

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2024**

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 Robin Strawn were present. Solicitor Stephanie J. Steward, from Goudsouzian & Associates, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Mayor DePaul, and Chief Mahady were absent. Kevin Thomas from Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. was present for the Engineer’s Report. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Jim Jankowich, Sharon Paige-Lisenbe, and Trude Hargraves.

Mr. James welcomed Solicitor Stephanie J. Steward, and engineer Kevin Thomas to the meeting.

Engineer Report - Mr. James turned the meeting over to Mr. Thomas who went over the bids for the project involving CDBG grants for the Roadway Improvements, Sidewalk, Curb & Inlet Replacement Project. Mr. James explained that council had the choice of accepting a bid with or without the Spring Street alternate added. Ms. Heebner had double-checked, and the Borough can use Liquid Fuel funds for their portion of the project, as long as the project is approved by Liquid Fuels. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to accept the lowest bid with the Spring Street alternate, from H&K Group, Inc., at a cost of \$287,185.30; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Discussion was had. Motion passed 7-0.

-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 Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits for February 2024. No discussion Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the minutes from the February 12, 2024, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for February 2024.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the Ladies Auxiliary would once again be holding an Egg Hunt, on March 30th, at noon at Gross Park.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA was working on a 10-million-dollar grant from the Inflation Reduction Grant; they have partnered with Nature/Nurture. They are working on FOG (fat, oil, grease), and utilizing methane gas.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Steward had nothing at this time, but said she was glad to be here and looked forward to working with everyone.

Council President's Report – Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve Wilson t-ball using Gross Field; they have supplied us proof of insurance; seconded by Mr. Adams. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Ms. Strawn made a motion to approve Mr. James as West Easton Borough's voting delegate for the 2024 June Annual Conference; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Mr. James shared he had attended a Run, Flight, Fight seminar as EMC.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady was absent due to attending an event related to his duties as Police Chief.

Mayor's Report – None

Council Round Table – Mr. Adams said that he, Mr. Decker, and Mr. James had attended a UGI seminar on safety. He and Mr. James shared how far away you should be if you smell gas: 330 feet. They shared that if you smell gas, you should notify UGI and evacuate your area. You should not ring doorbells to alert your neighbors, but knock on doors.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – None.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Strawn said the committee had met February 27th to discuss a donation to Suburban EMS. Ms. Strawn made a motion to donate \$500 to Suburban EMS; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. Discussion was had. Motion passed 7-0. Ms. Strawn set a date for a meeting to discuss the employment of a new person, March 21st, 6pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Bolash shared he had matters for executive session.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James stated last month they met to discuss sewer rates, and they would continue that discussion on March 20th at 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown reminded everyone that there was a Clean-up event scheduled for April 27th, at Gross Park, from 11am – noon. She hinted that snacks may be involved. She asked that those in attendance bring shovels along so that they can check on the trees planted earlier. The Committee is planning on planting a wildflower garden in April. She plans on getting more information on the grant for the playground.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Mr. Decker set a Town Hall meeting for March 18th, 6pm at Borough Hall.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Mr. Stull asked when they plan to replace Mr. Gehman. He said Ms. Heebner doing both jobs is double-dipping and that is illegal. He asked why the tree/limbs down on Spring Street sidewalk have not been cleared.

-Ms. Sharon Paige-Lisenbe thanked Ms. Heebner for all the help she has offered to her since she has moved here; she wanted to thank the Police Department for all the help they have been to her since she has moved here.

-Trude Hargraves asked if we were in litigation with Atiyeh. She was told that we are in the settlement stage and there was no way to know how long it would take.

-Mr. Jankowich asked if we were going to go to stage 2 of the Soldiers Monument.

-Mr. Bolash said he knew of a group that cleans Memorial Parks for free.

-Ms. Hargraves asked to be added to the Memorial Day program to do a reading.

Executive Session – 6:54pm – 7:07pm. Legal matters were discussed; no action was taken.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded Ms. Strawn; no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
