



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Call to Order: President, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

ROLL CALL:

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

WORK SESSION

A motion to approve Ordinance #1 of 2024, (First Reading), AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 13 OF 2001 AND NAMING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AS THE CITY OF NANTICOKE'S EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER AND CONFERRING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BILLING AND SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SAME AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR SAID SERVICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 12:01 A.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Mayor Kevin Coughlin has submitted the **November 2023 Department Reports** for Council's review and Jennifer Polito has posted them on the City's website at www.nanticokecity.com.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin executed **Executive Order #16 of 2023**, pursuant to Article III, Section 3.04 of the City of Nanticoke's Home Rule Charter to hire Jonathan Lang as a Full Time Code Officer for the City of Nanticoke, effective December 18, 2023.

President William Brown commented on the ad that was published in the Citizen's Voice stating that the city raised real estate taxes by 1 mill. President Brown stated that this is incorrect, the City's Real Estate Tax did not go up for 2024 and the Citizens Voice printed a retraction.

City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council:

1. All Construction Equipment has been removed from the streets for the holidays and the ditch restoration being done by the water company will resume as long as the weather permits.

2. January 2, 2024 new water main restoration will begin on Field St., Union St., Fairview Dr., and 1 block of East and West Green St.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Justin from the Nanticoke Ambulance Service stated that the city will be making a mistake by passing Ordinance #1 of 2024, replacing them as the first responder to calls and going with Hanover Township Ambulance Co. Justin stated there is a National Shortage of EMT's and the Nanticoke Ambulance Service has been trying to hire new staff to cover shifts that had shortages. Justin stated it is not okay or right to replace them and he has paperwork showing all the calls they have responded to in 2023 and if they did not respond immediately, they were already on a call. President William Brown asked Justin to come in and speak to the Mayor and City Manager to compare numbers. President Brown stated you are not being replaced; it is just you will not be the first called out to respond to a call.

Jason Poremba asked what is the plan for Hanover Twp. Ambulance Co. to take on the City of Nanticoke's calls? Did they come and explain their services? Councilmember, Lesley Butczynski stated they will increase their staff if needed. City Manager, Donna Wall stated this was not an easy decision for us to make. Fire Chief, Mark Boncal stated an incident where on October 6, 2023 the Nanticoke Ambulance was only in service for a 2-hour football game at the GNA High School. Chief Boncal stated the ambulance went out of service immediately after the game and that the ambulance company was prepaid to attend the game. President Brown stated that he wants to make it clear that the Nanticoke Ambulance Service is privately owned and the City of Nanticoke does not have any ownership of the ambulance company in any way.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin thanked Councilmember Lesley Butczynski for her years served on Council and all she has done for the city. He stated it was a pleasure to work with her and she will be missed. Mayor Kevin Coughlin thanked Councilmembers John Telencho and Michael Marcella for sitting on Council.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Councilmember Lesley Butczynski abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$576,081.24, (Payrolls) \$124,214.40** and **(Accounts Payable) \$451,666.84**, was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Telencho. Motion carried unanimously.

President Brown stated the Councilmembers will move forward with the first reading of the ordinance; a vote will be taken for the record but there is still time for a discussion before the second reading of Ordinance #1 of 2024.

A motion to approve Ordinance #1 of 2024, (First Reading), AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 13 OF 2001 AND NAMING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AS THE CITY OF NANTICOKE'S EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER AND CONFERRING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BILLING AND SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SAME AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR SAID SERVICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 12:01 A.M., was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

None

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

City Hall will be closed on the following dates to observe the Christmas and New Year's holidays:

Friday, December 22, 2023 Closed

Monday, December 25, 2023 Closed

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Closed

Friday, December 29, 2023 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Monday, January 1, 2024 Closed

The Mayor, Councilmembers and Administration wishes everyone a Safe & Happy Holiday and a Happy & Healthy New Year!!

Councilmember Comments-

Councilmember Butczynski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Ms. Butczynski sadly stated her term limits are up and it is time to vacate her seat on Council. She stated this city means the world to her and hopes the city continues to move forward with its projects. She thanked all the residents for voting for her and thanked all of Council and the City employees for supporting her throughout the years.

Councilmember Nalepa wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanked Councilmember Butczynski for her years on City Council. Mr. Nalepa welcomed Joseph Dougherty and Kenny James to City Council and stated he looks forward to working with them.

Councilmember Marcella wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr. Marcella wished Joseph Dougherty and Kenny James well in their elected seats on City Council.

Vice President Telencho wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and expressed his thanks for sitting on Council.

President Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers on City Council and thank Councilmember Butczynski for the years she sat on City Council. Mr. Brown thanked John and Mike and wished them the best.

Meeting Adjournment-

Councilmember Nalepa made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Next Meetings:

Re-Organizational Meeting Tues, Jan 2, 2024 @ 6:45 pm

Regular Council Meeting Tues, Jan 2, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito