

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

JULY 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 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 – Mathew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Kenny Decker, Jr., and Robert Adams were present. Council member Janie Jones Brown was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, Police Chief Robert Mahady, and Dane Thatcher, Public Works were present. Members of the public in attendance: Robin Strawn, Jim Jankowich, Trude Hargraves, and Leon Stull.

- Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.
- Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from June 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.
- Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the June 12, 2023, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.
- Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for June 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner referred to the contract from Benesch, for taking down two trestles, that council had received. Benesch had been referred to the Borough by our regular engineers, Barry Isett & Associates. Mr. James discussed the meeting with a Benesch representative and reminded everyone that we have received grant money to take down the trestles as they are no longer safe. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve Benesch to perform professional engineering for removing of the two trestles, upon approval of the contract by the solicitor. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner shared several items:

- a date for the Community Yard Sale was set for August 12th.
- Fire Chief Bogari, Jr., confirmed the Halloween Parade will be held Monday, October 30th.
- there are three upcoming LSA grants; she asked council to consider what they think would be the best suggestions for the grant apps.
- the office worked on the total of money to be refunded to UGI from their escrow account with the borough. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to approve the return of \$149,776 to UGI from their escrow account. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.
- she is looking into having a free ice cream event, through Fidelity Bank, toward the end of August. Ms. Jones Brown is hoping to combine this with an art event at the same time.

7/10/2023

Sewer Report – Mr. James talked about the new administration building for the EAJSA; they have a new copier and signs.

Solicitor's Report – None

President's Report – None

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady shared that there was only one call about fireworks, and it happened later in the night after an officer was off duty. He agrees with Mr. James that he does not think the State will be doing much about the fireworks situation as it made 42.5 million dollars on the sale of fireworks last year. He had hoped to have the new police car uplifted by now, but there is a backlog on parts. There are several different grants possibly available for police equipment. The officers are out and about just about every day.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul mentioned that he checked the office air conditioner when it seemed to not be working and found that it was very dirty. Dane Thatcher cleaned it really well and it is now working. He spoke about a recent rainstorm when he got a call from the 911 Center. A sewer cover on Spring Street popped off and could not be found in the dark. A tree fell across Keystone Avenue.

Round Table – Mr. Dees asked if Council could get together to have a group picture taken. It was decided to plan on that before the August meeting. Mr. James read from Ms. Jones Brown's notes:

Thank you to our Borough Manager for all her hard work. She works very hard, and her dedication is greatly appreciated. She is always ready to help and works tirelessly. THANK YOU, Joan.

*Library News-Mary Meuser Library is offering its Summer Reading Program. 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 Storytimes every **Thursday** from 10:30-11:30. Please stop by the library. They have something for everybody.*

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – August 10th meeting set for 3:30pm at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James explained what the Committee was considering when determining what to do about possible changes to the sewer rates. He set a meeting for July 18th, 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, which can take several months.

Community Events: We look forward to seeing everyone at our community Rock Painting and Chalk the Walks Event in August—date to be announced soon. We are hoping to combine this with the free ice cream truck event. Thank you to Joan for looking into this fun, free community event.

Residents have been asking for years if we could open up the garage to have a pavilion. Council President and I met with Dane Thatcher to inquire about the remodel/restoration of the Keystone Garage.

A meeting was set at Gross Park for July 17th, 7pm, with a rain date of July 18th.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Jim Jankowich shared that he thought if there was a water hookup available, it had to be used, instead of a stream, referring to the laundromat. There was a discussion on whether that was true or if they had water rights since the property was over the stream. Referencing the return of the UGI escrow money, he asked about drilling holes on 9th Street. Some believed that had been taken care of but will look into it. Mr. Adams mentioned the erosion on Jefferson Street at the Laurel Hill Project.

Executive Session – 7:42pm - 8:07pm. Litigation and personnel matters were discussed.

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 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
