

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

JUNE 12, 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 – Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Robert Adams were present. Council members Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, and Kenny Decker, Jr., were absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Carl Pierson, and Leon Stull.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from May 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the minutes from the May 22, 2023, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for May 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – Mr. Pierson asked about Laurel Hill and was told that would be discussed shortly.

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner shared that she had received a request from Tanner Haycock, Laurel Hill project manager, asking that, for safety and traffic flow reasons, would the Borough be open to letting them land clear the 40' x 220' section that runs along the new road that will be going in on the very lower level of the project. They propose clearing this portion of borough property, grading flat with the future street and installing a stone construction drive. Ms. Heebner deferred this decision to Barry Isett & Associates and Solicitor Goudsouzian. It was explained that there is a lot more involved in this situation. Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana: To pursue the concept of permitting the applicant to clear the 40' x 220' section that runs along the new road that will be going in on the very lower level of the project. The proposed action would be in accordance with applicant's email dated June 7, 2023, but subject to the review, revisions and modifications of the Borough solicitor, engineer, and staff. Discussion was had. Motion passed 4-0

Office Report – Ms. Heebner stated that the office had received a letter from UGI requesting their escrow be paid back, going back several years. The office will verify that the amounts are correct, and Mayor DePaul and the Property Committee will check to make sure all the roads are in a proper state. Ms. Heebner will be reaching out to the residents to see if they are interested in doing another Borough-wide yard sale. She shared that she heard from Benesch Engineers today and will be meeting with them soon to get started on the removal of the trestles.

Sewer Report – None

6/12/2023

Solicitor's Report – None

President's Report – Mr. James thanked Council for approving his trip to the PSAB conference. He said the fireworks situation is causing a lot of trouble in the state, but that the state made 14 million dollars from the sale of fireworks, so may not be in a hurry to change the law. He was able to meet with and talk with a lot of other reps and share and learn new information. Mr. James provided handouts to Council.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reported on children shooting air soft guns at the park; he wondered if that should be included in a future ordinance, to specifically not allow that in the parks. He hopes to pick up the new police car this week from Fred Beans of Doylestown, and then will have it upfitted. He stated he would like to look into getting mobile data terminals for the two newer cars in the near future. Right now they are using laptops in their cars. He estimates the cost to be about \$5800 for the two cars and thinks they should last about five plus years. He believes now is a good time to get rid of two of the older police cars.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul mentioned the Memorial Day service. He said the DUI/Work Release Center is back open and there were complaints about double parking in the street in the front of the building. He made a few calls, and they are now parking inside where they are supposed to be. He's been busy working with the Social Club and performing weddings. He spoke to Mr. Greenbaum before and after the fire. He has pictures of sprinklers and brought a sample in to show everyone. He stated that the sprinklers were not working because there was no water pressure available due to a line repair years ago.

Round Table – Mr. James read Ms. Jones Brown's notes:

- Thank you to Dane for setting up and preparing for our Memorial Day Ceremony. It was a lovely event to honor those who have served and died fighting for our country.*
- Mary Meuser Library is offering its Summer Reading Program for children. The theme, "On the Move," Meuser Library Children's Department will host at Meuser Park, featuring special vehicles that serve and support our community. You can see Police, Fire, and Public Works vehicles and trucks. Bring lunch and enjoy some time at the park [Wednesday, June 14, 11-1 PM](#).*
- They will also be doing Summer Reading Baskets for all ages. You can enter the basket raffle by visiting Mary Meuser Library and checking out books. Patrons of all ages can win baskets, like Ice Cream Sundae Kits, Painting Kits, and many other fun baskets for the entire family.*
- Also, please take advantage of free admission to local museums. They have tickets to Sigal Museum, America on Wheels, Nurture Nature Center, and more. Please call the library to learn more about free museum admissions.*
- Preschool Storytime is every [Thursday](#) from 10:30-11:30.*
- Please stop by the library. They have something for everybody.*

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Meeting scheduled for July 6th, 6:30pm at Borough Hall.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Mr. DePaul mentioned the toilet at the police station had not been working right so they rented a snake. There had been no fixtures in the building for years and someone had tossed a soda can down the open hole in the floor.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Bolash asked that the ordinance for fire inspection be turned over to the solicitor.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Meeting set up for June 29th, 12:30pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. James read Ms. Jones Brown’s notes:

-I am looking into a Fall Tree Grant for the Borough.

-Playground Grant Process Update: We are waiting to hear back about our grant submission.

-Our Rock Painting and Chalk, The Walks Event was a nice night. Special thank you to Robin Strawn for collecting and cleaning rocks for the event. We painted, chalked the sidewalks, enjoyed snacks and prizes, and spent time together at Gerald Gross Park. Attendees were residents of all ages. Thank you to everyone that joined in the fun. Special thank you to the Parks and Rec Committee, Joan, Dane, and Councilman Kenny Decker for securing a donation of a \$20 GIANT gift card that we awarded to the first family to show up for our event and snacks. Our family donated prizes for the younger attendees. Overall, it was an AMAZING night enjoying time together while doing art in the park.

-We look forward to seeing everyone at our August community event.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull: mentioned his concern on the traffic at the corner of East and Main; stated that Borough Hall’s grass looks horrible, other municipalities, and his own grass, look great; said there is a stump by the basketball fence at the park that looked to be as sharp as a knife sticking up. Ms. Heebner reminded Mr. Stull that he does not have to wait until a Council Meeting to express his concerns; someone is in the office to receive phone calls almost every weekday.

Carl Pierson: asked Mayor DePaul about the installation of the sprinkler system. He reminded Council that he was available if anyone wants to talk to him about his zoning suggestions.

Executive Session – None

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Adams, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
