

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2021

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:31pm using Zoom videoconferencing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roll was taken; Council President Matthew Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members – Paul James, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Janie Jones Brown, Ken Decker, Jr., and Steve Klaver were present. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitors Steve Goudsouzian and Brian Panella of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner and West Easton Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady; Douglas Brown of Barry Isett & Associates, were present. Members of the public in attendance: Carl Pierson.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Decker, Jr.; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from June 2021. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the June 14, 2021, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7- 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker, Jr.; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for June 2021. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer’s Report – Mr. Brown shared his plans for the Utility Building. The plans showed the addition of a concrete pad and the work anticipated to be done outside the building. Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klaver, to authorize the final plans for the Utility Building and put the project out to bid.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner asked Council to approve the use of Borough Hall by West Easton Scholarship Committee to hold a clothing drive to raise funds in September. Motion was made by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA had appointed a RTK officer and RTK assistant. Barbara Kipp, EAJSA secretary has retired, and we should reach out to Alex Hoffman and Jeff Morgan, engineer, as needed. MJ Ryder, the contractor that takes samples for the EAJSA has agreed to another six-year contract, at the same rate.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies – Mr. Dees asked for a motion to advertise AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES. Mr. Mammana made the motion, seconded by Mr. James. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Dees asked for a motion to approve the Employee Handbook as presented by the Borough Manager. Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian reported that Mr. Sefcik has not complied with the court order to clean up his business property and they will be going back to court on the matter.

President's Report – Mr. Dees stated that the security cameras have been installed at Gross Park and he is very happy with the quality of the pictures. The required warning signs about the security cameras are up. He mentioned the second speed sign has been hung up on Main Street which he feels is a very good location for it.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reiterated that the second speed sign is up on Main Street. He reported that the formal parking tickets have been ordered. He and Officer Smith will be on duty for the block party scheduled for this coming Saturday. He is aware of only one complaint about fireworks and that was from outside our community.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul asked about a situation at 84 Main Street that was referred to Executive Session. He asked about the parking of commercial vehicles on borough property on Spring Street and was told it was going to be handled. Mayor DePaul said there may be a National Night Out; he was looking into it.

Round Table – Mr. Klaver shared several instances of firework mishaps that had occurred in other areas and asked about West Easton's fireworks ordinance. He was told we go by the state ordinance, and the main portion that pertains to us is that no fireworks are to be discharged within 150 feet of a residence. He asked if we could make one tougher. Mr. Dees explained that we can't make an ordinance stronger than a state law. Solicitor Goudsouzian explained that fireworks are a problem all over and it is very hard to catch someone in the act of setting them off.

Mr. James asked about the possibility of in-person meetings. Discussion was had; some are not ready to start that yet due to the Delta variant and other concerns.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Mr. Mammana set up a meeting for July 27th, 6pm at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Klaver reported seeing some kind of an SUV driving down 4th Street with cans hanging off the front of the vehicle; he wondered what it was doing.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James explained that they are still working on use sewer rates and trying different rate combinations to try and come up with what will work best for the Borough.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown said they are still working on on-going projects: the flag mural, painting and touching up drains and the rock garden.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Mayor DePaul reported that he had attended a Chamber of Commerce event. He asked about litter fines and Chief Mahady explained that throwing litter out of a vehicle is different than throwing it down at a park.

Public Comment (Open) – None

Executive Session Entered 7:44pm – Exited 8:12pm

Council discussed legal matters.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded by Mr. James, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
