

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 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, Kenny Decker, Jr and Robert Adams were present. Council member Janie Jones Brown was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves, Bill and June Smith, Carl Pierson, Dave Bogusky, and Andrew Flood (briefly).

Mr. James asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Adams from the Zoning Board. Motion was made by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from July 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Decker, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the July 11, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for July 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner informed Council that Douglas Brown had retired.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reported that the Community Yard Sale seemed to have gone well; there were approximately 22 families that signed up to participate. She reminded everyone that there would be free ice cream at Gross Park on Tuesday, August 23rd, courtesy of Fidelity Bank.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA board had been spending money. There was a change order of \$23,000+ for the Waste Water Treatment Project. The building was built around the 1960s and the electrical inspector had suggestions for updates and improvements. There have been no issues at the plant. Weyerbacher may have a buyer; they are way behind in their sewer payments.

Ordinances, Resolutions – Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash to approve **Resolution – 2022-23** Be it RESOLVED, that the Borough of West Easton of Northampton County hereby requests a Local Share Account, Monroe County grant for \$187,620 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to match existing grant funds to remove two deteriorated, unused railroad trestle bridges that have become a public safety concern. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker to approve **Resolution 2022-24:** Be it RESOLVED, that the Borough of West Easton of Northampton County hereby requests a Local Share Account, Northampton Lehigh Counties grant for \$187,620 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to match existing grant funds to remove two deteriorated, unused railroad trestle bridges that have become a public safety concern. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

President's Report – Mr. James asked Council to approve his Travel Request to go the Fall PSAB conference for one day only, October 15, 2022. Mr. Dees made a motion to approve Mr. James' travel to the conference at the expense of \$318.75 (conference cost \$150 + cost of travel \$168.75); seconded by Mr. Bolash. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. James recognized Mayor DePaul for being honored by PSAB and thanked Mayor DePaul for all he continues to do for the Borough.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady said that the trailer that had been on Borough property was finally moved. He asked Council to consider applying for a new police car through the Northampton County Public Safety Grant Program. Mr. Dees made a motion to apply for the grant, seconded by Mr. Decker. Discussion was had. Council approved the motion to apply for the car through the grant, with the understanding the Borough would be responsible for approximately \$32,000 toward the purchase of the new car, which would not happen until 2023.

Mayor's Report - None

Round Table – Mr. Bolash asked if there was a date set for the Halloween Parade as he did not want the parade to fall through the cracks. He was told the date for the parade was October 24th, that the fire company would be hosting it once again with help from police and residents.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Meeting was set for September 8th at 6pm.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees reported that the committee met in Executive Session on August 13th; the purpose of the meeting will be discussed in tonight's Executive Session.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Bolash brought up the codification of ordinances. It was decided Ms. Heebner will give one last look over it and then get the book back to Solicitor Goudsouzian so we can move forward with it.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James set up a meeting for August 24th, 6pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. James read Ms. Jones Brown’s report: Ms. Jones Brown thanked Ms. Heebner for organizing the yard sale and Mr. Pierson for suggesting the idea. She hopes it will continue to be an August tradition. She reports the Chalk Event was a wonderful community event. Ms. Jones Brown met with Rob Christopher, the Forester for the City of Easton; he shared a lot of useful information. She talked with Mr. Dees about possible wildflower community planting in the spring. At a future meeting she will share info on community planting in the spring. She thanks everyone for their continued support.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Mr. James moved the discussion of the trash contract to Executive Session since it was a discussion on a legal contract.

Public Comment (Open) – Carl Pierson thanked everyone for having the trailers moved from East and Main; it looks so much better. He also thanked the borough for having the manhole covers on Main and 9th Street taken care of. He expressed concern over a dead tree at Niko Park on 9th Street. He also mentioned that at the park, that use to be the town dump, there are several severely depressed areas; he feels they should be filled with dirt so there are no problems with lawn mowers.

David Bogusky thanked the PD for their presence; he said it was nice to see them driving around. He asked if there was an ordinance for RVs parked on the street.

Executive Session – 7:24pm – 8:01pm. Council discussed the trash/recycle contract and personnel.

Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve the advertising of the trash/recycle bid contract once changes are finalized; seconded by Mr. Dees. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
