

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2024**

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:01pm 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 call), Robert Adams, Pete Mammana, 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 (arrived at 6:21pm), and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Mr. Horinko, Mr. and Mrs. Getch, and Dave Bogusky.

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

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits for September 2024. No discussion Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Minutes from the August 12, 2024, Council. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting

-Upon motion by Ms. Paige-Lisenbee, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Minutes from the September 9, 2024, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Ms. Heebner shared updates from Kevin Thomas from BIA:

- Laurel Hills Development. – No site inspections being conducted. Interior building inspections are ongoing as needed along upper Drive. The contractor has not indicated any start date on the lower drive site improvement yet.
- 2023 CDBG – Roadway Improvement Project. Project tentative completion date 10/18/24. Borough Engineer will start the final closeout paperwork shortly after.
- 2024 Sewer Rehabilitation project. – Borough Engineer has started preparing specifications. Project tentative start date if acceptable by Borough Council is 12/10/24 or sooner.
- 1550 Lehigh Drive – Coordination meeting held on this project 9/26/24. Plans are currently being prepared by Client's Design Engineer. No formal submission made at this time.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the West Easton Borough Halloween parade will be Monday, October 28th. Trick or Treat will be October 31st from 6-8pm.

Sewer Report – Mr. James shared that EAJSA plans to replace a main across the river; the original pipe is from 1928. The project is expected to cost 2.9 million; there are enough funds in their contingency fund. Their EPA audit received a 97% rating; the normal is 80%, so EAJSA was well above normal.

Solicitor's Report – None

Ordinances/Resolutions –

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 14 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST OF THE BOROUGH TO JOIN THE FEDERALLY DESIGNATED LANDS OF THE FEDERAL HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION REGION, THEREBY QUALIFYING FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve the advertising of ORDINANCE NO. 2024-12 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REPEALING ORDINANCE 855, ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY RESIDENT FEE OF \$150.00 FOR PROVIDING REMUNERATION FOR THE OUTLAY OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE BY THE BOROUGH FOR INCREASED ADMINISTRATION COSTS, REPAIRS AND UPGRADES TO THE BOROUGH'S ROADWAY AND WATER AND SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE INCREASE FOR POLICE ENFORCEMENT WITHIN THE BOROUGH”.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve the advertising of ORDINANCE NO. 2024-13 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 966, ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE USES PERMITTED BY CONDITIONAL USE WITHIN THE LI - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT IN THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON ZONING. ORDINANCE”. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Council President's Report –

Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Paige-Lisenbee, to approve a letter from Council President, on behalf of Council, to Representative Robert Freeman, opposing House Bill 1976 and House Bill 2045. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0. Solicitor Steward explained the basics of both bills.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to spend up to \$2000 for additional and/or updated cameras for Gross Park No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Council President James reminded everyone that the season is changing and be aware of leaves on the road.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady is meeting with our current security camera vendor to get prices on new cameras. He stated people are still “checking on” cars, no break-ins, they are getting into unlocked cars. He also mentioned they had good results with people moving their vehicles for the street paving that was done.

Mr. James mentioned that he had an iPhone delivered to his house and soon after someone with a mask came looking for the phone at his house, but it had already been brought into the house. Chief Mahady said this seems to be happening a lot, but they do not notice a pattern as to it being the same drivers involved.

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul said that the Borough has done something with all the roads. Front Street was the last to be done because when originally scheduled, UGI decided to do work on that street. He also said that more and more people are leaving their trash cans in eyesight all week and it looks horrible. He would like the trash receptacles moved out of sight after the trash has been picked up. He added that when the trash is compacted in the trucks, it is leaving a mess behind

Council Round Table – Mr. Bolash had a question on a write up in the newsletter about not raking leaves into the street, but raking them to the edge of the property to keep them from entering storm drains. He also asked if it was acceptable to store recyclables in a clear plastic bag so that when the wind blows the container over, the recyclables would still be contained.

Committee Reports -

Business and Finance Committee – Meeting was set for 11/4 at noon. The budget for 2025 is about done and should be ready for Council to vote on advertising at the November meeting.

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Paige-Lisenbee set a meeting for 10/23 at 6pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Meeting set for 10/24 at 6pm at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – None

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull questioned not putting leaves in the street for leaf vacuuming.

-Mr. Horinko talked about his neighbor's Bradford pear tree dropping the pears into the street and onto his property. He mentioned that cars park right up to the stop sign on Sterlingworth and you cannot see to turn. He asked why there is a stop sign at Iron and Sterlingworth.

-Dave Bogusky asked about his property line again. Solicitor Steward told him that the borough has no involvement with trees bordering properties; owners own to the middle

-Mr. and Mrs. Getch shared their concern about a neighbor whose property is overgrown and always a mess. Chief Mahady offered to take over that situation.

Executive Session – None

Upon motion by Mr. Bolash; seconded Mr. Adams, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
