

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 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, and Kenny Decker, Jr., were present. Robin Strawn was absent. Solicitor Stephanie J. Steward, from Goudsouzian & Associates was available via telephone, Mayor Dan DePaul, Police Chief Robert Mahady (arrived later in the meeting), and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Member of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Deposits for June 2024. No discussion Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the June 8, 2024, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for May 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner reported that H&K is having trouble getting the proper boxes needed for their work in the Borough.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the Community Yard Sale will be August 10th, assuming residents are interested in having one.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the Authority approved: the purchase of a new digester, an integral part of the system; a new COSTARS policy; new insurance policies.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Steward said she continues to work on the codification and updating of ordinances.

Council President's Report – Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded Mr. Bolash, to accept the resignation of Robin Strawn from Council. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. James started a discussion on the problems with fireworks. The fact that the State makes a lot of money on the tax of the sales means the State will probably not want to make the sale of fireworks illegal again. Ms. Jones Brown asked what we, as a Borough, are doing. What are they willing to tolerate? Solicitor Steward said she will draft something on fireworks.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul stated that there were fireworks at the 9th Street Park as well. He went over to the park and they all ran away. He went to a County meeting and there will be no tax hike for Northampton County residents again this year.

Council Round Table – Ms. Jones Brown thanked Mr. Adams for watering the trees during the recent heat waves. Mr. Bolash wondered about purchasing an inexpensive computer to be used as needed for possible business purposes.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Meetings were set for July 29th at 11am, and for August 9th at 11am.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James said that the committee met and has decided to include an insert with the next quarterly billing and newsletter. The insert will be an anonymous survey asking residents which of three ways they would like the sewer billing of the future to be handled: flat rate, water usage rate with a minimum of six units, or a service charge plus a smaller rate per unit of water used.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown shared that hopefully our park equipment will be delivered to the company by July 22nd. Hopefully, the equipment will be installed in August. Ms. Jones Brown scheduled three committee meetings, to account for possible cancellation due to weather. She referred to them as “Walk and Talk” meetings. They will meet at Memorial Park, then walk over to Gross Park, and then to Niko Park. The scheduled dates are July 16th, 17th, or 18th at 6:30pm.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Chief of Police Report – Chief Mahady suggested looking into the possibility of getting more cameras at the park as they are not as expensive as they used to be. They have issued approximately 23 citations this past month. He added to lock cars and door and be a good neighbor.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Chief Mahady thanked Mr. Adams for picking up recyclables/trash at the park. Mr. Adams shared some concerns/information about Gross Park: he’s been watering trees with upside down Coke bottles; concerned about trees dying; feels Keystone garage is dirty and needs major cleaning; feels oak tree across from Dubs needs to be cut down; some trees are hanging too low at the Park; the home plate base is ruined.

Public Comment (Open) – Trude Hargraves had a question and a concern. She asked how she can get rid of two fire extinguishers. Police Chief Mahady said he would take care of that for her. She asked why sewer fees are being raised; she was told they are looking into adjusting them, not necessarily raising them.

-Leon Stull asked what we are going to do about the negative mailers sent out; he was told there is nothing that we can do. He again asked about putting a streetlight on Third Street; he said the trees around it would need to be cut back.

Executive Session – None

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
