

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

March 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., and Robert Adams were present. Council member Janie Jones Brown, absent due to a mandatory work trip, was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul was absent. 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, and Leon Stull.

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from February 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the February 13, 2023, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for February 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the Ladies Auxiliary plans to have their Egg Hunt on April 8th at 11am at Gross Park.

Sewer Report – Mr. James shared that work continues on the EAJSA building and that it is almost complete. He explained that the primary sewer line clog in the fall was caused by FOGs: fats, oils and grease. EAJSA is investigating this situation as it is a shared line with Wilson Borough. He asked everyone to pass the word along to their neighbors that it is very important not to put FOGs down the drain or we all end up paying for it in the long run. There were also a lot of leaves in the clog. EAJSA did a study on many residences and found several it believes may have their downspouts emptying directly into the sewer system, which is not good. This is something the Borough will have to look into in the near future.

Mr. Dees asked about the possibility of EAJSA doing a smoke test to see which residences are connected directly to the sewer system.

Ordinances and Resolutions – None

Solicitor's Report – Executive session

President's Report – Mr. James suggested that council members check out the PSAB website as it offers a lot of good programs and webinars.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady shared a PSA to keep reminding everyone to lock their car doors and be sure to remove valuables from their cars. He shared that this is also a problem in surrounding municipalities as well.

Mayor's Report – None

Round Table – Mr. Dees mentioned that he'd heard there was a 25-year time capsule to be opened this year and suggested a motion that a resolution to indefinitely postpone the opening to a future time by council be made, seconded by Mr. Bolash; discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Dees will work on a resolution for the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Adams noticed a lot of poles are marked to be replaced. He will get together with Chief Mahady about the ones that concern him the most.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James would like to have a few town hall meetings to explain to the residents the different options they are considering for the sewer rates. He would like to hold meetings March 22nd at 6pm and April 5th at 6pm at Borough Hall.

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

- We were awarded the 20 trees we applied for by grant and will need help planting them; if you can help, please let the office know.
- Mark your calendars for Earth Day, clean-up, April 22nd, at 11am. We will meet at Gerald Gross Park and provide supplies and guidance.
- There will be a meeting at Gross Park on May 16th, at 7pm for residents to share their suggestions and wishes for the future of the park.
- A "chalk the walk" and rock painting art event will be held on May 25th 6-7:30pm. (Rain date will be in June if needed.) We need rocks if you are able to donate.
- She continues to represent West Easton at the Nurture Nature Center Resiliency Series.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – Mr. Dees started a discussion on the need for signs forbidding the use of drones taking off and landing at our Borough parks, per recently passed Ordinance 2023 - 08. A motion was made by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the expenditure for eight 12" x 18" signs. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

A discussion on requiring fire permits with a nominal fee, per recently passed Ordinance 2023 - 06 was had. Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dees to have five-dollar fire pit permits, expiring at the end of each calendar year. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Carl Pierson suggested that Council take a look at our zoning. He feels only requiring two parking spaces per residence is not enough for the world we live in with most families having more than two vehicles. He also believes our zoning reads as though it allows that 10-foot-wide lots can be built on and wonders if that could be right.

-Bill Smith asked about what he described as a 10th Street junk car lot.

-June Smith mentioned that at approximately 10:40 every night they can hear a loud noise as vehicles going to the laundromat hit a manhole cover.

-Leon Stull mentioned sinking sidewalks/storm drains on East Street.

Executive Session – 7:35pm – 8:02pm. Council discussed potential litigation matters; no action was taken.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr Mammana, to authorize the Solicitor to reach out to Glendon Borough informing them that there is no interest in providing police coverage at this time. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
