

CITY OF NANTICOKE



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

15 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Call to Order: President of Council, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

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

WORK SESSION-

No matters for discussion.

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

-Donna announced that E. Grove Street is being paved this week.

-Donna informed Council that she spoke to the Senator's office and the signs for LCCC should be installed soon.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

None

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the June 24, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried 4-0, President Brown abstained.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$250,787.62 (Payrolls \$102,347.92 and Payables \$148,439.70) was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. John Prushinski of 419 Garfield Street asked Council if the rumor was true that speed bumps are going to be installed in Honey Pot to slow down traffic. He stated it is a speedway through there and someone walking their dog or child is going to get hurt. President Brown asked Interim City Manager, Donna Wall and the Police Chief, Michael Roke if the rumor of speed bumps was true. Neither were aware of this rumor and there has been no plans to install speed bumps. President Brown asked Chief Roke to have his officers patrol the Honey Pot area for speeders and to look into possibly installing speed bumps. Chief Roke said he would look into this issue and get back to Council with an answer of if the City can install speed bumps on a street.

Mr. Hank Marks commented “So much for Hope” for the City. Mr. Marks stated he voted for John Telencho, Joe John, Mike Marcella and Kevin Coughlin and did not vote for Nicole Mackiewicz in hope that some changes would be made in the excessive spending within City Hall on salaries and health benefits. Mr. Marks stated his hopes are trashed because the 2020 Budget has tripled in 10 years, taxes went up 11% in 2020, the Sewer fee doubled a few years ago, the town is falling apart and its business as usual therefor he has lost all hope for the City. President Brown commented on Mr. Marks by saying that Property taxes did not go up, we increased Earned Income taxes to help out citizens on fixed incomes. President Brown said we had no choice in increasing the Refuse fee due to the large increase in Mascaro’s contract therefor we decreased the Sewer fee to try to compensate the Refuse fee increase. President Brown stated the Refuse fee went up \$38.00 but the Sewer fee went down \$25.00 which netted to an increase in fees for 2020 in the amount of \$13.00. Finance Director, Jennifer Polito asked President Brown if she could comment and he allowed her to speak to Mr. Marks. Jennifer Polito stated that the Sewer maintenance fee was established for sewer repairs on a system that is over 100 years old and she stated that if we did not have the money on hand it would cost the City more because loans would have to be taken out for repairs. Jennifer Polito informed Mr. Marks that in the first half of 2020, Sewer repairs have depleted the cash reserve by approximately \$400,000 and the hits keep coming. Mr. Ron Knapp asked if he could comment on Mr. Mark’s comments and President Brown allowed him to speak. Mr. Ron Knapp stated it was nice of Council to decrease the Sewer fees to offset the newly imposed Stormwater fee and President Brown commented that is not why we decreased the Sewer fee; we decreased the Sewer fee to offset the increase in the Refuse fee. President Brown stated the City has nothing to do with the imposed Stormwater fees.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

None

Councilmember Comments

Vice President Telencho asked where we stood with the Bench Lease agreement that was passed by Council at the June 24, 2020 meeting with Mr. Alberola and Jennifer Polito said she could comment on that issue.

Jennifer Polito stated that she and Donna Wall have been in contact with Mr. Alberola. The Lease agreement was sent to him for his review and he feels \$100.00 per bench per year is a little excessive so he is eliminating (4) four benches and is going to give us a list by location of the (8) eight remaining benches so we can send him a bill for 2020. Mr. Alberola stated he only pays Hanover Township \$40.00 per year for the benches and \$100.00 per year per bench would leave him with very little profit. Vice President Telencho asked if we could bring in another advertising company to replace the (4) four benches that Mr. Alberola is removing and Jennifer Polito stated that she is leaving that up to Council and Mayor Coughlin to decide at a later date. Vice President Telencho was in agreement and thanked Jennifer for the update.

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

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, July 22 2020 @ 7:00 pm.

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk