

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 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 – Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Robert Adams were present. Council member Kenny Decker, Jr. was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Douglas Brown representing Barry Isett & Associates, Justin Stewart representing the Laurel Hill project, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Al DeGennaro and Emil Giordano were there representing JP Mascaro; Rob Colontrelle was there representing LMR Disposal. Members of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves, Bill and June Smith, Carl Pierson, Jim Jankowich,, and Leon Stull.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – Carl Pierson asked about the fencing on top of the retaining walls at the Laurel Hill project; Bill Smith asked about the sidewalk plans at Laurel Hill.

Engineer's Report – Doug Brown was there to go over a conditional final approval for the Laurel Hill project. The public asked the following questions of Doug Brown and Justin Stewart: Carl Pierson stated he did not see a description of the fence on top of the retaining walls. Mr Stewart replied that he thought it was a 6-foot wrought iron fence; Trude Hargraves asked how many units there would be; she was told 34. Jim Jankowich asked since it is an HOA, who would be taking care of the trash, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to Conditionally Approve the final plan dated October 20, 2022, with the following conditions:

1. Conditioned on meeting all of the comments and requirements of the Borough Engineer including all comment letters.
2. Conditions on all requirements set forth by the Solicitor including the following:
 - a. Payment of all fees; escrows; etc.
 - b. Dedication of all right of ways, easements and other legal requirements.
 - c. Confirmation of the posting of all security.
 - d. Entering into all legal agreements as requested by the Solicitor.
3. No Building permits will be issued until all the above conditions are met.

Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Stewart, representing Laurel Hill, agreed to the conditions.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian informed the room that since LMR's bid bond was invalid, Council had to reject their bid. He stated that J.P. Mascaro & Son's bid meets all requirements. Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammano; Based on the advice of our Solicitor, we do not accept the Proposal to the Borough of West Easton, PA for Refuse Collection and Disposal from Residential Units with Collection, Processing, and Marketing of Recyclables of LMR Disposal, LLC, and to accept the 5-year Proposal of J.P. Mascaro & Sons in the amount of One Million One Hundred Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and 40/100 (\$1,102,766.40) with a two-year extension bid of Five Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and 88/100 (\$510,722.88). Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to approve to advertise the Trash/Recycle Ordinance. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

General Business

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

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from November 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the minutes from the November 14, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Office Report – None

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported Weyerbacher has been sold and will start brewing beer again. West Easton will be getting a rebate from EAJSA.

President's Report – Mr. James mentioned that it had been Veterans' Day and thanked all those that had served our country. He thanked Mr. Dees and Mr. Mammana for their service, and they thanked him for his.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to advertise the budget as presented to Council. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to advertise the meeting dates as presented to Council. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Police Chief's Report – None

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul stated the trash contract would be higher.

Round Table – Mr. Dees informed everyone that he had contacted Bushkill Township about their arranging to have rain barrels available to their residents. The barrels are donated for free from Coca-Cola, all we have to do is pick them up. The hardware kits to convert the barrels cost \$27. Bushkill Township will share their direction sheets with us.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; to have Public Works pick up barrels from Coca-Cola and purchase 20 hardware kits at a cost of \$27 each, not to exceed \$600. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – No meeting scheduled for December.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees reported that the committee met in Executive Session to discuss pay rates.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – The committee continues to work on sewer rates. They will wait until trash changes go through first. A meeting was set for December 6th, 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown thanked all those that helped with the recent bulb planting event: Sharon Niko, Robin Strawn, Mr. Dees, the Brown family. She thanked Mr. Adams for lending them some of his tools to make the planting easier. They planted approximately 500 bulbs. She mentioned the Holiday Light Contest, to be judged December 16th through the 18th, once it gets dark. Ms. Jones Brown continues to look for grants that may help our community.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – Mr. Dees reminded Council to please look over the work-in-progress ordinances that he has been working on, a burn ordinance, and a nuisance ordinance.

New Business – Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; to approve spending \$3500 for improvements to Borough sidewalks, an approximate area of 4 feet by 20 feet, by Frank Bubba & Sons. Discussion was had. Motion passed, 6-0.

Public Comment (Open) – Trude Hargraves asked about the trash contract and how many lawsuits we are involved in. Jim Jankowich asked if he could have a free rain barrel. Bill Smith asked who is enforcing trees and grass violations; he asked why the trees along East Street have not been replaced. Carl Pierson said he'd like to attend the next finance meeting; mentioned the dead tree at the park on 9th Street, and asked about the burn ordinance.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Dees; no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
