

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 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 Vice- President Janie Jones Brown in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; Ms. Jones-Brown stated there was a quorum. Council members – Janie Jones Brown, Robert Adams, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Paul James (via conference phone) were present. Kenny Decker, Jr., was absent. Solicitor Stephanie J. Steward, from Goudsouzian & Associates, Mayor Dan DePaul, Police Chief Robert Mahady (arrived at 6:54pm), and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves, Leon Stull, Sharon Paige-Lisenbee, James Jankowich, David Bogusky, and Cheyenne Cahoon.

Appointment of New Council Member – Sharon Paige-Lisenbee and Cheyenne Cahoon had each sent in letters of interest for the open council member seat. Members of Council heard from/spoke to Ms. Paige-Lisenbee and Ms. Cahoon. A motion was made by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. James, to approve Ms. Paige-Lisenbee as the new council member. Discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor DePaul swore in Ms. Paige-Lisenbee.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0, with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Deposits for July 2024. No discussion Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the July 8, 2024, meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for July 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report - None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reported that the Community Yard Sale had been canceled due to lack of interest.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that there had been a small electrical fire at EAJSA. The government has imposed restrictions on drinking water. They now have to limit the PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) in drinking water. The Delaware River showed no PFAS.

Solicitor's Report – A July 18, 2024, Executive Session was held via Zoom. Solicitor Steward recommended that a motion be made to authorize and ratify the actions of Paul James in signing a settlement agreement to resolve the litigation at United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Civil Action No. 5:19-cv-00801-EGS. Mr Mammana made the motion, seconded by Mr. James. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

Council President's Report – Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve a contract with Bean, Inc. Contractors for snow emergency if needed this year. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

-Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana, based on the recommendations of our engineer and solicitor, to approve the release of the Financial Security for the Laurel Hill Townhomes Project in the amount of \$464,595.43, resulting in a remaining Financial Security balance of \$364,420.56. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

-Motion was made to make changes to the contract for removing the trestles. Discussion was had. It was decided since Council received the information too late to properly discuss, the motion would be tabled. A motion to table the discussion/decision was made by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams, no further discussion. Motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Paige-Lisenbee abstaining.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul asked for an update on the Gross Park grant work being done. He asked if we could get rid of the dirt or were able to use it. Ms. Jones Brown said she planned to address this during her Parks and Recreation report, but briefly reported that she was getting estimates to have the back stop repaired and an evergreen tree cut down due to its dropping branches.

Council Round Table – None

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Meetings were set for August 22nd and August 28th at 11am.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – A meeting was set for August 21st at 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown listed several things that were going on with the updates at Gross Park, including: excavating, the replacement of the slide, additional swings, musical equipment, activity panels, soccer net, see saw, spin riders, and additional benches and tables.

-The Committee had a walk and talk meeting where they discussed possible improvements to Monument Park, including: repair of the broken column, replacing the source of the water flow, adding a walkway, and plants.

-Improvements for the T-ball field were discussed: she is getting bids to repair backstop fencing; a new home plate has been ordered.

-Gross Park will have older tables and trash cans removed and replaced with new benches, tables, and trash cans.

-They plan on fixing up some of the MS4 murals by the storm drains.

-They discussed a possible open gazebo for Niko Park and more signs at the Park.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Chief of Police Report – Chief Mahady once again reminded everyone to lock their car doors. We continue to have people going around getting into unlocked cars; this is happening everywhere, not just West Easton. There was a car stolen in the Borough; it was recovered in the City of Easton.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull asked if we can switch the recycle pickup and the trash pickup. Right now trash is picked up first, and he states that recyclables are blowing down the street by his house.

-Jim Jankowich asked Solicitor Steward if she could explain the settlement in layman's terms. Solicitor Steward said at this point both parties are bound by confidentiality.

-Trude Hargraves asked if that was our only outstanding litigation.

-Dave Bogusky asked about the tree on Iron Street behind his house; who owns it?

Executive Session – A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana at 7:31pm. At 7:58pm a motion was made to get out of Executive Session by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash. Litigation matters were discussed.

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
