

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2020

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:35 pm using Zoom videoconferencing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Roll was taken; Council President, Matthew Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members – Paul James, Dave Bolash, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present. Council member, Ron Nixon was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner and West Easton Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: David Bogusky, Jason Vanderburg, Leon Stull, Lex Wilkinson, Trude Hargraves, and John Trusz.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved expenditures as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from May 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the May 11, 2020, Council meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for May 2020. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer Report – Ms. Heebner referred Council to the paperwork from Barry Isett & Associates, the scaled down version of Phase 2 of the Storage Building proposal. A motion was made by Mr. James to approve changes made by Barry Isett & Associates for the pole barn building, phase 2; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Office Report -Ms. Heebner informed council that the 1% rate at First Commonwealth was no longer available so the office would be searching for rates once CDs came due in a few weeks.
-Ms. Heebner informed council that they noticed construction was starting at 111 Center Street, that the property had been posted with a Stop Work order and the owner had not done anymore work. Also, a resident that had been building a chicken coop, submitted a zoning application and was denied.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA:

- approved a new formula for high strength waste for businesses.

-approved \$19,000 for hardware upgrades; switches need to be upgraded to today's standards.

He also stated that the pump station at Bushkill continues to have problems caused by people flushing cleaning wipes and “disposable” wipes; they should not be flushed; they should be thrown away.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor’s Report - None

President’s Report – Mr. Dees stated that Covid-19 is real and still a health threat. He has an out-of-state relative that tested positive recently and was in the hospital on a respirator.

Mayor’s Report - Mayor DePaul asked if there had been any more complaints about noise from IQ Fibers. Ms. Heebner stated that there had not been any more complaints made to the office. He let Council know that there was still no activity at the DUI Center, that he will let them know as soon as he hears anything.

Round Table

-Mr. James asked for verification on trees hanging over onto another person’s property; he was told the portion that hangs over the property line onto someone else’s property can be removed.
-Mr. Mammana mentioned that in the 9th Street area between Ridge and Low often after 11pm fireworks are being set up. Chief Mahady said that he’s heard them but the people were gone by the time he got there.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – The office will get everyone a year-to-date financial report at the beginning of July covering the first 6 months of the year.

Property and Roads Committee – Mayor DePaul mentioned that UGI had one half of Palmer Street milled and paved.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Chief Mahady reported that:

- there have been several vehicles broken into/gone through; one had a wallet taken.
- P.D. hoping to be active soon.
- he put 27 warnings on cars.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Dees mentioned the Borough would be purchasing cyber-attack insurance at an approximate cost of \$1000/year.

Utilities and Fire – Mr. James mentioned:

- need to talk to Fire Chief about their status; hopefully schedule a meeting with Chief Bogari.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chair, Ms. Jones Brown stated that:

- the parks look good; thanked Public Works.
- residents can use parks but the playground remains closed.
- she would like to have a zoom committee meeting on June 29th, at 4:45 to discuss a clean-up program and the painting of the drains.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business –

- The EMC position was posted and we've had one person show interest. Mayor DePaul will reach out to them to discuss the position and its responsibilities.
- Mr. Dees went over the Borough of West Easton Seating Guidance for restaurants and notified Council that the Zoning Officer issued Dubs on 5th a temporary permit for outside dining. Mr. Bolash made a motion to approve the outside seating guidance for restaurants; Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business – Mr. Dees stated that we need to start getting ready to advertise for bids for our trash/recycle contract; our current contract expires at the end of December. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to prepare trash bid packets; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0. The Utilities and Fire Service Committee will be in charge of the process. A meeting was scheduled for June 17th, 6pm.

Public Comment (Open) - None

Executive Session Entered 7:34 pm – Exited 7:50 pm

Discussed pending litigation and sidewalks on 2nd Street.

Mr. Dees asked for a motion on a verbal quote of \$900 for mudjacking sidewalk, motion died. Mr. Dees asked for a motion on BQ Basement Systems, polyurethane injection, \$1500 with a 10 year warranty; motion died. Mr. Dees asked for a motion on BQ Basement Systems with curb cutting, \$3400; motion died. Mr. Bolash made a motion to accept Hafner & Sons bid, replacing the sidewalks at a cost of \$8325, Paul James seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Dees was the dissenting vote.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager