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## BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 22, 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 Robin Strawn were present at the time of roll call. Kenny Decker, Jr. came in at 6:03pm and Mayor Daniel DePaul came in at 6:05pm. Attorney Matthew Potts, filling in for Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, and Trude Hargraves.

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits for December 2023. No discussion Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the minutes from the December 11, 2023, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Mammana, Council approved the minutes from the January 2, 2024, Council Reorganization meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for December 2023. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

**Engineer’s Report** **–** None

**Office Report** – None

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James reported that due to the weather conditions, the most recent EAJSA meeting was held virtually. Their solicitor suggested having work emails tied to the workplace, separate from their private email addresses. They have purchased a new forklift.

**Resolutions** – Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approveRESOLUTION 2024-01, Disposition of Records, 2016-2019. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker, to approve RESOLUTION 2024-02, a $9,000 donation to Mary Meuser Memorial Library. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Ms. Strawn, to approve RESOLUTION 2024-03, a $20,000 donation to West Easton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Mr. James asked for a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2024 – 04, a donation of $2,000, at this time, to Suburban EMS. There was no motion; the motion was tabled. Mr. Bolash shared that he would like more information on the Suburban EMS finances, that they are asking for 39 times the amount the Borough had previously donated. Discussion was had. A meeting will be set up to get answers to some questions.

**Solicitor’s Report** – None

**Council President’s Report** – Mr. James offered a shout out to public works supervisor, Dane Thatcher, for his dedication during the last two snow situations. He stated we are down to one public works employee, and that Mr. Thatcher came in at 9pm and worked until 10:30am, and then came back in at 5pm.

-Mr. James reminded everyone that questions concerning Council matters should be directed to Mr. James, and questions about administrative matters and borough matters should be addressed to Ms. Heebner. He reminded everyone he is retired and has more time, and that Ms. Heebner has a lot on her plate right now.

**Police Chief’s Report** – None

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor DePaul would like to look into the trash ordinance; he is noticing more and more people not taking their trash cans back after the haulers have been through the borough. He stated that it has been a chain reaction, first one person does it, then others see it and do the same. Pretty soon the whole area has their trash cans out.

-He said that during the snowstorm he called Wayne Deemer in. Mr. Deemer has helped us out for many years.

-Mayor DePaul said that PennDot may try to get us to take over the state roads which we don’t want to do as Lehigh Drive is always flooding, which then turns into a muddy situation. We do not have the equipment or manpower to handle all that. Mr. Decker said that if we plow/salt the state roads we can be reimbursed by the state. He offered to look into that matter.

**Council Round Table** – None

**Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – None

**Property and Roads Committee** – Mr. Adams stated he is keeping a cautious eye on the streets and drains. It was noted that the CDBG projects will be going out to bid this Friday. During the snowstorms he checked out our two snow blowers and suggests that we look into getting new ones. Ours are over 20 years old.

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – Meetings were set for 2/6 and 2/8 at 6pm, with the plan that if there is bad weather one of them can be canceled.

**Legal and Technology Committee** – Meeting set for 1/31, 6pm at Borough Hall.

**Utilities and Fire Committee –** None

**Parks and Recreation** **Committee** – Meeting set for 1/24 at 6pm with a backup date/time of 2/6 at 7pm in case the first one has to be canceled.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** **–** None

**Unfinished Business** **–** None

**New Business –** None

**Public Comment (Open)** – Mr. Stull noted that his son had been given a warning for not having his trailer hooked up to his truck, but that someone nearby had two unhooked trailers for quite a while.

-Trude Hargraves said she may have a snow blower the Borough can buy. That information will be passed on to Dane Thatcher.

-Leon Stull added that you need to drain the gas at the end of every season when equipment is not being used any longer; that it should not be sitting in the equipment over the summer.

**Executive Session** – None

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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