

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2019

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 Mr. James noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash and Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were present, Council member Robert Lewis 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 in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: Janie Jones Brown & Marshall Brown, June & William Smith, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, Bonnie Mammana, Beth Lutz, David Bogusky and Police Consultant, Rob Mahady.

After roll call, Council President Paul James yielded the floor to Councilman Breidinger. Mr. Breidinger asked Council to accept his resignation with an immediate vote. After a brief discussion, Councilman Dees stated that he would need to submit his resignation in writing before it could be considered. Mr. Breidinger left at 6:35 pm.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #17187 through #17240 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved online charges to the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees: Council approved charges made through the Debit Account through June 10, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #2084 and #2085 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 4 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from May 2019. Motion passed 4 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the minutes for the May 13, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the May 2019, Treasurer's Report. Discussion – Mr. Pierson brought to the Council's attention the dates of maturity of the CD's. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Appointment of New Council Member

Janie Jones Brown and Nathaniel Kober, who submitted letters of interest for the vacant council seat, were given the opportunity to speak to Council.

Councilman Mammana nominated Ms. Brown. Mr. Dees made a motion to close nominations and Mr. Mammana seconded.

Mr. James called for a voice vote. Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes and Mr. James – Yes. By a vote of 4 – 0, Ms. Brown fills the seat vacated by Ms. Lake. Mayor DePaul swore in Ms. Brown. Ms. Brown took her seat with Council.

Public Comment

William Smith – Main Street – Mr. Smith asked if the area around the war monument will be handicap accessible. Mr. Dees replied that a sidewalk with ADA ramps is planned for the area during a future phase of the project.

Mr. Smith also complained about the commercial laundry located on East Street. He stated that they have added a new door to the side of building that faces East Street and there continues to be a lint problem.

Trude Hargraves – Second Street – Ms. Hargraves stated that lint is a fire hazard.

Carl Pierson – Ninth Street – Mr. Pierson thanked Council for the Memorial Day observance and stated that the attendance has grown in the last several years.

Guest – Beth Lutz from Valor Clinic Foundation

-Ms. Lutz spoke to Council on behalf of the Valor Clinic Foundation which is an organization that benefits veterans, especially homeless veterans. The Valor Clinic Foundation currently has one permanent location in Jonas, PA but the organization is expanding into the Lehigh Valley.

Engineer's Report - None

Office Report

-Ms. Heebner asked Mr. James to thank his wife for caring enough to properly remove a dead cat that she found.

-Ms. Heebner also explained the insurance that the broker recommended is cheaper and will be retroactive for 32 years previously.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

President's Report

Council President Paul James reminded Council members to continue to review the Codification and get back to him with any changes they wish to make.

Mayor's Report

Mayor DePaul reported on the two police vehicles that the Borough received from Palmer Township. The Mayor reported that one of the vehicles needing repair was done under a recall. The recall paid for the repair, saving the Borough the expense it would have incurred.

Round Table

-Mr. Dees referred to his personal video of the March, 2016, meeting where all Council members agreed not to take matters upon themselves, but to refer to the Borough Manager for ordering needed repairs for non-emergencies, or to contact the Council President.

-Mr. Bolash expressed concerns about the current Zoning officer.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. James said the committee met on May 21st and agreed to invest the amount necessary to have \$250,000 when the CDs matured. No new meeting was scheduled.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved investing **up to** \$250,000 (whatever the amount we can legally invest so that the principle plus earned interest does not go over the \$250,000 FDIC limit) when the CDs come due from the General Fund and Sewer Fund with PLGIT. No discussion. Motion passed 5 -0.

Highway/Property Committee – Mr. Bolash noted an issue with the pump for the new water feature at the War Monument. Mr. Dees stated that the pump motor is suspected to be overheating and tripping the breaker. Daniel's Landscaping has been contacted regarding the problem. The pump has a warranty of 2 years. Mr. Bolash scheduled a committee meeting for Wednesday, June 19th at 5:30 pm.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees deferred to the Police Consultant, Mr. Mahady. Mr Mahady stated the installation of the computers is still ongoing. He said that he is now convinced to start without a computerized RMS system and paper records will suffice until other agencies make a decision on the RMS system that will become dominant in the county.

-Mr. Mahady stated that part-time officers that are hired could be trained and qualified through another community's police department.

-Mr. Mahady is holding off on purchasing the tasers until the Police Department is ready to begin.

-Mr. Mahady did comment that his one concern is a "proper" place to store evidence in the station.

-Mr. Mahady also stated that the manual is almost complete but needs to be printed out. The police manual he estimates will fill 6-7 binders.

Mr. Dees scheduled a meeting for the committee on Tuesday, June 25th at 5:00 pm

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James stated the committee met and worked on Codification. No meeting was scheduled.

Utilities Committee – Mr. Mammana stated that the committee did not meet and no meeting was required at this time.

Recreation Committee – With the absence of Mr. Breidinger, no meeting was scheduled

Grants Committee –

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council agreed to use the \$46,091 LSA Grant monies and an additional \$3,909 from the Borough General Fund for a total of \$50,000 as matching funds for the CIPP grant. Discussion – Mayor DePaul asked if the amount of the CIPP grant was \$50,000. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved a letter of commitment of \$16,609 of Borough money for phase two of the Borough’s Maintenance building. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-No committee meeting was scheduled.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Additional Public Comment

Carl Pierson – Ninth Street – Mr. Pierson asked if there was any way to limit the number of Right-to-Know requests by any one individual. Solicitor Goudsouzian replied “No.”

Executive Session Entered 8:10 pm – Exited 8:40 pm

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to switch the Borough’s insurance coverage to Trident Insurance. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to hear the third conditional use application by West Easton II LP at the next Council meeting on July 8, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Brown; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

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