

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 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 (via phone), Robert Adams, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Kenny Decker, Jr., and Robin Strawn were present. Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Police Chief Robert Mahady, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Jim Jankowich, and Trude Hargraves. Carl Pierson arrived at 6:30pm.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Strawn; Council approved the Deposits for January 2024. No discussion Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Strawn, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes, with one correction (an incorrect date of one of the committee meetings) from the January 22, 2024, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for January 2024. Mr. Adams asked if the Borough should invest more money with PLGIT. Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner reported that she had reached out to Benesch engineers to find out what the delay is in getting a bid ready for taking down the trestles. She has been told they will get something together for the next meeting.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner stated that she wondered if the Borough might want to invest more money in CDs.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that there had been no meeting, thus no updates.

Resolutions – Mr. James asked for a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2024 – 04, a donation of \$2,000, at this time, to Suburban EMS. Ms. Strawn made the motion; there was no second. The motion failed for now.

Solicitor's Report – Executive session.

Council President's Report – Mr. James referred Council to the travel request that was sent out and asked for their approval to attend the 2024 PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey PA, from June 2-5, at an approximate cost of \$880. He shared that it is a great chance to learn recent updates and network with other boroughs. Mr. Bolash made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana; some discussion was had. Mr. Adams asked if conferences were quarterly or annually; he was told they are held annually. He asked if anyone can go; he was told yes. Motion passed 7-0.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady shared updates on the Borough acquiring AEDs. He has made contact with the Greg Moyer AED Fund. Their goal is to get AEDs in all schools, public places, and police vehicles. He found them to be very helpful and accommodating. LVHN has said that he should purchase the AED and they will reimburse the borough \$2,000. He is working on making that money go further with the Greg Moyer Fund. He will keep Council updated.

Chief Mahady asked Council to approve the police department's purchase of two onboard Getac computers at a cost of approximately \$3,000 each. He had hoped to receive a grant this past year to cover the cost but that did not happen. Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve up to \$6500 for the purchase of two onboard computers. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul said he was glad Chief Mahady mentioned the need for onboard computers. He will reach out to the County to see if they can help with that.

Council Round Table – Mr. Bolash talked about his impressions after the meeting with Suburban EMS. He feels better with the information he has learned, but still has a few questions he'd like answered.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – No need for a meeting. Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash to invest up to \$250,000 for six months in the highest CD rate available at this time.

Property and Roads Committee – No meeting at this time.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Strawn spoke of their meeting with representatives from Suburban EMS. A meeting is set for February 22nd, 6pm, with a backup meeting, if needed, on February 27th at 6pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – Mr. Bolash outlined their Committee Meeting – They feel they should turn the codification book back over to Solicitor Goudsouzian's office when all that are interested on council are finished looking it over. They believe it should be updated as needed in the future, and should eventually be available to search on the website.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Meeting set for February 21st, 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – No meeting at this time.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Town Hall meeting set for Saturday, February 14th, 9am, to discuss what residents feel could help improve the Borough.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Chief Mahady will get more information on a meeting UGI is having.

Public Comment (Open) – Mr. Jankowich noticed that the trash is being picked up by the borough trash hauler at the new Laurel Hill residences and wondered if the households are also paying sewer charges; he was told they are.

-Mr. Pierson told Council he is now using a different format for his treasurer's report.

- asked if there is a timetable on getting help in the office; he was told there is not.

-wondered if the hill at Niko Park could be made into a sledding hill for borough residents; he was told that that would be a major liability for the borough.

- asked if there will be curbs and sidewalks on the Jefferson Street side of Laurel Hill; the plans were approved years ago and there may not be.

Harry Wien (?) expressed concern over dogs constantly barking. He spoke to Chief Mahady about his concerns.

Executive Session – 7:32 – 7:45. Legal matters were discussed; no action was taken.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
