

# BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**May 9, 2022**

***APPROVED***

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council President, Paul James, in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; Council President Paul James noted there was a quorum. Council members – Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Kenny Decker, Jr. were present. Council members Janie Jones Brown and Steve Klaver were absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager Joan Heebner and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves, Bill and June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Jim Jankowich and Carl Pierson.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from April 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the minutes from the April 11, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for April 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)** – None

**Engineer's Report** – Based on the engineer's recommendation, Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker to accept the recommendation of Barry Isett & Associates, dated May 9<sup>th</sup>, and approve Security Release #2 for the Laurel Hill Project to reduce the security by \$149,122.30 which would bring the balance from \$1,271,596.66 to \$1,122,474.36. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Office Report** – None

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James shared that EAJSA approved a 3.5-million-dollar project for a new administration building. There was one chlorine violation.

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Panella reported on the previously held executive session: Executive Session was held via Zoom, May 3, 2022; 7pm-7:40pm. In attendance: Council members - Paul James, Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana and Dave Bolash. Absent: Kenny Decker, Jr and Steve Klaver. Also, in attendance-Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, Mayor Dan DePaul, Engineer Douglas Brown, and Manager Joan Heebner. Topics discussed were litigation and personnel. No official action was taken.

**President's Report** – Mr. James mentioned several dates: April 26<sup>th</sup>, Scholarship Committee met to pick a trade school scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 for the first time, thanks to a donation by Pete Rossi, and a college scholarship winner in the amount of \$1,500; May 21<sup>st</sup>, National Armed Forces Day; May 17<sup>th</sup>, primary election; May 30<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day; May 1<sup>st</sup>, Financial Reports were due to the office. He shared information on Advocacy Alert information from PSAB to council.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady reported that West Easton has been very uneventful, in a good way. The parking situation seems a lot better in the Borough. Mr. James said he sees the officers driving around a lot, which is a good thing. Chief Mahady is looking into the pole that was hit over a year ago that is still strapped together. Mr. Dees said he hopes the police are not ignoring certain ordinances; he referenced the ordinance which states no dogs are allowed in the park and the recently passed no unhitched trailers on the street ordinance. Carl Pierson added that he is happy to see PD patrols regularly.

**Mayor's Report** - Mayor DePaul mentioned the trailer situation on Main and East Street and that it would be coming up later in the meeting. Ms. Heebner reminded him that the response is that we are doing as much as we can, as fast as we can, legally. Mayor DePaul would like letters to go out to residents with the worst sidewalks. He asked Mr. Decker why he had not completed his 1/3 of the Borough. Mr. Decker replied that he did not feel he had the knowledge to determine if sidewalks were bad or not. Chief Mahady asked who is responsible for the weeds where the street meets the curb.

**Round Table** – Mr. Bolash discussed the ongoing problem of dogs urinating and defecating on others' property, which is not allowed. He would like to see this situation addressed.

## **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – None

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Bolash said that a resident, that was unable to be at the meeting, asked him to check if the manhole covers on Main Street could be covered with cold patch; he wondered how often we need to access them. He thought it might not be a big deal but was not sure.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – None

**Legal and Technology Committee** – Mr. Bolash would like to discuss a possible ordinance to not allow the parking of commercial vehicles on Borough streets. He set up a meeting for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm.

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – Mr. James set up a meeting for May 24<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Borough Hall.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown was absent from the meeting but sent her report along for Mr. James to read: *1.) Clean up Event was a success. Special thank you to the Altmare family, Brown family, Robin Strawn, Sharon Niko, and our mayor for helping. It was a fun and purposeful community event. Also, T-ball kids liked that we were saving the earth by picking up trash and loved our signs, the Young Lungs at Play signs. Parents also remarked that they like the reminder for people to smoke outside of the park and they also remarked that it will reduce cigarette butts inside the park as well. That was nice feedback regarding our new signs. 2) May 17<sup>th</sup> "Art in the Park" at 7pm, please come to Gross Park for our rock painting event. We will provide the rocks,*

*paints, and brushes. Please come ready to paint. Let's grow our West Easton rock garden. 3. We are looking into 2 possible grants to help with new playground equipment/updating basketball court. 4.) Talking with an arborist from Easton about trees at our parks. 5.) No meeting set because we have our art event on May 17<sup>th</sup>.*

**Grants and Public Relations Committee – None**

**Unfinished Business – None**

**New Business** – Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to approve Robert Mahady as the Borough's alternate zoning officer, once he has completed his certification, cost of which is not to exceed \$2000 including classes and materials. Funds would be repaid if certification is not acquired; repayment of funds could be waived by borough council. Discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bolash thanked Mr. Dees for getting and managing the Text Magic program. He found it very helpful when he received information on the recent water main break.

**Public Comment (Open)** – Carl Pierson, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park looks great, public works did a great job. He is disappointed in the fence around the Pole Barn Project. He feels the right of way is too narrow, that it does not look nice. He stated that the trailer situation on Main Street is absolutely disgusting. He read the portion of the most recent newsletter about future sewer rates; he felt the article was misleading. He once again stated that he feels the borough should stick to a flat rate; it's worked fine for years.

Jim Jankowich, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, asked why the abandoned motor home was moved from one borough property to another. He said it should have been taken care of before. He feels it is a liability to the borough. He dismissed Ms. Heebner when she tried to address his concern. Chief Mahady later explained the situation to everyone. There is a rescheduled hearing on the motor home set for the end of May.

Bill and June Smith, Main Street, went back and forth on different topics: the grass left in the street at a Main Street property, a MS4 violation; idling trailers in the street waiting to get into the property at the corner of Main and East, leaving oil spots behind; trailers blocking driveways, drivers of trailers knocking on residents' doors, asking them to move their vehicles; a resident living at 84 Main Street and it is zoned for Light Industrial. They were told that we are doing as much as we can, as fast as we can, legally. Solicitor Panella assured them that we are working on various matters. Mr. Dees shared that unfortunately, once these matters end up in litigation it can take a long time to get resolved.

**Executive Session - None**

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager