

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2020

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

Roll was taken; President, Mr. Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members - Paul James, Ron Nixon, Dave Bolash, Pete Mammana, and Janie Jones Brown were present. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Members of the public in attendance: June & Bill Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, James Jankowich, Nancy Kutz, Bruce Walter, Kenneth Decker, Jr. and Robin Strawn.

Appointment of New Council Member -

Council heard from the two candidates in attendance for the open Council seat. Mr. Decker spoke first. Mr. Dees asked Mr. Decker if he anticipated a problem being a volunteer with the Fire Department and discussing financial issues regarding the Fire Department. Mr. Decker replied that it would not be a problem.

Ms. Strawn also spoke to Council.

Council President opened the floor for nominations.

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Mr. Decker was nominated for the 2-year Council seat.

Ms. Jones Brown placed a nomination for Robin Strawn. There was no second.

Council President closed nominations. Mr. Dees asked for a voice vote on Mr. Decker.

Ms. Jones Brown – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes. Mr. Decker is elected to the 2-year Council seat. Vote 6 – 0

Mr. Decker was sworn in by Mayor DePaul and took his seat on Council.

Mr. Dees asked Ms. Strawn to consider an appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #17485 through #17516 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #A5099 through #A5137 from the General Fund Online bill pay. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved payments #X0034 through #X0042 from the Online payments from General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved activity from 12/6/19 through 1/13/2020 from the Debit account. No discussion: Motion passed 7 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved payments #B5006 through #B5010 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from December 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for December 2019. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) - None

Engineering Report – None

Sewer Report –

Mr. James stated that Sewer Commission met in December. He stated that the charges to the Borough have increase \$4,000 for operations and gave an example of a repair of a crack in the sewer line in the river that needed to be repaired by divers.

Office Report –

Ms. Heebner reminded all Council members to complete a Financial Interest Statement and return the form to the office.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor's Report

-Solicitor Goudsouzian had outstanding litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.
-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council authorized the Solicitor to become involved in any litigation in regards to Right-To-Know appeals. Motion approved 7 – 0.

President's Report –

-Council President Dees described the new Resident Complaint form.
-Mr. Dees directed the Council members to review the new Committee assignments.

Mayor's Report - None

Round Table

Ms. Jones Brown suggested that the Property Committee review the in-depth Trestle Report. The Borough of West Easton is responsible for half of the trestle crossing over Iron Street and the entire trestle going over Spring Street.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Chair, Mr. Mammana scheduled meetings for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Property and Roads Committee – Chair, Mr. Nixon scheduled meetings for Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30 pm, Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

-Mr. Dees confirmed with Mr. Nixon that Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Streets required resealing of the work done by UGI when UGI installed the new gas mains.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Chair, Mr. Dees scheduled meetings for Monday, January 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

The Safety Committee asked Chief of Police Mahady to update Council:

- Chief Mahady stated that the delay with the county has been resolved. He also stated that the cost of a Records Management System (RMS) is \$1,200.00/yr for 3 years.
- Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved spending up to \$6,000 over a three year period for the RMS Informant computer program. Motion passed 7 – 0.
- Chief Mahady stated that he has 3 applications and a fourth coming for viable hires for part-time police officers.
- Chief Mahady reported warnings were issued to illegally parked vehicles and all owners moved their vehicles.
- Chief Mahady said the part-time police department is very close to being ready to start.

Legal and Technology Committee – Chair, Mr. Bolash scheduled meetings for Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Utilities and Fire Committee – Chair, Mr. James scheduled meetings for Monday, January 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chair, Ms. Jones Brown scheduled meetings for Monday, January 27, 2020 at 5:45 pm and Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Chair, Mr. Decker scheduled no meetings at this time.

Unfinished Business

-Second Street sidewalk repair. Mayor DePaul, Dave Bolash and Matt Dees inspected the sidewalks on December 14th, 18th and 23rd and met with a contractor. The suggested fix is estimated to be \$3,200. The suggested fix is to have an aluminum plate to cover a cut in the sidewalk at 312 Second Street to allow the water to run under the plate out to the gutter. A section in front of the Dietz residence would be lifted so that the tilt faces away from the home. And the berm would be raised in front of Mr. Stull’s home which he agreed to.

-Emergency generators. Mr. Dees stated that when the Borough looked at this previously, the cost was approximately \$20,000 and the grant would have been a 25/75 matching grant. The Borough has also previously looked into getting a generator for the Borough Hall, Fire Department and Police Department. Mayor DePaul filed a letter of intent for the generators; he also stated that the Fire Department was not interested in getting a generator.

-Appointment to the Vacancy Board. Council President Dees read a letter received from Mr. Glen Ackerman, Sr. expressing an interest in serving on the Vacancy Board.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council appointed Mr. Ackerman to the Vacancy Board. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

New Business

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved Travel Requests for Ms. Jones Brown, Mr. Mammana, Mr. Nixon and Mr. Decker (for the two day Newly Elected Municipal Officers Boot Camp) and Mr. Dees (for Saturday only). No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Public Comment (Open) -

Bruce Walter – Ninth Street – Asked if Committee meetings were public.

Leon Stull – Second Street – Mr. Stull asked when the Police Department was going to start.

Executive Session Entered 7:50 pm – Exited 8:26 pm

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammanna, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council authorized the Solicitor to prepare the financial documentation for the UGI contract and have the appropriate individuals sign. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

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