

NANTICOKE CITY



Special Meeting of the City of Nanticoke Council Minutes

May 28, 2019

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00 PM

Call to Order: President of Council, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer Polito

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

For the record, a special meeting was scheduled on this day to appoint a new member to the Council’s vacant seat. The May 15, 2019 Council meeting was cancelled because Council did not have a Quorum. Therefor this meeting also includes official business that would have been discussed at the May 15, 2019 meeting if it had been held.

Public Comments (Agenda Items Only)

None

Action Item(s):

A Motion to appoint Mike Marcella and approve Resolution #6 of 2019, City Council of Nanticoke filling the vacancy of Council Member Cameron Cox was made Mr. Pietrzyk second by Mr. Coughlin. Motion Carried.

At this time the appointed candidate, Mike Marcella, was sworn in as a Nanticoke City Council Member by District Judge, Donald Whitaker.

A Motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2019 Council Meeting was tabled. Council had a tie vote, so the approval of the minutes have been tabled until the June 5, 2019 Council meeting.

Mr. Coughlin	Yes
Mr. Pietrzyk	Yes
Mr. Brown	Abstained
Mr. Marcella	Abstained

A Motion to Ratify the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$ 494,459.34** was made Mr. Pietrzyk second by Mr. Coughlin. Mr. Marcella abstained. Motion Carried.

(Payroll) \$ 161,729.49 (Accounts Payable) \$ 332,729.85

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$ 428,372.65** was made Mr. Coughlin second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Mr. Marcella abstained. Motion Carried.

(Payroll) \$ 103,405.79 (Accounts Payable) \$ 324,966.86

A Motion to adopt Ordinance #2 of 2019 (on the First Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE ACKNOWLEDGING THE ADOPTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FIREWORKS LAW, 72 P.S. §9401, ET. SEQ., ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE FIREWORKS LAW PROHIBITS THE IGNITING OR DISCHARGE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE

OWNER, PROVIDING THAT THE CITY OF NANTICOKE DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION FOR ANYONE TO IGNITE OR DISCHARGE CONSUMER FIREWORKS ON THE STREETS OR SIDEWALKS OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE OR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF NANTICOKE INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ALL OF THE CITY OWNED PARKS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS; SETTING PERMIT AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS; DIRECTING THAT THE CITY OF NANTICOKE PROVIDE CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE ORDINANCE TO THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE WITHIN THE CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING THAT THE ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE HOME RULE CHARTER was made Mr. Pietrzyk second by Mr. Coughlin. Motion Carried.

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall had the following updates:

- ✚ The West Main Street Sewer project has been re-advertised and gone out for bid.
- ✚ The Storm Water project in the E. Union Street Alley will begin about 3 weeks.
- ✚ Donna attended a meeting with Luzerne County regarding an anti-littering Campaign including surrounding municipalities to clean up Luzerne County. Mr. Ronald Knapp suggested we post No Littering signs throughout our town. Mr. Mike Stachowiak asked if the City compares the Sewer list against the Refuse list to make sure they are getting all the refuse fees owed to the City. He said he thinks someone in Honey Pot is throwing bags of garbage in the woods to get around paying a refuse fee.

Mayor Nicole Colatosti-Mackiewicz has included her April 2019 Department reports for your review. Jennifer Polito will have the reports available for viewing on the website on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

Old Business

As of May 10, 2019, the estimated Stormwater Fees will cost the City **\$5,643.56** per year. This is an estimated number because some of the bills are still being disputed by the City. Mr. Brown asked if this includes all properties and Donna replied yes. President Brown suggested looking into getting rid of some of the City's vacant lots and Donna and Attorney Finnegan replied they are preparing a list for Council to review.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Stachowiak thanked the City of getting a total that the City will pay in storm water fees and asked if we found a large number of discrepancies in the bills against the arial maps and Donna replied a few and we are disputing them. Mr. Stachowiak mentioned Property # 42J7NE100-1000 down on lower Broadway that the map clearly says the City owns. He questioned why a business is using City land free of rent. President Brown said there was an agreement with Dallas Nursery that they were permitted to use the land and he asked Donna if that was still them. Donna thought they stopped using the land. President Brown said the City will look into who is on the City's property and report back at a later meeting.

Mr. Ronald Knapp said he has been attending the Council meetings for three month now and he has observed how proud the citizens are of the town. He has lived here since 1977 and he has noticed that the sign coming into Nanticoke off the San Souci in in need of replacement. He also thinks we need a sign when you come into Nanticoke on the new extension by LCCC. Mayor Nicoke Colatosti-Mackiewicz replied she has three companies working up prices on signs. One large one for the main entrace off the San Souci and 2 smaller ones for LCCC entrance and the bridge on lower Broadway. Mr. Knapp brought up the pot holes in need of repair on Noble and Ridge Street where the Fire Department navigates their equipment and trucks. These streets need paving to save on the wear of their equipment. He brings up Noble Street because his mom lives on that street. He stated he pays his taxes and fees to the City in a timely basis and would like these streets repaired. Donna replied she will have the DPW department look into filling the wholes. Mr. Joe John asked Council if it is wise to put a new sign on the San Souci entrance coming into town if that is Hanover Twp. property. He asked what would happen if they object after the sign is put up. Donna said Geisinger actually owns that land and the City has numerous agreements with them, they will not object to us putting a new sign there.

Mr. Hank Marks stated that by the results of the election that the people have spoken and they are not happy with the way the City has been run by the Officials and they want change. He compared Nanticoke to Pittston who allocates only 40% of their budget to Fire and Police protection. Mr. Marks stated their streetscape is beautiful and did not take over 12 years to complete like Nanticoke. President Brown commented that the past Mayor Richard Wiaterowski wanted to make sure the water and sewer lines were repaired first so the streetscape was done right. Mayor Wiaterowski felt it was a waste of time and money to proceed with the streetscape just to have to rip it up later to address the issues with the sewer and water lines. President Brown said now we can move on and do it right. Mr. Marks said Pittston had a streetscape committee to handle all their issues and keep it moving at the same time and that Nanticoke needs a committee. President Brown said people need to get more involved and come to the meetings. Newport Twp. puts a beautiful newsletter out each month or quarter and he thinks Nanticoke needs to do the same to show what progress the City has made over the past few years. No one recognizes the good things done around the City or thanks the City for the roads that have been paved recently. Mr. Bushko said the City does not get recognition because the meetings are a joke. He says all Council does is read off a paper. Donna Wall replied that the major issue holding the City up is the State wants the City to straighten Walnut Street by Antonio's. We are waiting on the state for a design. She stated it has been a very complicated issue. Mr. Marks replied that Newport's budget is only 1.6 million and they have fulltime police and firemen. Donna replied that Newport's Fire Department is always asking Nanticoke for backup because they are short staffed. Mr. Marks mentions Karen Metta and she does not have her facts straight. Mr. Marks stated he does not hate unions he hates greedy unions and he is a union man collecting a pension so she needs to do her homework before she speaks. He stated she belongs to the teachers union and they are the greediest of them all. Mr. Joe Renko stated that the City needs to have better communication with their Municipal Authority. He asked if they have been forwarding their minutes to the City? Attorney Finnegan stated we have been trying by sending emails and letters to them and they have not complied. Jennifer Polito stated that the first thing the new Mayor did when she got into office was to pick up where Mayor Wiaterowski left off and get all authorities and boards up to date on their reporting. She gave them a deadline and all responded and complied but the Municipal Authority. Jennifer stated they finally sent minutes to her but some are missing and some are not signed. Jennifer stated a tab has been added to the City Website that says Municipal Authority and if you click on it the minutes for 2018 and 2019 are there but again some are missing. Mr. Stachowiak asked if they are not in compliance with the City can the City hold back their grant funds? Donna stated we do not have their funds. They apply for theirs and we apply for ours, Donna stated. Chief Wall wanted to state that Mr. Marks has made some valid points and the Chief has held down on many police expenses and whoever wants to come in and discuss the police budget, they are more than welcome to come in and sit with him. Mr. Coughlin asked why we are boarding up the Villa if it belongs to the Municipal Authority? Donna Wall said the MA asked if our DPW could do it for them and the City will be reimbursed 100%. Mr. Lou Gianuzzi stated the MA is supposed to meet once a month and they did not meet this month. He stated that the MA says one thing and City Council says another. President Brown said he wished we did not even have a municipal authority. Attorney Finnegan asked President Brown to save this discussion for an executive session. Mr. Bushko asked if the City is using the plans for the lighting and shrubs for the streetscape that was prepared back when Holly was here or are they going with a new set of plans. Donna said she is not sure what they are doing at this time. Ms. Patti Shult asked if there is any disciplinary actions that can be taken against the MA for not providing the City with minutes from their meetings. Attorney Finnegan says he will check in the City's Charter. Mr. Knapp asked if a press conference can be held to embarrass them into getting the minutes to the City. Mr. Joe John said the citizens need to get more involved and form committees to get things done. He said John Telencho was asking questions back and forth with the MA and they told him this is not a debate, just for information and for him to stop asking questions.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

None

Meeting Adjournment

Mr. Pietrzyk made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Coughlin, roll call. Motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed, June 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk