

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 22, 2019

APPROVED

The second monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council Vice-President Matthew Dees in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken and Mr. Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, David Bolash and Janie Jones Brown were present; Council members Paul James and Jeffrey Breidinger, Jr. and Junior Council Member, Nathaniel Kober were absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Police Consultant, Robert Mahady were in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: June & Bill Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Bruce Walter, Leon Stull, Janice Gallo and Mr. Gallo.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #17299 through #17323 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment –

-Bill Smith – Main Street – Asked if there was going to be a vote on the Treatment Center tonight; he was told there would not be a vote. He suggested if the Treatment Center goes through council should look into issuing parking permits for the residents on Main Street.

-June Smith – Main Street – Asked if one gate could be an entrance only and the other gate as an exit only instead of one gate being used as an entrance and exit; it gets very congested on Main Street. Councilman Dees responded that was something that Council could discuss with the property owner.

-Bruce Walter- 9th Street- Asked if council would guarantee there would be a Police Force in place before Treatment Center would open. Councilman Dees responded that although there is no guarantee, if the treatment center was approved, he expected a police department would be active before the proposed treatment center opened.

-Janice Gallo – 7th Street-Asked if the Treatment Center was “a go”. Solicitor Goudsouzian said nothing is decided yet.

-Trude Hargraves-2nd Street – Asked if Treatment Center is good to go as is. She was told it would still need to go through permits etc. as any other new business in the Borough. Mentioned that the DUI Center gives us \$50,000 a year, will the Treatment Center give us money as well. Councilman Dees responded that the applicant stipulated in direct questioning that they were not seeking a limit on Temporary Resident Fees paid to the Borough, generated by the proposed treatment facility. Mayor DePaul reminded the public that DUI residents can go out to work; Treatment Center residents are not allowed to go out.

-June Smith – Asked if Treatment Center could be limited to the 176 people. Solicitor Goudsouzian replied that it could be considered.

-Trude Hargraves – Asked how Bethlehem Township kept the Treatment Center out of there. Solicitor Goudsouzian responded that the matter before West Easton involves our own zoning and ordinance. Each municipality has different requirements that need to be met.

-Bill Smith – Asked about the trees being cut down at 601 East Street property, landscape barrier.

After the completion of Public Comment, Council Vice-President, Matthew Dees, noted that there was a letter of resignation from Councilman Jeffrey Breidinger, Jr, but it was not dated and asked that there be a motion to table the discussion of his resignation until the next meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council agreed to consider Mr. Breidinger's resignation at the next council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed. 5-0.

Executive Session Entered 6:58 pm – Exited 7:55 pm

Legal matters were discussed in Executive Session.

Discussion was had on contacting the Ladies Auxiliary about reimbursing them for the insurance payment they made for the Safety First Volunteer Fire Department.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager