

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

**NOVEMBER 4, 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; President, Mr. James noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown and Ronald Nixon were present. Council member Dave Bolash and Junior Council member Nathaniel Kober were absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Nancy Kutz, Meghan Kutz and Rob Mahady

### **Guest – Lamont McClure – Northampton County Executive**

-Mr. McClure made his opening remarks.

-Mr. McClure acknowledged and stated his appreciation to West Easton for allowing the Work Release Center in the Borough.

-Mr. McClure then called up Mayor DePaul and Council President James to present the Borough with a check for \$75,000.00 for a CDBG grant awarded to the Borough.

### **Guest – John Morganelli – Northampton County District Attorney**

-Mr. Morganelli spoke briefly about the assistance provided from his office in the start-up of the Borough Police department.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved checks #17445 through #17455 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #A5028 through #A5053 from the General Fund Online bill pay. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved online charges X0030 through X0032 to the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #B5005 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from October 2019.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved the minutes for the October 14, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for October 2019. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### **Public Comment**

**Trude Hargraves, Second Street** – Ms. Hargraves asked what the grant of \$75,000 was to be spent on. Mr. James stated that the monies from the grant are to be used for street work.

-Ms. Hargraves also commented that the handicap ramp at Keystone and Second Streets was covered by stones from the rainwater. Mr. James asked Mr. Thatcher to follow-up on the issue.

**Nancy Kutz, Spring Street** – Ms. Kutz asked Council if Tricia Mezzacappa had the right to her payment information that she is requesting in her Right-To-Know request.

**Carl Pierson, Ninth Street** – Mr. Pierson complimented the Borough on the Halloween Parade. He felt that it was a record crowd for the event. He also mentioned the Fire Department, Scholarship Committee and Council for their involvement.

### **Engineering Report** – None

### **Office Report**

-Ms. Heebner presented the 2020 holiday and meeting schedules to Council.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved the Holiday schedule for 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to advertise the Council meeting dates for 2020. Discussion – Mr. Nixon asked if the start time of 6:30 would remain the same. Mayor DePaul stated that the meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> would be the reorganization meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### **Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances** - None

### **Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

### **President's Report**

-Council President James said the Committee assignments will be the same through the end of the year.

-Mr. James reminded everyone to get out and vote on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

-Mr. James stated that he will not be at the December meeting, that Vice-President of Council, Mr. Dees will preside over the meeting.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor DePaul spoke about attending the dedication of the Bell of West Easton this past Sunday. He provided a brief history of the bell from the Glendon foundry to current day.

## **Round Table**

-Councilman Dees suggested that the Committees determine their upcoming meeting dates during their Committee meetings to save time during the Council meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Lewis stated the committee met several times and completed the 2020 proposed budget.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved reducing the maintenance donation to the fire department from \$25,000 to \$20,000. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved adding an expense line to the Sewer budget for the inspection of the sanitary sewers at the estimated cost of \$8,500.00. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved reducing the General expense line, Expense to Prepare Grants (01489-07) from \$20,000 to \$5,000. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees: Council approved to advertise the 2020 Budget. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Mr. Lewis stated no additional meetings are required.

**Highway/Property Committee** – In absence of Mr. Bolash, Committee member, Mr. Dees, scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 pm.

**Public Safety/Personnel Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown stated that the committee met with the Police Consultant, Mr. Mahady, and discussed radios, part-time officers and the police station.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved spending \$500.00 to extend insurance coverage for police personnel. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Mr. Mahady provided an update on the status of the Police Department.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved swearing in Rob Mahady as the Chief of Police in an administrative capacity and otherwise when needed. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Ms. Jones Brown scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee meeting with Chief of Police Mahady for Monday, November 18 at 6:30 pm.

**Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee** – Mr. James stated the committee did not meet when scheduled.

-Mr. James scheduled meetings for Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 pm

**Utilities Committee** – Mr. Mammana stated that the committee met and discussed the cost of recording the sewer line. The committee received a quote from the City of Easton for \$8,500.  
-Mr. Mammana scheduled a committee meeting for Monday, October 25 @ 6:30 pm.

**Recreation Committee** – No report

**Grants Committee** – Mr. Dees stated no meeting was necessary.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - None

**Public Comment**

**Leon Stull – Second Street** – Mr. Stull reported that the intersection at Third and East is very dark, that a streetlight is out.

-Mr. Stull asked when the Borough resurfaces the street if they could build a crown in the center of the street so that the water runs off to the curbs.

- Mr. Stull also asked questions concerning the Fire Department; who they were merging with and about the name change.

**Bruce Walter – Ninth Street** – Mr. Walter had a question concerning the sewer line inspection.

**Executive Session Entered 7:45 pm – Exited 8:38 pm**

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council voted to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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