bus where a woman punched him in the eye. He stated he was informing the public because he expected the incident to appear in the next day's newspaper due to the woman being arrested.

Councilman Breidinger asked if the alley between Second and Third streets can be posted as "NO OUTLET." Mr. Breidinger stated with UGI closing streets to do work there has been an increased amount of traffic in the alley. He has concerns that a child may be struck.

Councilman Dees visited Home Depot and asked if they would be willing to donate two rain barrels. Home Depot did. The barrels were on display at the Council

meeting. Residents will be able to enter a special drawing to win one of the rain barrels to be held on May 14, 2018 at the beginning of the Council meeting.

Guest – Rob Mahady

Mr. Mahady attended the Municipal Police Departments Supervision and Oversight Seminar along with Councilman Lewis. Mr. Mahady stated that the seminar rekindled his interest. Mr. Mahady reviewed the seminar and stated that the main focus was to protect the Borough against liability which included having proper paperwork and documentation.

Mr. Mahady told Council that the one hold-up in proceeding with the Police Department is the access to the TACS (Training and Certification System). He commented that all paperwork has been filed and is correct and does not understand why there is such a delay.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Lewis scheduled several tentative meetings for the committee – Wednesday, April 11 @ 6:00 pm, Saturday, April 14 @ 11:00 am and Tuesday, April 17 @ 6:00 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Nodoline stated that the committee did meet and discussed the Borough roads. No meeting was scheduled.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Councilman Lewis stated that the committee meeting was cancelled and Councilman Dees scheduled tentative meetings for Tuesday, April 10th @ 5:30 pm, Thursday, April 12th @ 5:30 pm and Friday, April 13 @ 5:30 pm.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Council President James stated the Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee would not schedule a meeting.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairman, Pete Mammana, stated that the previous meeting was cancelled. He would like to schedule a meeting for the committee for Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 pm.

Recreation Committee – Committee chairman, Jeff Breidinger, was very pleased with the Egg Hunt and scheduled a committee meeting for Wednesday, April 18 @ 6:00 pm

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Matt Dees, wanted to thank Mayor DePaul for attending the CDBG grant meeting on April 10th. The application is due on May 18th. No meeting was scheduled at this time.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment –

Steve Klaver of Fourth Street – commented on the lack of action from State Police on a relatively minor issue that he and his neighbors were viewing. He stated that the State Police cannot enforce local ordinances.

Mr. Klaver also stated that the work that has been done by UGI has eliminated the major of his curb which then causes water to run the sidewalk

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull made the comment if the Borough wants to build the new Public Works building, why would you want to pour a new curb in front of the pavilion.

Mr. Stull also commented on the condition of the streets. He has noticed large cracks in the Borough streets.

Mr. Nodoline commented that a prior Council did nothing to the streets for five years.

Entered Executive Session – 8:08 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:12 pm

President James stated that pending litigation was discussed during Executive Session and no action was taken.

President James reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council voted to adjourn. Motion passed 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:14.

Respectfully submitted by:
David W. Gehman, Borough Senior Clerk