

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 9, 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.

Mr. James asked for a moment of silence for the conflict in the Middle East.

Roll was taken; Council President Paul James noted there was a quorum. Council members – Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Kenny Decker, Jr., and Robert Adams were present. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, Police Chief Robert Mahady, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Carl Pierson, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, and Jim Jankowich.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits for August 2023. No discussion Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits for September 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the minutes from the September 11, 2023, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for August 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for September 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)** –Carl Pierson asked about the three LSA grants.

**Engineer's Report** – None

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner referred to proposed Resolution No. 2023-15, about Fidelity Bank wanting an updated list of signers for the Fidelity Bank checks: Paul James, Carl Pierson, Dan DePaul, and Joan Heebner. Mr. Bolash made the motion to update the list of signers; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Discussion was had. Solicitor Goudsouzian suggested we add that two signers are needed to the resolution, even if it is mentioned somewhere else, thereby avoiding confusion in the future. Discussion was had. Motion passed, with the addition of requiring two signers being needed, 7-0.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA had planned to collect fats, oil and grease, as they felt they would make their money back, but with prices going up, they have decided to wait on that for now. They will be reviewing rebates soon.

**Solicitor's Report** – Executive Session, and Solicitor Goudsouzian referred to the three requests for LSA grants; he said Council would formally vote on and authorize the signing of the resolutions.

**President's Report** – Mr. James went over the three LSA resolutions:

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; to approve **Resolution No. 2023-12, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County (“Applicant”) hereby expresses its intention to request and does request a Local Share Assessment, Statewide Grant in the amount of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$186,880.00) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used to purchase two new trucks for the Borough’s Public Works Department. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion; seconded by Mr. Adams to approve **Resolution No. 2023-13 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, (“Applicant”) hereby expresses its intention to request and does request a Local Share Assessment, Northampton and Lehigh County Grant in the amount of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$186,880.00) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used to purchase two new trucks for the Borough’s Public Works Department. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Decker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve **Resolution No. 2023-14 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, (“Applicant”) hereby expresses its intention to request and does request a Local Share Assessment, Monroe County in the amount of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$186,880.00) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used to purchase two new trucks for the Borough’s Public Works Department. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Mr. James asked for approval to have three dying trees removed from Gross Park cut down and removed, with an estimate of \$4,000. A motion was made by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Bolash. Discussion was had about there being a two foot stump being left behind and not being ground down. Mr. Dees asked that motion be tabled; there was no second, his motion failed. Council voted to approve the original motion. Motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Dees dissenting.

-Mr. James asked for a motion to approve the cost of an AED for Borough Hall, approximate cost \$1500. A motion was made by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Now that the PD has two newer police cars, Mr. James opened a discussion about listing the older police cars for sale on Muncibid. This will be further discussed at a future meeting.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady had a short report. He said there have been less thefts in the area, but reminded people to continue to lock cars and remain diligent. He said that traditionally, thefts pick up again in November. He plans to look into what can be done when a stray dog is located.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor DePaul spoke about a tree that fell across Keystone Avenue, and hearing of paint being dumped down a street.

**Round Table** – Mr. James mentioned that there had been a FEMA alert on October 4<sup>th</sup>, approximately at 2:20pm. He said if anyone is interested, there will be the world's largest earthquake drill on October 19<sup>th</sup>. If interested, you can get information at [shakeout.org](http://shakeout.org).

### **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – Mr. Mammana set up meetings to work on the budget on 10/12, 10/19, and 10/26 at noon at Borough Hall.

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Adams said they are thinking of clearing an area on Spring Street Alley for overflow parking for residents. Pros and cons of this were discussed, along with Borough liability.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – Discussion for Executive Session. Mr. James asked for a motion to advertise for a part-time accountant, 20 hours a week at \$20-\$25 an hour, with other office work included. Mr. Dees made the motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0. A personnel meeting was set for October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at Borough Hall.

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – None

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown looks forward to attending a virtual meeting with the County about the bike connection. In November they plan to plant deer resistant perennials in a bare patch on the side of Borough Hall. This should be done after the first hard frost. She thanked Mr. Decker for taking over the Holiday Lights Contest.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Public Comment (Open)** – Leon Stull asked how many miles the old truck had on it; he said it should not be too many. Mayor DePaul informed him that the fuel tank had rusted out, and that the underneath was not in good shape. Mr. Stull said that if the pickup truck was used to spread salt, it would need to be replaced in six months. He was informed that the truck was not for spreading salt, but to help with the plowing of narrow alleys, etc. He asked if PW had ever checked the dripping over the spout at the corner of the office building. He suggested cleaning it out and getting Leaf Guard as it was just going to keep happening.

Police Chief Mahady filled Council in on a potential situation on Lehigh Drive. Someone has added a driveway/fence on the property that had the fire. According to County records, the resident does not own that property. This will be looked into.

**Executive Session** – 7:34pm – 7:52pm. Personnel matters were discussed; no action was taken.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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