

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**November 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.

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, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Robert Adams were present; Matthew Dees and Kenny Decker, Jr. were absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, Police Chief Robert Mahady, Public Works Supervisor Dane Thatcher, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, and Jim Jankowich.

Mr. James remembered Veterans’ Day and thanked all those that had served.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits for October 2023. No discussion Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the October 9, 2023, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for October 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)** – None

**Engineer’s Report** – None

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner mentioned the high interest rates and asked Council if they would consider investing money from the General and Sewer accounts since there will be three CDs coming due in January 2024. Solicitor Goudsouzian offered a suggestion and Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, to have Ms. Heebner invest up to \$750,000 in three CDs at the best rate available. Discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0. Ms. Heebner also let Council know that we are going to have to do more toward our MS4 projects. A meeting will be set up with our engineers to discuss what must be done to avoid fines.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA met in their new building, and it was money well spent; it is beautiful. They hosted an event and invited other municipalities to tour the facility. Their audit is delayed, so if we are to receive a rebate, that will be delayed.

**Solicitor's Report** – Executive Session

**President's Report** – Mr. James thanked everyone for voting, saying how important it is.

-He talked about the great experience that the tree planting on Saturday had been. He thanked Dane Thatcher for his help.

-Mr. James led a discussion on whether or not to replace or eliminate the Welcome to West Easton sign on Adamson Street. He received an estimate of \$1992. Discussion was had. It was decided to turn the situation over to Mr. Adams and the Property Committee.

-He mentioned that Suburban EMS has asked for a higher contribution of \$6,000 from the Borough. We previously donated \$150. Discussion was had. Solicitor Goudsouzian suggested council make a line item for donations with \$6,000 and pledge \$2,000 to EMS for now and see how our money situation is later in the year. A motion was made by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. Discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

-A motion was made by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, to approve the advertising of the 2024 Budget. Discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

-A discussion was had on what to do with the older PD cars now that there are two newer ones. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to have Chief Mahady look into selling the two older police cars, the Crown Vic and the Explorer at the highest price. Discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady mentioned a resident saw a neighbor's garage broken into; the neighbor did not want to press charges. He said to keep an eye out for your neighbors; this kind of thing may pick up again when the kids are off from school over the holidays. He spoke of being a "Hub of Intel" sharing examples of people asking him for information. Chief Mahady offered to Solicitor Goudsouzian his congratulations to Brian Panella on winning his election. He said he felt it spoke highly of the solicitor's office. Mr. James thanked Chief Mahady for his help with the Halloween parade.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor DePaul asked Dane Thatcher his thoughts on the PD furnace. It was decided that Mayor DePaul will call someone in to look at the furnace. He spoke on how nice the Halloween parade was and he mentioned what a nice job Officer Al Smith did handing candy out to the children during Trick-or-Treat.

**Round Table** – None

### **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – Mr. Mammana said their business is done for now; the budget has been approved for advertising.

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Adams said they need to look into the erosion on Spring Street Alley, where they are thinking of allowing extra parking. He suggested gravel and tamping it down. Chief Mahady asked about getting a stop sign at the top of Palmer Street as previously discussed. Mr. Thatcher said he would handle that.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – None

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – None

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown shared what a great day Veterans’ Day was when volunteers planted the trees from the latest tree grant at Niko Park. In 2023 the committee has planted 41 trees. She thanked Dane Thatcher and Joan Heebner for their help with the latest grant. She looks forward to meeting with the County on possible future projects.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Public Comment (Open)** – Trude Hargraves asked how many vacant seats are on council; she was told three. The voting results are not finalized yet. She thanked Chief Mahaday for his officers driving down her alley; she said she appreciates it.

-Leon Stull said there are lots of leaves across the street at Third and East. He mentioned again he thinks there should be a streetlight there.

-Mr. Adams asked who maintains the Fire Department’s parking lot; there are a lot of leaves in a certain area, and he is concerned with them going down the drains.

**Executive Session** – 7:42pm – 7:51pm. Legal matters were discussed.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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