

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2023

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:31pm 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 (by phone), Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Kenny Decker, Jr., and Robert Adams were present. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Robert Eyer, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bill and June Smith, Trude Hargraves, and Leon Stull.

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from December 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the December 12, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for November 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – Trude Hargraves said she did not like where the Public Comment (Agenda Items) fell on the agenda. It was explained to her that is where it is suggested to be by PSAB.

Engineer's Report – None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner shared the current CD rates available from PLGIT. She explained that the higher rates would bring in approximately \$8532 more per CD than having the money sit in Fidelity Bank. Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams; to open two (2) CDs with PLGIT in the amount of \$237,000 each. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0. Mr. Mamman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to open one (1) CD from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$237,000. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Sewer Report – Mr. James shared that EAJSA had approved their nine-million-dollar budget. They expect their administration building to be completed in May 2023. The centrifuge, at a cost of approximately \$450,000, has the equipment running more efficiently. He stated that the EAJSA meets the third Monday of each month if anyone has any questions for him to ask at the meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions –

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana to approve Resolution 2023-01, Disposition of Records, 2015-2018. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to approve Resolution 2023-02, Approve \$20,000 donation to West Easton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Boash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams; to approve Resolution 2023-03, Approve pay rates and benefits for Borough employees. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; to approve Resolution 2023-04, Approve \$9000 Donation to Mary Meuser Memorial Library. Discussion was had. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana; to approve Resolution 2023-05, Approve \$150 donation to Suburban EMS. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker; to approve the advertising of Ordinance 2023 - 06, A Burn Ordinance. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash; to approve the advertising of Ordinance 2023 – 07, A Nuisance Ordinance. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams; to approve the advertising of Ordinance 2023 – 08, A Drone Ordinance. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Solicitor's Report – None

President's Report – Mr. James reminded Council to fill out their State Ethics form. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He will be receiving EMC info from PSAB and then shared some safety tips from the Borough News magazine.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady said that he is happy to have the Lexipol training available to him and the officers; he thanked Council for approving the purchase. He shared that there is required training for the police officers, that they would be splitting the cost with two other police departments, saving all departments money. Chief Mahady checked with Penndot and we can put up a stop sign and “No Trucks” signs without getting Penndot’s approval. There have been a few thefts up at the Laurel Hill Project; he believes they happened during the heavy fog. Mr. James thanked Chief Mahady for the police presence on New Year’s Eve.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul shared his concerns about a few blighted properties. Ms. Heebner told him that our code inspectors are looking into two of them.

Round Table – Mr. Dees said that he often checks other municipality’s minutes and while reading over Glendon Borough’s he noticed that their council president was quoted as stating that Glendon was close to having police coverage from West Easton Borough. Mr. Dees wanted to make it clear that if there were any rumors on that subject, that they are not, at this time, true. He has reached out to Glendon’s council president to make sure he understands that the first step would be to reach out to our council president, Mr. James.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Mr. Mammana set up two dates for a meeting, hoping that the representative from PLGIT will be available to share information on the different accounts they

have available. Meetings are scheduled for January 18th and/or January 25th at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Adams shared that the electric company has begun to reinforce the poles and straps.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees said that the sidewalk slabs at Keystone Park have been replaced; he is happy with the work. He said that cold patch is still needed on the bumps in the one area of the sidewalk.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James set a meeting to discuss sewer rates for January 19th at 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown stated that the sidewalks at Gross Park look great. Her committee had been working on the Holiday Lights Contest. She thanked everyone that had donated prizes and helped with the judging. She is working on a Bare Root Tree program/grant. She is also looking into grants for the park and possible trails. She reminded everyone to keep April 22nd available for Earth Day, the annual Borough clean-up event.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull reminded everyone that several months ago he mentioned that he feels that there should be a streetlight on Third Street, between Center and East. He mentioned that the dip on Lehigh Drive has been fixed. Mr. Dees said he felt that if a streetlight was needed, the residents in that area would request one.

Bill Smith asked about the Beatty Construction property on Lehigh Drive; it looks like a junkyard again. June Smith mentioned the power outage on December 23rd when a lot of people lost power.

Trude Hargrave asked where she could find copies of the proposed ordinances.

Mayor DePaul filled everyone in on the first few collection days with the new trash hauler. He stated some problems were to be expected in the beginning.

Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Dees, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
