

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2024

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:00pm 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 (who arrived at 6:12pm), 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, and Borough Manager Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, and James Jankowich.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Deposits for November 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Minutes from the November 11, 2024, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Adams; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for November 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

Engineer's Report – Mr. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana to approve payment to H& K for the completion of the CDBG Roadway, Sidewalk & Curb project, in the amount of \$303,753.56, using \$234,000 grant money, with the balance of the project being paid with Liquid Fuel Funds. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner discussed the current CD rates. Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to invest up to the limit of \$250,000 in the Sewer Fund, and up to the limit of \$500,000 in the General Fund at Fidelity Bank with an interest rate of 4.5% for ten months. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

(Ms. Jones Brown arrived at the meeting at 6:12pm.)

Mr. Bolash made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana to approve payment of \$100,230 to George Ely Associates, Inc. for the purchase of playground equipment at Gross Park, using \$100,000 from the 2023 CDBG and the balance from the Recreation Fund. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Sewer Report – Mr. James shared that bids on the 2nd Street Pumping Station Project came in way higher than expected. The Authority voted to table the bid for now and will rebid with changes.

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

Council President's Report – Mr. James reminded everyone to be careful with possible bad weather coming up. He reminded everyone to take their time; there have already been a lot of accidents.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash, to approve Resolution 2024-15 to Adopt the 2025 Budget as advertised. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bolash to approve Resolution No. 2024-16: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE FIXING OF THE TAX RATE AND COLLECTING OF AN ANNUAL TAX FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 FOR THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA (remaining the same at 11.7 mills). No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown to approve the 2025 meeting dates and times as advertised, remaining the same: Scheduled meetings are 6pm, at Borough Hall, the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, with the exception of May, when the second meeting, if needed, would be May 19th instead of May 26th, due to the holiday. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve pay rates for 2025 as factored in the 2025 budget. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Police Chief's Report – None

Mayor's Report – Mayor DePaul shared his frustration at part of Lehigh Drive being closed for so long. He feels it is causing too much traffic on our roads. He wondered if there is anything that the Borough can do to move things along.

Council Round Table – Mr. Bolash would like to visit the parking situation on East Street. Mr. Bolash questioned if 230 4th Street had received a special exception to operate as a duplex/rental in the past, if not we need to look into it as that usage is not permitted in a Residence A district.

Committee Reports -

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Adams reported that our roads look good, wondered about the condition of sidewalks. He was reminded that sidewalks are the responsibility of the home owner. Meeting was set for January 11, 2025, at 3pm to drive around the Borough streets.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Ms. Paige-Lisenbee shared that the committee hopes to have and ask for help in January. She is still concerned about the grate on Glendon Hill Road.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – None

Parks and Recreation Committee – None

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – James Jankowich feels the Borough is not using the tools it has available to get the road/bridge project on Lehigh Drive moving forward.

Executive Session –6:49pm-7:16pm Legal and personnel matters were discussed.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded Ms. Paige-Lisenbee, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
