

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2021

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:34pm 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; 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: Carl Pierson, Henry Medrano, Bill Concolino.

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

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the July 12, 2021, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7- 0.

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

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer’s Report – None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner asked Council to consider approving Leon Stull as a zoning alternate. Mr. Mammana made a motion to have Leon Stull serve as an alternate for the Zoning Board; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA projects lower numbers for municipal budgets due to Covid. He said if you go along Canal Street, you can see construction is being done on the filter to keep the stuff that’s causing problems out of the EAJSA. A committee has been appointed to investigate what type of insurance is needed to best protect EAJSA and its members.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies – Mr. Dees asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-23, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES. Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian reported that he had legal matters to discuss in Executive Session.

President's Report – Mr. Dees stated that he had an item to discuss under New Business.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady stated that there were approximately 23 calls for service. He hopes to have more detailed information in the future.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul stated that

-he attended Palmer Police Chief Larry Palmer's, retirement luncheon.

-a tree fell from heavy rain.

-a girl got bit by a dog; a police report was made; animal control was involved.

-a Wilson child climbed a fence and was found in West Easton.

-he spoke to the County Executive at Larry Palmer's luncheon about the Northampton County Grow grant coming up.

- the white Jeep is all fixed.

-he believes the sewer billing should be based on use.

Round Table – Mr. James thanked Mayor DePaul for all of his hard work for National Night Out. Mr. Dees agreed with Mr. James in his praise of the National Night Out event. He said it was nice to see all the Police Officers there.

-Chief Mahady asked about having the front brakes on the Crown Vic fixed.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – The Committee discussed revenues and expenses at their previous meeting. Mr. Mammana set up a meeting for August 24th, 6pm at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Klaver reported that there is an ongoing problem on 4th Street with people that don't pick up their trash in the streets, and also with clutter. Mr. Dees suggested Mr. Klaver put in a complaint with Ms. Heebner.

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. Right now, it looks like approximately one-third of the residents would see an increase in their bill if we go to a use rate. The Committee recommends revising the late fee. A meeting was set for August 17th, 6pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown said that now that it is getting cooler, the committee hopes to work on the flag mural to get it completed. The rock garden has been mulched and they will be adding to the rock garden soon.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Mr. Decker, Jr. had nothing at this time but said that he would get in touch with Mayor DePaul to see how he wants to proceed with the grant he mentioned.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Mr. Dees shared that our grant writer from Barry Isett & Associates, Mary Himmelberger, has said that the trestle removal would be a good idea for the LSA grants. He gave everyone an update on the background of the trestle and the trestle study done in 2018. Mr. Klaver said that he had reached out to several representatives: Boscola, Wild and Casey. The spokesperson for Susan Wild told him the grants they have available would be for repair only, for example if we wanted to repair them for part of a hiking/biking trail. Casey's office said they would check with the team and get back to him. He is still waiting to hear back from Boscola's office.

Mr. Dees asked for a motion to pursue LSA grants for the removal of the trestle over Iron Street and the trestle over Spring Street in the amount necessary to complete the removal project. Motion was made by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded by Mr. Klaver. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment (Open) – Mr. Henry Medrano, Spring Street, asked about the parking situation behind Spring Street. His commercial trucks have been removed. Mr. Dees said it would be discussed during executive session. Mr. Bill Concolino, Spring Street, said he felt his neighbor was being targeted. He said to remember that in the past the Borough actually created parking in the alley for the other part of Spring Street. Mr. Concolino asked that the weeds be cut back in the area to help toward eliminating riffraff in the area. Mr. Carl Pierson, 9th Street, commented that he thought the legal width of the alleys was 15 feet, with a 2-foot pedestrian allowance on either side. He added that on the other section of Spring Street, cars are parked on Borough property. Mr. Concolino said he believes some of the alleys are actually 20 feet.

Executive Session Entered 7:32pm – Exited 7:49pm

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 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
