

CITY OF NANTICOKE



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

15 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Call to Order: Vice President of Council, John Telencho

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

The following were present: Council Members, John Telencho, Lesley Butczynski, John Pietrzyk, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan via telephone. Council Member William Brown was excused

WORK SESSION-

Ordinance #5 of 2020, (Second Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Firemen's Pension Plan("Plan") Ordinance No. 15-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 9-2009.

Ordinance #6 of 2020, (Second Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Police Pension Plan("Plan") Ordinance No. 16-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 8-2009.

Ordinance #7 of 2020, (Second Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, accepting the dedication of Slope Street situate in the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Approve a Lease Agreement between the City of Nanticoke and EMJAZE Marketing, Inc. for the use of City property for advertising benches.

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

-Donna announced that she has called the Senator's office to inquire about the signage to instruct truckers to use the South Valley Parkway to get to the warehouses but she has not heard back from them as of yet.

-Donna informed everyone that the "No Fireworks" reminder has been put on the City's Web and Facebook pages.

-Donna informed Council and Residents that a soft dig on Main Street will be done to see why that portion of the street keeps sinking.

Donna informed Council and Residents that the paving on W. Green and W. Broad Streets is now completed.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin submitted the May 2020 Department Reports and Jennifer Polito will have them posted on the website by Thursday, June 25, 2020.

A Motion was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded by Councilmember Marcella to adjourn the work session. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Hank Marks asked for an explanation of the ordinances # 5 & 6 and Donna Wall explained the ordinances amended the previous Military Buyback options for the Fire and Police Departments.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the June 10, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$198,635.40 (Payrolls \$98,522.08 and Payables \$92,113.32) was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 5 of 2020, (Second Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Firemen's Pension Plan("Plan") Ordinance No. 15-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 9-2009 was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance #6 of 2020, (Second Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Police Pension Plan("Plan") Ordinance No. 16-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 8-2009 was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance #7 of 2020, (Second Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, accepting the dedication of Slope Street situate in the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve a Lease Agreement between the City of Nanticoke and EMJAZE Marketing, Inc. for the use of City property for advertising benches was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Ron Knapp asked about what the City is doing with money received from the COVID-19 Cares Act and will the residents see a spreadsheet on how the funds are used for COVID-19 expenses. Donna Wall replied that we are an entitlement and we are getting \$300,000.00 from the Cares Act. This money can not be used to reimburse the City for cleaning supplies and services. Donna stated that the COG reimbursed us 100% for these types of expenses already and the Cares Act money must have a public hearing before deciding how the City is going to use the funds based on the DCED guidelines. Donna stated a public hearing date will be announced within a week on the City's Web and Facebook pages. Mr. Knapp asked if a spreadsheet will be kept to show what the funds are used for. Jennifer stated she has a spreadsheet showing what expenses were submitted for reimbursement from the COG and she stated the City put in for \$10,510.09 which was

reimbursed 100% and deposited in the general fund. Jennifer stated this reimbursement covered expenses incurred from March 20, 2020 through June 6, 2020.

Mr. Hank Marks commented that the City must “Plan” now. He stated that 100% of the budgets goes to running the City, specifically salaries and benefits. Mr. Marks said the family Health Insurance is more than the median salary for the residents of Nanticoke. Mr. Marks stated this is why the City is number 2 for the worst Cities to live in, in Pennsylvania. Mr. Marks stated that the budget has doubled in the last 10 years and does not allow for any improvements within the City. Mr. Marks compiled where the taxpayer monies go after he did a Right to Know request and stated the salaries and benefits for each department consume most of the budget. Mr. Marks stated 3 of the worst towns to live in are right here in Luzerne County and the school’s test scores are the lowest. Mr. Marks stated that the City is going downhill and if something is not done soon, the City will be trashed. Vice President Telencho asked Mr. Marks to stop throwing stones at the old administrations and give the new ones a chance to make the City better. Vice President Telencho stated we are doing some improvements and that they need time. Mr. Marks commented by saying he has given everyone enough time and nothing is getting done within the town.

Mr. Bushko asked how the City’s Streetscape is going and Donna Wall replied we are in a redesign phase. Mr. Bushko asked why a new design when we already have an approved design and Donna stated changes were made by PennDOT that required changes to the original design. Vice President Telencho said the Municipal Authority told him they have no updates for the Villa property and the Bowlarama has people looking into buying it but no one has made an offer.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

Vice President Telencho announced the City is closed on July 3, 2020 to observe Independence Day and he wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Butczynski went on PennLive’s website and she said that it **does not** state that Nanticoke is in the top ten places to live in Pennsylvania.

Vice President Telencho updated everyone on the new signs for the City. He stated we should have an image of what they will look like by the end of the week.

All other Council members were good and had no further comments.

Meeting Adjournment-

Councilmember Pietrzyk made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Marcella, roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, July 8, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk