



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2026

Call to Order: President, Joseph A. Dougherty

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Interim City Clerk, Ann Grzyski

ROLL CALL:

The following were present: Council Members, President, Joseph A. Dougherty, Vice President, John Telencho, Lesley Butczynski, Kenneth James and Mark O'Connor, City Manager, Donna Wall, Interim City Clerk, Ann Grzyski, and Solicitor, Attorney Rachel Finnegan.

WORK SESSION: New Business: (action Items)

A Motion to approve Ordinance #6 of 2026, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 485-48 of the City of Nanticoke Code of Ordinances prohibiting parking on the north side of East Main Street between Jifkin Street and 560 East Main Street.

A Motion to approve Resolution #13 of 2026, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, confirming participation in the Lower South Valley Council of Governments Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Update Project.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 14 of 2026, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, a member municipality of the Lower South Valley Land Bank, approving the admission of Wyoming Valley West School District and Luzerne Borough as new members of the Land Bank.

A Motion to solicit demolition bids for 279 and 281 East Church Street properties.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Mayor Kevin Coughlin presented a Proclamation to John Hetman for his efforts to improve our community. Pictures were taken following the presentation.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin has submitted the April 2026 Department Reports for Council's review and Ann Grzyski has posted them on the City's website at www.nanticokecity.com

City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council.

1. Northpoint will be pouring concrete at night this Wednesday and Thursday and next Wednesday and Thursday.
2. Sink hole was repaired on West Church and Hanover Street.
3. Large sinkhole in alleyway of Kosciuszko was repaired and a new catch basin was installed.

A Motion was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Telencho 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 minutes from the May 6, 2026 Work Session/Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$490,208.75 [(Payrolls) \$126,818.78 (Accounts Payable) \$363,389.97** was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember James. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #6 of 2026, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 485-48 of the City of Nanticoke Code of Ordinances prohibiting parking on the north side of East Main Street between Jifkin Street and 560 East Main Street was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution# 13 of 2026, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, confirming participation in the Lower South Valley Council of Governments Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Update Project was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 14 of 2026, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, a member municipality of the Lower South Valley Land Bank, approving the admission of Wyoming Valley West School District and Luzerne Borough as new members of the Land Bank was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.
Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to solicit demolition bids for 279 and 281 East Church Street properties was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember O'Connor.
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Sandra Dudrick- of 535 East Union Street, stated that she was here to try to improve our town. Mrs. Dudrick commented on the many buildings that are eye sores on Main Street that need attention, including grass maintenance. Mrs. Dudrick questioned if there was a code book and if we advertised for low-income housing. She also questioned the status of the properties on Main Street and Donna Wall, City Manager, answered as follows:

1. Falling down wall, owned by Dr. Pilarek- Jonathan Lang, Code Enforcement will follow up.
2. 1st National Bank building- Bids are being taken by the Municipal Authority to demolish the building.
3. Other Bank on Main has garbage and animals- Jonathan Lang, Code Enforcement will follow up.
4. House on Main and Jifkin (Appliance Store)- we were in negotiations to acquire building and now that the father and son passed, the property is in probate.
5. Nardozzo's Pizza and buildings surrounding Nardozzo's Pizza- the case went to the Supreme Court and due to technicalities, it has been held up. Slusser Law firm is handling the situation.
6. Bowl-a-rama- Buyer backed out and the Municipal Authority is seeking new buyers.

Jack Dudrick- of 535 East Union Street, questioned why there isn't a better way to address and correct the problem with property maintenance in our City. Attorney Rachel Finnegan said she would look into another way to correct problem. Donna Wall, City Manager, stated a lot of properties have LLC as landlords and the landlords themselves are hard to find. The City does require property managers for out-of-town landlords, inspections, and we formed a Landbank to help with these issues. We do our best but sometimes our hands are tied.

Mr. Dudrick also stated and questioned the following and Donna Wall, City Manager, replied as below:

1. Two streets need to be paved, College from Green to Main and East Union Street by the school- the City is in the process of working on those streets. CDBG East Union street improvement project has had the grant awarded and we are awaiting the documents, and we are working on funding for College Street.

2. The street department is not using the cold patch the correct way, and it is washing away- Rick Josefowicz, DPW foreman, will follow up,
3. Can't we do something about utility pave cuts? Requested that someone inspect the final product before approval. – We will look into it.
4. I have questioned Jonathan Lang about the laundry on Main Street, and he has stated that we do not have any ordinance to address it. Do you have an ordinance to address it? - No, we do not.
5. The City is doing a good job with the celebration of 250/100 years, but we need signs to promote the event.

Joni Turner- of 229 East Spring Street questioned as follows about the new noise ordinance:

1. Will the noise ordinance be available in Spanish? - Donna Wall, City Manager, replied that the City is not required to publish in Spanish, but we could provide it.
2. What happens when something new is passed? How is it dispensed? Donna Wall, City Manager, it is available on our website.
3. How do we make landlords responsible? - Mark Boncal, Fire Chief said that there are guidelines for rental properties.
4. Can you video a noise issue that comes up? How about fireworks, vibrations from mufflers? How can a resident be cited– Michael Roke, Police Chief addressed these questions and said that you can record in a public place and call anytime to report an incident. The calls are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. There is public record of how many times someone has been cited. Please be aware that there are only 2 officers on a shift and unfortunately noise incidents do not take precedence over traffic details.
5. Are there any laws on how church bells ring? Attorney Rachel Finnegan stated that she will look into it.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

City of Nanticoke's Annual Big Bang Celebration and a Parade is scheduled for Sat., June 27, 2026 (Rain Date Sun., June 28, 2026).

The Parade and Big Bang details are on the City's Facebook and web pages.

This year we celebrate the 100th Birthday for the City of Nanticoke and the 250th Birthday for the United States of America.

The City of Nanticoke is seeking Volunteers, food and craft vendors for the Big Bang Celebration. Vendor Applications can be obtained on the city's Facebook Page, city's Web page or picked up at City Hall.

The City of Nanticoke is inviting any past Mayors & Councilmembers, Business, Groups or Individuals to participate in the parade as we celebrate 100 years for the City of Nanticoke and 250 years for the United States of America. Participants can march or drive a vehicle with or without a float. If you want to participate in the parade, please call City Hall at (570) 735-2800 ext. 101.

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Telencho Thank you John Hetman and everyone that showed up today. We try and find out what is happening in the City. Please report to the City. You are an extra set of eyes. Please. Happy and safe Memorial Day.

Councilmember O'Connor Congratulated Mr. Hetman. He applauded him and hoped others will see your love for the City to help the City be beautiful and inspire everyone to come together. Thank you.

Councilmember James Thank you Mr. Hetman for what you do. Confirmed that we played Little League together. It is Memorial Day weekend, remember what the holiday means is for us to remember those who gave their lives. God bless the first responders.

Councilmember Butczynski Happy Memorial Day. Flowers bring a smile to my face. Thank you Mr. Hetman for being proud of where I grew up and don't stop trying to make the City the best we can. Thank you.

President Dougherty Thank you Mr. John Hetman. Wishing everyone a happy, safe and peaceful Memorial Day.

Meeting Adjournment-

Councilmember James made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember O'Connor, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2026 @ 6pm

Work Session/Council Meeting Monday May 20, 2026 @ 6:00 pm.

Interim City Clerk, Ann Grzymiski