

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 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, Mayor Dan DePaul, Police Chief Robert Mahady, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, James Jankowich, Jamie Horinko, Trude Hargraves, Daniel Redington, and Angel Ackerman..

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Deposits for May 2024. No discussion Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the May 13, 2024, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for May 2024.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer’s Report – Council discussed the Trestle Removal Plans and the ARPA Grant plans for the sanitary sewer rehabilitation, video and lining. Mr. James reminded everyone that there might be a lot of truck traffic if part of Lehigh Drive is still closed. Mayor DePaul wondered who gets the money for the scrap metal. He said the clean-up of the Lehigh Drive fire last year was almost totally funded by the sale of the scrap metal. Mr. Adams said to check into heavy iron prices vs light iron.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the Borough is currently working on four different grants: Trestle removal: \$400,000+; CDBG, drains, etc., now scheduled to start June 17th, \$200,000+; Park equipment grant that Ms. Jones Brown and her committee have worked so hard on, \$100,000; and the ARPA sewer lining grant, \$150,000.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA applied for a grant for a lot of money to hopefully do more projects, for example: collect FOGs (fat, oil, grease) from local restaurants and process it, and a small generator. They now have cyber insurance.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Steward said she would look into a social media policy for the borough.

Council President's Report – Mr. James shared a little of what he learned at the PSAB conference; he found it to be very informative. He said the Borough is in very good shape compared to many of the other boroughs. A lot of boroughs are struggling. He thanked Mr. Adams for filling in for him at the last meeting. He shared some hurricane preparedness tips from Susan Wild. He thanked everyone that helped set up for the Memorial Day service; he said the ceremony was held indoors but it was a very nice ceremony.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reported that the officers had issued 24 violations and handled over 32 incidents over the last 32 days. He reminded everyone not to feed wildlife and to leave baby deer alone when they see them; their mothers leave them where they feel safe.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul said he would be attending the County State of the Address where he would be able to meet up with the DA and County Executive. He would like to see letters go out to people with bad sidewalks.

Council Round Table – Ms. Jones Brown recognized that representatives from Mary Meuser Memorial Library were there, Daniel Redington and Angel Ackerman.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Adams reported that a part of Lehigh Drive is still closed. There were no straight-line winds reported after our last storm.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Jones Brown shared that Chief Mahady attended the last meeting and that a part-time worker had been hired to work with Dane Thatcher.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Meeting set for July 2nd, 5:30pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown spoke of her disappointment with people uprooting and destroying three of the new trees planted; Mr. Adams is trying to save them. She shared that the park equipment is ordered and the colors are finalized. She noted that the wildflowers the Committee planted on the side of Borough Hall are coming up nicely. Meetings were set for June 24th and if needed, June 26th, 6:30pm. She would like to discuss the next phase for the Broken Column Monument.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Mr. Decker set a meeting for July 1st, 6pm.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Trude Hargraves asked about opening the Keystone garage back open to use as a pavilion again. She was told it was being considered.

-Leon Stull asked what we are going to do about the 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.

-Jaime Horinko said that there are truck deliveries 24/7 at the laundromat. They are often backed up and idling in the street, waiting to make deliveries. There are sometimes as many as four trucks at a time.

-Daniel Redington, director of Mary Meuser Memorial Library, shared that the library is more than just books. He shared information on Hoopla and Overdrive. Patrons can stream movies, e-books, and audiobooks. A record is kept of WHAT is used, but not by WHO uses the items. They have been having special events, such as truffle making; they are sharing board games, have book clubs, and a knitting club. They have 36 themed gift baskets donated.

-Angel Ackerman, also representing the library, added that they have a laminator machine, and their computer service tech gives a few hours a month of computer “lessons”.

-Chief Mahady asked about the ice cream truck night through Fidelity Bank. We will be reaching out to them this year.

-Mayor DePaul stated that he did not like the agenda format from the last eight years. He said when he was council president, he let people speak three different times, not just two times. He does not like the “Public Comment (Agenda Items)”. Ms. Heebner said that the agenda that is used is the one recommended by PSAB and that Mr. James has allowed the public to ask questions other than the two allotted times. Ms. Jones Brown shared that our agenda is just like the one they have used at all the several committees she is on.

-Trude Hargraves does not like that trash haulers leave the cans in the street because sometimes on windy days they blow into the street and she has to chase them down.

Executive Session – 7: 43pm – 8:21pm. Legal and personnel matters were discussed; no action was taken.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded Mr. Bolash, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
