

# BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 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 Vice President, Matthew Dees, in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; Vice-President, Mr. Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, and Janie Jones Brown were present. Council President, Paul James, Council members Robert Lewis and Ron Nixon and Junior Council member Nathaniel Kober were absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Borough Manager, Joan Heebner, was absent due to illness. Members of the public in attendance: June & Bill Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Deborah & Bob Dietz, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, James Jankowich, Kenneth Teske, Dale King, Nancy Kutz, Bruce Walter and Bruce Walter.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved checks #17456 through #17484 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 4 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #A5054 through #A5098 from the General Fund Online bill pay. No discussion. Motion passed 4 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mrs. Jones Brown; Council approved activity from 10/15/19 through 12/6/2019 from the Debit account. No discussion: Motion passed 4 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from November 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 4 - 0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes for the November 4, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 4 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for November 2019. Motion passed 4 - 0.

### **Public Comment**

**Leon Stull, Second Street** – Mr. Stull asked about the leaf collection. Mr. Dees stated that the issue will be addressed later in the meeting.

**Deborah Dietz, Second Street** – Mrs. Dietz expressed concerns about the sidewalk in front of her home. She stated that the sidewalk is pitched towards her home and rain water runs into the basement.

**Bill Smith, Main Street** – Mr. Smith commented that his car was broken into on Sunday night. Mr. Smith also complained that residents of the Work Release are still being picked up or dropped off outside of the fenced in area.

**Ken Teskey, High Street, Glendon** – Mr. Teskey come to the Council meeting to comment about the loud noise coming from a business along Lehigh Drive. Mr. Teskey stated he stopped and spoke to the property owner who he said became belligerent. Mr. Teskey stated that the noise can be heard between 6:00 am to 6:00 pm during the week and he has noticed that the noise can be heard on the weekends.

**Dale King, High Street, Glendon** – Mr. King confirmed what Mr. Teskey had stated.

**Bruce Walter, Ninth Street** – Mr. Walter stated that one of his cars was broken into on Sunday night. He requested that the Borough Police look into the matter.

**Nancy Stout, Second Street** – Ms. Stout asked if the residents of the Borough could be made aware of instances such as the recent car break-ins. Another Borough resident stated they saw it on the Borough's Facebook page.

### **Engineering Report** – None

### **Office Report** - None

### **Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances**

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the 2020 Budget as advertised. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the millage rate of 11.7 mils for 2020 (no increase or decrease). No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

### **President's Report** - None

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor DePaul stated that his car was broken into on Sunday night and so was his neighbor's car on Ninth Street.

### **Round Table**

-Councilman Dees spoke regarding two items.

1. There will be a vacancy on Council in January 2020 (once Mr. Nixon decides which seat he will keep – a two-year or four-year seat).
2. The Borough was awarded \$15,000 in the latest round of CIPP grants; less than the \$50,000 requested for the Public Works Garage.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved reducing the scope of work being done to the Public Works Garage to \$77,600 which includes a cement floor and utility connections. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – None

**Highway/Property Committee** – Mr. Bolash scheduled a meeting with the committee, Mayor and residents on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in front of 306-308 Second Street. Mr. Bolash scheduled a committee meeting on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

**Public Safety/Personnel Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown stated that the committee met with the Police Chief, Mr. Mahady, and discussed radios and uniforms. Mr. Mahady relayed that he has received one application with two more expected for part-time officers.

-Mr. Mahady spoke with the State Police and the State Police did not have reports of cars being broken into that were “locked.” He stated the incidents are crimes of opportunity by those who look for unlocked vehicles.

-Ms. Jones Brown scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown scheduled a committee meeting for Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to continue with codification.

**Utilities Committee** – Mr. Mammana stated that the committee met. Mr. Mammana scheduled two meetings the first for Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and the second on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Recreation Committee** – Mr. Mammana stated no meeting was necessary.

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

### **New Business**

Mr. Dees stated that the summer worker, Brandon Moffitt, is available to return to work during his winter break and could help vacuuming leaves and performing other tasks.

Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded Mr. Mammana; Council approved hiring Mr. Moffitt for help during his winter break. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

### **Public Comment**

**Trude Hargraves – Second Street** – Ms. Hargraves asked if the litigation that was being discussed was in regards to Atiyeh.

### **Executive Session Entered 7:42 pm – Exited 8:20 pm**

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council agreed to have the Solicitor represent the Borough in court on any and all code/zoning related issues. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

-Mr. Dees announced that he had previously withdrawn his letter of resignation that he had submitted in September and would remain on Council.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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