

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**December 12, 2022**

***APPROVED***

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30pm 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 Brian Panella, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bill and June Smith, Carl Pierson, and Leon Stull.

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

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

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

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

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

**Engineer's Report** – Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana; to authorize payment #8 to Kobalt Construction in the amount of \$15,631. Discussion was had. Motion passed, 6-0.

**Office Report** – Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams; to authorize the signing of the Bean contract in case they are needed due to heavy snowfall this winter. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James shared that EAJSA had a locked-in low rate for electricity for several years, but that has expired. The new rate is expected to cause an increase of about \$350,000 in expenses next year. He said that Weyerbacher is getting ready to open again. EAJSA is happy with the way things are going at the facility.

**Ordinances and Resolutions** –

A motion was made by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to approve **Ordinance 2022-18** that has been legally advertised: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 856 AMENDING ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve **Resolution 2022-19: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE FIXING OF THE TAX RATE AND COLLECTING OF AN ANNUAL TAX FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 FOR THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.** No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dees, to approve **Resolution 2022-20: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT the 2023 BUDGET AS ADVERTISED.** No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to approve **Resolution 2022-21: A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT ACT 57 OF 2022 PROPERTY TAX PENALTY WAIVER PROVISIONS.** No discussion. Motion passed 6-0. (This would only apply to a situation where a property was sold, taxes were not due at the time of settlement, and then the new bill did not reach the new owner. Would be a rare situation but could happen if the timing was just right.)

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve **Resolution 2022-22: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR \$382,272 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR CIPP LINING OF THE SANITARY SEWER IN THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON.** Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

**Solicitor's Report** – None

**President's Report** – Mr. James said he had asked Solicitor Goudsouzian if he, Mr. James, was permitted to serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator while still being on Council and the answer is yes. Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dees; to recommend Mr. Paul James as West Easton Borough's EMC. Motion passed 5-0, with Mr. James abstaining since the motion involved him. Mr. James reminded everyone to be safe during the holidays with Christmas lights, dry trees, etc.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady shared that:

- he used to attend Borough meetings when he was with the State Police 12 years ago. He said there is a big difference between now and then, for the good.
- he would prefer everyone refer to the lines painted in the streets as “speed enforcement lines” and not “speed traps”. He said it sounds better that way and the PD is not trying to trap everyone going 36 mph, but more so the ones really racing through the borough.
- approximately 30 warnings on cars have been given out.
- the dead tree in Niko Park on 9<sup>th</sup> Street is down. A local business did a great job for the borough.
- he thinks we need a stop sign on 10<sup>th</sup> Street moved.
- we need a stop sign at Palmer and 10<sup>th</sup>/Jefferson.
- the telephone pole at 5<sup>th</sup> and Center has finally been replaced and the hanging stub removed.
- a resident at 10<sup>th</sup> and Low Streets noticed a water spot in the street that would grow and then disappear. Chief Mahady called the ESWA and they came right out and it was a leak; they plan to replace water lines in that area.
- he would appreciate it if Council would consider purchasing the Lexipol program for the Police Department. This program sends out constant updates to laws, regulations, and policies. He believes this would help insulate the borough from liability. This program is used in 7500 Police Departments, 250 in Pennsylvania. He spoke to several departments that have it and they really like it and can't imagine not having it. Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana; to approve the purchase of the Lexipol program to keep the department up-to-date on policies and procedures at a cost of \$1886. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor DePaul said we are expecting bad weather on Thursday. He spoke to the Mayor of Easton about getting salt from them when needed. He asked for an Executive Session to discuss the basics.

**Round Table** – Mr. Dees asked if anyone had any suggestions on the Nuisance or Burning ordinances that he has been working on. He stated that Mr. Bolash had some suggestions and that he, Mr. Dees, had made some changes. He will send the work-in-progress ordinances to the Solicitor for his office to look over.

### **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – None

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Adams confirmed that the telephone pole was replaced, as reported by Chief Mahady.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – Mr. Dees reported on the work that had been done, and that is supposed to be done on the borough sidewalks.

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – None

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Mr. James shared Ms. Jones Brown's report: She shared that Parks and Recreation Committee will be judging the holiday light contest after dark on December 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. She thanked everyone that has been helping the committee and the residents that chose to participate. She continues to look into grants that could help the Borough parks and possibly trails.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Public Comment (Open)** – Leon Stull informed Council that there is a pothole/dip that filled with water along Lehigh Drive.

**Executive Session** – 7:52pm – 7:58pm. Council discussed getting salt from the City of Easton.

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

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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