

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2020

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:33pm 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, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, 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: Trude Hargraves, Bruce Walter and Leon Stull.

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

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the September 14, 2020, Council meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

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

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer Report – Ms. Heebner referred Council to the Barry Isett & Associates letter on the Maintenance Building bids.

Office Report -Ms. Heebner brought council up to date on:

-the fact that the EIT is approximately \$4,000 behind the last two years' collections.

-DeltaWash has made arrangements to pay their delinquent sewer fees.

Mr. Dees asked for a motion to approve Bean, Inc. Contractors contract for emergency snow removal. Mr. James made the motion; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA is working on a project that accepts oil and grease instead of it going down the drains where it solidifies in the sewer lines. It is expected to be a four million dollar project. They are considering a \$4 million bond, or a \$10 million bond which would include other improvements. It is hoped that the bond would be paid off in ten years and then begin to bring in revenue.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian said he had items for Executive Session.

President's Report - Mr. Dees stated that the storm drain mural that the Parks and Recreation Committed had worked on looked great and thanked them for their work. Ms. Jones Brown said she was grateful for the help from Sharon Niko and Robin Strawn.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reported that the soon-to-be police officers were ordering their uniforms. He is looking into a speed sign, stating that they do seem to make people slow down when they see them.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul:

- said that the only people using the DUI center now are the sheriff's people using it for training. People are still on furlough, at home. The County will let the Mayor know when they open it up again for people to serve their time.
- asked Trude Hargraves about the hole behind her house.
- stated that there were a couple of late night parties at the park on 9th Street (Niko Park).
- asked Council for a motion to approve \$3500 for work on one of the police cars. Mr. Mammana made a motion to spend up to \$3500 for work on the police vehicle providing insurance and a written estimate were provided; Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion. Discussion was had. Solicitor Goudsouzian suggested that Council wait until receiving the written estimate and proof of insurance first and then make the motion the following month. Mr. Mammana withdrew his motion.

Round Table – Mr. James asked Mayor DePaul about an email about the virtual LVPC gala. He said that he read the Mayor was interviewed. Mayor DePaul stated he was asked a few questions about working together with local municipalities.

Ms. Jones Brown said she had attended a meeting at the Nature Nurture Center and she planned on attending another one on October 22nd about watershed property training.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Meetings were set for October 15th and 22nd at 6pm. Mr. Mammana asked Council to look over the budget and get back to him with suggestions.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – A Zoom meeting was set for October 20th at 5pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire – Mr. James reported that the Committee met and discussed looking into usage rates. At this time they are thinking they may need an increase of \$5.50/quarter per resident. Meeting was set for October 28th, 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown reported that:

- they had their first clean-up event and thanked everyone that had helped.
- the Committee had prepped and painted four storm drains.
- Sue Walter had provided the stencils for the drains and thanked her.
- the Committee would like to hold a Holiday Light/Decorating Contest.
- they would like to have a rock garden, a space for residents to put their finished rocks. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to have a rock garden across from Dubs; Mr. Mammana seconded the motion. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) –

Leon Stull, 2nd Street, thanked Council for his new sidewalks, said he was very pleased; he said he felt the Borough was paying too much for the borough manager's benefits; said he heard Dane Thatcher talked to the workers on his sidewalk project and let it be known he was not happy about that.

Trude Hargraves, 2nd Street, asked when the Borough would be hiring more part-time officers and asked what was going on at Front Street with 3 PSP officers there recently. Mayor DePaul explained that we usually do not hear what happened from PSP.

Bruce Walter, 9th Street, let us know he works for a utility company and that when a property is sold, the unpaid balance due should be paid in full by the seller before it is sold.

Executive Session Entered 7:59pm – Exited 9:04 pm

Council discussed possible litigation and personnel issues; no decisions were made.

Mr. Mammana made a motion: if Mr. Dees cannot make the October 23rd meeting with Solicitor Goudsouzian for the settlement conference, Mr. James will sit-in in his stead. Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
