

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2024**

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:06pm 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 Mammanna, David Bolash, and Sharon Paige-Lisenbee were present. Kenny Decker, Jr. was absent. 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, Trude Hargraves, and Dave Bogusky.

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

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits for August 2024. No discussion Motion passed 6-0.

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

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to have two changes to the trestle plans listed as bid alternates on the bid plans for the trestle removal. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Office Report – None

Sewer Report – Mr. James shared that there was a breaker fire at the treatment facility, followed soon after by another. The new breakers had to be retooled. The cost to have both replaced was about \$500,000.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Steward said she would need a short Executive Session.

Council President's Report –

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammanna to approve spending \$2,000 to Jet Black to black top/seal the basketball court and around the garage area at Gross Park. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve spending \$1,800 to Jet Black to black top/seal the borough parking lot. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve spending \$1,500 to Arbor Fence Co., Inc. to repair the backstop and dugout fence at Gross Park. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. James was not happy to hear about the litter at Gross Park and said that we will need to keep an eye on it. He has watched a webinar sponsored by the EPA, that can help your community get consideration for grants. He is going to look into it connecting the bike path.

Resolutions -

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, to approve RESOLUTION 2024-8: The Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, hereby requests a Northampton/Lehigh County Local Share Assessment grant of \$135,607.50 (one hundred thirty-five thousand, six hundred seven dollars, and fifty cents) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of a new Ford 550 Dump Truck plus upgrades for the Borough's Public Works Department. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve RESOLUTION 2024-9: The Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, hereby requests a Monroe County Local Share Assessment grant of \$135,607.50 (one hundred thirty-five thousand, six hundred seven dollars, and fifty cents) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of a new Ford 550 Dump Truck plus upgrades for the Borough's Public Works Department. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve RESOLUTION 2024-10: The Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$135,607.50 (one hundred thirty-five thousand, six hundred seven dollars, and fifty cents) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of a new Ford 550 Dump Truck plus upgrades for the Borough's Public Works Department. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown to approve RESOLUTION 2024-11: Approve to invest up to \$250,000 from the General Fund with a financial institution that has the highest CD rate available at this time. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady was happy to report there were no reported cases of people going through cars. He is looking into getting better cameras for the park. He wondered if the Fire Co. would possibly allow us to tap into their internet for the cameras. We were reminded that 9/11 is Patriot Day.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul said that there is a business formerly based at 1550 Lehigh Drive that is interested in returning to the Borough and he is looking into helping them with that.

Council Round Table – Ms. Jones Brown remarked on how nice the mulch around the front of the borough looks.

Committee Reports -

Business and Finance Committee – Meetings were set for 9/17 and 10/1 at noon at Borough Hall.

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Adams shared that the new park equipment is quite the hit with the residents. They especially seem to like the musical instruments.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Paige-Lisenbee set a meeting for 9/23 at 5pm, and a tentative meeting on 9/30, at 5pm, if needed.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Meeting set for September 23rd at 6pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown reported that the park is not quite finished. We are still waiting for a springer, soccer net, trash can lids, and the key to adjust the swings. They have been promised to be here this Wednesday or Thursday of the week. She has considered many different locations for the soccer net and feels she has come up with the best, safest location. Mr. Adams said someone asked about putting up goal posts in the park as well. Chief Mahady said he's seen some listed on Municibid. Ms. Jones Brown said that is something to keep in mind for the future.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull asked about opening up the pavilion again. Ms. Jones Brown explained that for this season, the time and money was put into Gross Park play equipment and stated that they had added at least 4 new benches. Trude Hargraves said she feels the trees around a streetlight at 3rd and East need to be cut back as you cannot see and someone almost hit her in that area. There was a discussion about adding another streetlight in that area. Mr. Bogusky asked for an update on his alley/street ownership situation.

Executive Session – Executive session was supposed to start at 7:24pm but Mr. Bogusky talked to Solicitor Steward about his personal situation with his street/alley questions until 7:38pm when the actual Executive Session started; it ended at 7:59pm. Legal matters were discussed; no decisions were made.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded Mr. Bolash, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
