

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 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, Ken Decker, Jr., and Steve Klaver were present. Council member Janie Jones Brown was absent due to a school/work obligation. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; and Borough Manager, Joan Heebner were present. Chief Mahady was absent due to handling a police matter. Member of the public in attendance: Carl Pierson.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker, Jr.; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from August 2021. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Decker, Jr.; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for August 2021. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment – Mr. Pierson thanked Dane Thatcher and Brandon Moffitt (maintenance) for cleaning out storm water catch basins both before and after recent storms; he did not have any troubles with the recent rain. He also voiced his opinion on the possibility of the Borough switching to usage rates for sewer billing. He is happy with the way things are now, with the flat rates the borough has been using for 57 years. He mentioned that while he was on council, they addressed this matter at least once or twice before, and council voted it down. He said he feels if it is not broken, don't fix it.

Engineer Report – Ms. Heebner read a report from BIA engineer, Doug Brown: The Storage Building Project was put out for bids on PennBID last Friday, September 10, 2021. There will be a pre-bid meeting held at Borough Hall at 10am on Monday, September 20, 2021. The bids will be opened at 10am, prevailing time on Friday, October 8, 2021. The grant money obtained for this project totals \$356,306. Up to 10 percent can be used for engineering and professional services.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reported that we have received the \$20,000 from the Northampton County police grant. She also stated that shut off notices were being sent out for the first time since Covid started. The ESWA is limiting each municipality to ten shut offs for now, even the larger ones.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA had their audit for 2020 completed and that everything was in good order. They are working on a new, separate admin building.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies – Mr. James made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021 – 26, to Approve the Application for LSA Northampton Lehigh County Grant for Removal of Trestles in the amount of \$290,200; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021 – 27, to Approve the Application for LSA Monroe County Grant for Removal of Trestles in the amount of \$290,200; seconded by Mr. James. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian had legal items for executive session.

President's Report – Mr. Dees discussed the GROW NORCO grant, a two to one match, for a police car. He stated the estimate of the cost of the car is \$52,564; the grant request is for \$35,042 and our match would be \$17,522. He shared that we had budgeted approximately \$197,000 for the year for the police, and so far, had approximately \$147,000 left. Mr. James made a motion for approval of applying for a GROW NORCO grant in the amount of \$35,042 with our match being up to \$18,000. No discussion. Motion passed, 6-0.

Police Chief's Report – There was no Chief's report as Chief Mahady had not returned from handling a police matter.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul reported that it had been a busy month; he helped with the grant for the police car; got in touch with UGI about the weeds around their pumping station and reminded them they are to put up landscaping or green slats in the fencing to hide the station; the Scholarship Fund's clothing drive has started; there was flooding and mud to deal with this past month.

Round Table – Ms. Jones Brown sent Ms. Heebner her comments to read in her absence: She wanted to thank Dane and the mayor for removing the dead tree at the park. They did a great job of keeping the residents safe because it was near the sidewalk. She also wanted to thank the police department. She said it is absolutely wonderful to see West Easton Police Department cars riding around and checking on the residents, excellent job!

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – The August meeting was canceled; a meeting was set up for September 28th, 6pm, at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Klaver said he would keep an eye on the Trestle Grant. Mr. Dees asked about a list of the top five worst sidewalks in the Borough. A meeting to look into this will be set up at the next council meeting.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James stated that the committee met and once again discussed possible changes in the sewer rates. They will discuss energy rates and late fees at their next meeting scheduled for September 23rd at 6pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown sent Ms. Heebner her comments for this report: She shared that the flag mural is almost complete, but they still need more red and white caps. She thanked Robin Strawn, Mr. Dees and Mr. James for their help with the mural. She thanks everyone that has been saving and collecting the caps for the mural. She is excited to hang the completed project up at Gross Park when it is completed. Also, now that the weather is changing, becoming milder, the committee can once again work on the painting of the storm drains. She reminds everyone they still need donations of plain rocks to be dropped off at the rock garden, in the silver bucket.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Mr. Decker, Jr. thanked Mr. Dees and Ms. Heebner for their work on the grants. Mr. Dees thanked Ms. Heebner for her work on the grants.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Mr. Dees made a request for council to approve continuing the employment of Brandon Moffitt past the summer. A motion was made by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Decker to approve the continuation of the employment of Brandon Moffitt, past the summer. No discussion. Motion passed, 6-0.

Public Comment (Open) – None

Executive Session Entered 7pm – Exited 7:22pm

Council discussed legal matters.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana; seconded by Mr. James, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
