

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 10, 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 Vice-President Ms. Jones Brown, in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; Council Vice-President Janie Jones Brown noted there was a quorum. Council members – Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Kenny Decker, Jr., and Robert Adams were present. Council member Paul James was absent. 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, Robin Strawn, Jim Jankowich, and Leon Stull.

Ms. Jones Brown thanked all that helped with our fire emergency along Lehigh Drive. She said that her heart went out to all the businesses impacted. She is thankful for all the donations of food and drinks made to the emergency responders. She asked if Chief Mahady had anything to add or discuss about the fire. He stated he really did not have anything extra to add. He said we'd continue to see smoke and as of now, there is no known cause of origin. He is glad that the public has not had a great deal of interest in the aftermath of the fire. Mr. Dees asked if there should be a PIO appointed for future situations. It was decided that would be looked into in the near future, to assure that it was handled correctly.

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

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the minutes from the March 13, 2023, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner shared that she received information that the Laurel Hill representatives hope to have five (5) units ready by July 1st.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner said the egg hunt was very well received. Parents shared they were very happy with the event that the Ladies Auxiliary sponsored on April 8th at Gross Park.

-Ms. Heebner briefly discussed grant information that she had received from Barry Isett & Associates and had shared with Council. Mr. James informed her that he would like to see the NorCo CDBG Grant continue to be used toward streets, sidewalks etc. Ms. Jones Brown had shared that she would like to get information on the DCED GTRP on applying for improvements for Gross Park. No other suggestions were offered.

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Sewer Report – Mr. James, who was not able to attend the meeting, had shared that there were no significant events to report.

Ordinances and Resolutions – Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker; to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2023 – 09; RESOLUTION TO DEFER THE PLANNED OPENING DATE OF THE 1998 WEST EASTON BOROUGH TIME CAPSULE TO A DATE DECIDED BY ANY FUTURE COUNCIL IN MAJORITY AGREEMENT. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitor's Report – Executive session

President's Report – Mr. James sent along a note for his report: *I would like to applaud the efforts of the 23+ fire companies that responded to the fire on Lehigh Drive. Their efforts to control a major fire are exemplary. We are blessed to have the support of such a great infrastructure. Thank you.*

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reminded everyone that people are testing cars, looking for change, etc., to keep cars locked and valuables out of sight. (* From earlier in the meeting/minutes: He stated he really did not have anything extra to add about the fire. He said we'd continue to see smoke and as of now, there is no known cause of origin. He is glad that the public has not had a great deal of interest in the aftermath of the fire. Mr. Dees asked if there should be a PIO appointed for future situations. It was decided that that would be looked into in the near future, to assure that it was handled correctly.)

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul informed us that Representative Susan Wild came to the Borough to see the aftermath of the fire. He asked her to try to get more funding for Volunteer Fire Companies.

Round Table – None

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – The committee has set up two more Town Hall Meetings to continue to discuss sewer rates. So far, most of the people talking to the Committee seem to want to leave the rates as they are currently. Mr. Dees asked how many from the public have attended the meetings and was told four. The meetings are scheduled for May 12th, and April 3rd at 6pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown shared the following information:

-West Easton received all 20 trees requested from a grant. The cost of the trees would have been \$2,000.

-May 16th, 7pm, the Committee will hold a short meeting at Gross Park for residents to discuss what their wishes for the Park would be going forward

-She met with a playground equipment representative. He told her that the cost of installation of most equipment is approximately 40% of the cost of the piece of equipment.

-April 22nd, 11am, is the Borough Cleanup Event. She hopes to see everybody there.

- May 25th, 6-7:30pm, the “Chalk the Walk” and Rock Painting event

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull asked about hazardous material at the 1550 Lehigh Drive fire. Jim Jankowich said channel 69 said there was hazardous waste, had anyone checked to see how it was stored. Leon Stull added that there were sealed containers done there; they come in once a week and are then taken out of there. Bill Smith expressed concern about what was in the fire debris. June Smith asked about a faded “No Parking” sign on Main Street. Mr. Dees reminded everyone there is a complaint form that can be filled out.

Executive Session – 7:25pm – 7:45pm. Council discussed potential litigation. No decisions were made.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Decker, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
