

## NANTICOKE CITY



### **WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 4, 2018

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00PM

Call to Order: President of Council William Brown  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer Polito

The following were present: Councilors, William Brown, John Pietrzyk, Kevin Coughlin, Lesley Butczynski, Nicole Mackiewicz, Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Interim City Manager, Donna Wall.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**A motion** to approve Resolution #3 of 2018 authorizing the appropriate City Official to approve the 2 year extension agreement with South Jersey Energy Commodity Supply.

**A motion** to approve Resolution #4 of 2018 authorizing the appropriate City Official to approve the SPCA agreement.

#### **Administrative Updates**

-Council President William Brown, read two proclamations prepared by Mayor Richard Wiaterowski. The first proclamation was to recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Law and the second proclamation was to recognize "National Kids to Park Day" on May 19, 2018.

-Donna Wall updated council and residents on the roundabout projects in the City. Kosciuszko Street is due to open up in a few weeks and Prospect Street will be closing to complete that roundabout, Donna announced

**A Motion** was made by Kevin Coughlin, second by Ms. Butczynski to adjourn the work session. Work session adjourned.

#### **REGULAR MEETING** Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Telencho asked Council what the City is actually getting from the SPCA Agreement for the fees the City has to pay them annually and Donna Wall stated that it is state wide that municipalities must join the agreement with the SPCA in order for them to take in any stray animals excluding feral cats. If the City does not join, they will turn residents away. The only other option is to put a certified kennel here at City Hall and we are not going to do that.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

**A Motion** to approve the March 21, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion carried.

**A Motion** to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$240,846.81 was made by Mr. Coughlin, second by Ms. Butczynski. Payroll (\$84,851.58) Payables (\$155,995.23.) Motion carried.

**A motion** to approve Resolution #3 of 2018 authorizing the appropriate City Official to approve the 2 year extension agreement with South Jersey Energy Commodity Supply was made by Ms. Butczynski and second by Mr. Coughlin. Motion carried.

**A motion** to approve Resolution #4 of 2018 authorizing the appropriate City Official to approve the SPCA agreement was made by Mr. Pietrzyk second by Ms. Butczynski. Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

Ms. Julianna Zarzycki of 71 Seneca Dr. complimented the DPW workers for the cleanup around the park and she wanted to know if they cleaned any other areas in town or was the park area it. Council President William Brown replied that they also did Main Street and Market Street. Julianna requested that we post on our website and Facebook page “Rules of Recycling” in the city. She saw that Wilkes Barre post their rules and she thinks we need to do the same because people over stuff the cans and then the recycling blows all around town. Council President William Brown responded that The City is getting new recycling bins with lids to prevent this through a grant the City received. Interim City Manager Donna Wall stated that we have not decided if we are getting the lids or not. They will just be left on the ground to blow around and be run over, Donna stated. Julianna stated that the City need to put rules in place, there is garbage all over town because people are over stuffing their cans and/or bins. Council President William Brown told Julianna to call the City if she sees a lot of garbage on the street and we will have Patty call Mascaro to clean it up. Donna stated that Patty call them all the time for issues like this.

Rob Spear and Kathy Murphy of 162 S. Hanover Street wanted to make the City aware of the dangerous conditions on Market Street by Curry Donuts due to the lack of lighting at night. Rob stated that it is very dark at night in that area of town and they are afraid to walk there at night. Interim City Manager Donna Wall asked them to clarify whether it's the street lighting or the businesses lights and Rob said the businesses need to light up the area in front of the businesses. The whole square is too dark, they need to add lighting Rob replied. Rob and Kathy also want to make the City aware of all the garbage, mattresses, and couches in the alley behind their home. 152-154 Hanover Street also has garbage all over the area. They have contacted the city numerous times about this and nothing has been done. Dona stated the Coffee's were told to clean up their area and Rob replied it is not just them dumping there. Other residents are also throwing large items in that area. Council President William Brown will have Donna talk to Jack the Code Officer about the garbage in the alley behind their home.

Mr. Telencho wanted an update on the Bowlarama. What is going on he asked Council. Skaleet owns a property in Ashley Borough that is in bad shape too and they were able to take him to court to get him to clean up the property, John stated. John wanted to know how did Ashley Borough make this happen and we can't. Interim City Manager Donna Wall stated Ashley got the DEP involved due to environmental issues in Ashley. That is how the courts got involved replied Attorney William Finnegan. John also asked if the Bowlarama also has environmental issues. John asked Council why the City will not just buy it. Council President William Brown replied that it will cost too much, over ½ million dollars to purchase and demo. The City does not have that kind of money to acquire it, Mr. Brown stated. Attorney Finnegan stated that the Bowlarama will be going back up for tax sale soon and the City will try to acquire it then. John said the City should buy it and sell it, forget the demolition. John stated once the City owns it they can turn around and sell it “as is”. Attorney Finnegan asked John if he knew of a buyer because the city does not. Once we own it, it is now the City's responsibility to maintain it, Attorney Finnegan replied. Attorney Finnegan stated he spoke to Chief Wall and there was a crew at the Bowlarama cleaning up over the past weekend. Attorney Finnegan also stated that we can keep imposing fines but are we ever going to collect them is the question. Attorney Finnegan understand everyone's frustrations with this property and the city feels the same and also wants is down and gone to be put up for sale. Ms. Julianna Zarzycki suggested the City asked LCCC if they are interested in it for student housing. Councilmen Kevin Coughlin responded that LCCC did look there and were not interested and Donna Wall stated a study was done and the developers were not interested in that area of town because of the cemetery. Students do not want to walk pass or through a cemetery to go to their classes, Donna replied.

Mr. Hank Marks (who did not complete a sheet to speak to Council) wanted an update on the Streetscape. Council asked Donna to give him an update and Donna replied that the Water Co is going to start their repairs to Main Street soon. That is what the City has been waiting for so the city can proceed with the Streetscape, she replied. Hank stated it has been over 13 years since a streetscape was planned and the monies have been sitting around waiting for us to proceed. Hank then asked for a status on the Police contract and Council President William Brown replied to Hank that

he did not fill out a sheet like he was supposed to. Hank replied this is a council meeting and this is where people should be able to ask questions, like a real work session used to be. Hank replied your work session is a joke because you just read off the agenda, vote, and leave. Mr. Brown replied you could have filled out a sheet to speak but you did not. Hank feels every meeting the city Manager should give updates on projects that are going on in the city. Hank stated he was told by a police officer that they got a 3% increase and Donna stated that there has been no ruling and Chief Wall stated it is still in arbitration and a ruling has not come down as of yet. Hank insists that the officer said it was final. Donna stated, that is false information.

**Correspondence –**

None

**Announcements-**

Mr. Brown announced that the date for the “BIG BANG” Celebration has been scheduled for Sat., June 30, 2018 with a rain date of Sun., July 1, 2018.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Ms. Butczynski made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Coughlin, roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36PM.

Next Meeting, Wednesday April 18, 2018 at 7:00PM

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Jennifer W. Polito  
City Clerk