

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2025
APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:00pm 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 – Janie Jones Brown, Robert Adams, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Kenny Decker, Jr., and Sharon Paige-Lisenbee were present. Solicitor Stephanie J. Steward, from Goudsouzian & Associates, Mayor Dan DePaul, Police Chief Robert Mahady (arrived at 6:13pm), and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Carl Pierson, Trude Hargraves, Mr. Horinko, Leon Stull, and James Jankowich.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, 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 December 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Paige-Lisenbee, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Minutes from the December 9, 2024, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for December 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – Trude Hargraves asked about the Borough's \$9,000 donation to the Mary Meuser Memorial Library, and what other municipalities donate. Ms. Heebner said she would email her some library reports for her to look over. Trude Hargraves asked why the Borough only donated \$500 to Suburban EMS; she felt it should be higher.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, to vote on accepting Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.'s recommendation to accept Insituform Technologies USA, LLC as the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$134,963.00, and for Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. to move forward with the Sewer Main Rehabilitation Project. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 7-0.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner shared that the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th, at noon.

Sewer Report – Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to reappoint Mr. James as West Easton Borough’s EAJSA representative for a term of five (5) years: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2029. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0. Mr. James reported that a shared line with Easton, Wilson, and West Easton was damaged, and the projected cost is over a million dollars. The cost will be covered by the EAJSA. Pink algae was found in their disc filter and they are working on eradicating that.

Solicitor’s Report – None

Council President’s Report – Resolutions:

-Mr. Mamman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve Resolution 2025 – 01: Authorize Disposition of Records, 2017 – 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Ms. Paige-Lisenbee, to approve Resolution 2025 – 02: Approve \$9,000 Donation to Mary Meuser Memorial Library. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve Resolution 2025 – 03: Approve \$20,000 Donation to West Easton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, to approve Resolution 2025 – 04: Approve a \$500 Donation to Suburban EMS. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Mammana had withdrawn his resignation after the agenda was already posted.

Police Chief’s Report – Chief Mahady reported that the additional cameras had been installed at Gross Park.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor DePaul hopes to have a report on the Lehigh Drive situation (being closed so long). He is working with the City of Easton.

Council Round Table – None

Committee Reports -

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Paige-Lisenbee shared that she is happy with where things stand with personnel. She plans to reach out to more people about her concerns with the sinking grate situation on Glendon Hill Road. Chief Mahady shared that the streetlight had been taken care of. Mr. James reminded everyone that they did not have to wait until a meeting to report a streetlight out. They can call the office as soon as they notice a problem, and even go online and report a streetlight out online.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Bolash spoke of problems with a fencing loophole in our zoning that has come to his attention. He set a legal meeting for January 29th at 5:00pm. Chief Mahady asked about what limits there may be with motion lights and security cameras as related to neighbors. Mr. Bolash offered to help update the Borough website.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Meeting set for January 28th at 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – None

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None. Mr. Decker explained that he was not able to complete the light contest due to a very serious family emergency.

Unfinished Business – Mr. Bolash shared that a residence in zoning area Residence A appears to have been used as a multi-tenant residence, and only single-family residences are allowed if there is no special exception granted. Solicitor Steward said she checked with the County, and it has been listed as a duplex for several years. She has a question into the County to see if they have how/when it became a duplex.

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Carl Pierson mentioned the plans to take the trestles down, and asked if there are plans to connect the trails. He was told that is the plan; that some on council have met with the County about the steps to take and getting grants to cover the expenses. He shared his knowledge on bridges and rail service in the area. He mentioned that the Express-Times will cease operations at the end of the month and wondered if the Borough would send out emails to let residents know about legal matters. Right now, it appears the only thing left for the Borough to do, is to advertise in the Morning Call.

-Trude Hargraves asked about getting a copy of the 2025 budget. Ms. Heebner said it was available online.

Executive Session –7:10pm-7:49pm. Legal and personnel matters were discussed.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded Mr. Bolash, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
