

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 13, 2023**

***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. were present. Council members Robert Adams (who came in at 6:35pm) and Janie Jones Brown (absent due to a mandatory work event) were absent at roll call. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bill and June Smith, Carl Pierson, Robin Strawn, and Leon Stull. Guests: Suburban EMS: Jeff Young, Executive Director; Don DeReamus, Quality Assurance Manager and Government Relations Liaison; Tim Werkheiser, Operations Director; Bryan Dunlap, Director of Finance.

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from January 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the minutes from the January 9, 2023, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for January 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Mr. Adams arrived at 6:35pm.

**Guest** – Suburban EMS gave a presentation on the current funding, workforce and reimbursement crises in emergency medical services.

**Engineer's Report** – Solicitor Goudsouzian reported that he has almost everything he needs for the Laurel Hill Project to be allowed to proceed.

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner discussed the various ways Council could handle the Public Safety Grant. The Borough asked for \$20,000 toward the purchase of a new police car. Like most other municipalities, we were awarded \$14,300. Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to move forward with the purchase of a new police car, allocating the appropriate funds to the purchase. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Heebner also reminded everyone that the Ladies Auxiliary plans to have their Egg Hunt on April 8<sup>th</sup>; details to come later.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James shared that EAJSA had reelected the same officers and that Weyerbacher is back in business, and will be paying their sewer charges.

**Ordinances and Resolutions** –

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker, to approve Ordinance 2023-06; “An Ordinance of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Defining Open Burning, Defining Dense Smoke, Providing for the Removal and Abatement of Burning Violations, Providing for the Use of Manufactured Fire Pits, and Prescribing Penalties for Violations.” No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker, to approve Ordinance 2023-07; “An Ordinance of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Repealing and Replacing Ordinance 338, Entitled “An Ordinance Defining Nuisances, Providing for the Removal and Abatement of Nuisances, and Prescribing Penalties for Violation.” No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve Ordinance 2023-08; “An Ordinance of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Regulating the Operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Within Borough Limits and Prescribing Penalties for Violation.” No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. James once again thanked Mr. Dees for all his hard work on the three ordinances.

**Solicitor’s Report** – None

**President’s Report** – Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dees, to allow the Wilson Baseball & Softball Association to use the Borough field at Gross Park from March 1, 2023, through November 1, 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Police Chief’s Report** – Chief Mahady shared a PSA that there have been thefts of Kia and Hyundai cars in the Borough (and all over). We had two thefts in the Borough, it was posted on Facebook, and both cars have been recovered; one was totaled, one was not. They seem to be stolen for joyriding and/or to be destroyed.

Mr. Dees left the meeting at 7:33pm.

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor DePaul shared his concerns about the Borough going backwards. He would like a “junk yard” situation looked into. He also mentioned bad sidewalks.

**Round Table** – Mr. James read a note from Ms. Jones Brown: *Thank you to our dedicated manager, staff, and police department for all you do. If I have questions or concerns, it is great to know I can call any of them and get help. I continue to be thankful and proud to live in West Easton.*

**Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – None

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Adams set up a meeting for March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm at Borough Hall.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – None

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – The committee continues to discuss sewer rates; meeting set up February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Borough Hall.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Mr. James shared Ms. Jones Brown’s report:

*I am excited to share that I have been going through a process to obtain a grant for trees. The process started in the fall, and we passed through the first phase and we were invited to the second phase which included meeting with an expert to help us complete a plan for planting trees. **Special thank you to Joan and Dane** for meeting with the Forester to prepare our planting plan. We are waiting to hear if we are awarded the trees for Gerald Gross Park. If we are awarded all twenty trees we will need help with planting. Please call the office if you are able to help with this beautification project.*

*Also, I have been watching webinars, calling, and emailing contacts to help us start the process of applying for grants for our parks. Part of the process is holding a public meeting to gather information about what we will include in our plan. Please call or email Joan if you are interested in attending. We will announce the date at our March meeting.*

*Mark your calendars for Earth Day [April 22nd](#) at 11am. We will meet at Gerald Gross Park and provide supplies and guidance. Be part of the solution....let’s work together to keep West Easton clean, safe, and healthy.*

*Back by popular demand “chalk the walks and rock painting” art event in May...date to be announced next month. We need rocks if anyone can donate.*

*I am continuing to represent West Easton at the Nurture Nature Center Resiliency Series. I will learn about the many funding opportunities available to communities. I hope to find out how we can take advantage of these grants.*

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Public Comment (Open)** – None

**Executive Session** – 7:55pm – 8:34pm. Council discussed a zoning situation and sewer rates.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Adams, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager