



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2025

Call to Order: President, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

Attorney Finnegan, City's Solicitor, announced Council was late to start the Council meeting due to an Executive Session that was held prior to the meeting to discuss a Personnel issue and a Potential Real Estate Leasing for the community.

ROLL CALL:

The following were present: Council Members, President, William Brown, Vice President, Joseph Nalepa, Joseph Dougherty, Kenneth James, Mark O'Connor, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

WORK SESSION: New Business: (action Items)

A Motion to approve Ordinance #12 of 2025, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, approving the Budget of the City of Nanticoke for 2026.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #13 of 2025, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, establishing a Millage Rate of Taxation for 2026.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #14 of 2025, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, approving Collection and Attorneys' Fees and Costs for Delinquent Refuse Accounts and Schedule of Fees.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Mayor Kevin Coughlin has submitted the November 2025 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 # 14 of 2025**, appointing Scott Gartley, Esquire of the law firm Knoff, Mangan and Gartley as Labor Council for the City to provide legal advice and representation on labor matters in order to support the effective administration of labor functions of the City of Nanticoke.

City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council.

1. The CDBG Market & Center Street project are complete.

2. The City's 2024 Pension and Annual Financial audits will be completed shortly.

A Motion was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember O'Connor to adjourn the work session.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. John Telencho questioned why did a debt service millage need to be levied for 2026 on the budget when the PIB loan is falling off and we were going to use the PIB Loan millage to pay for the Fire Trucks. Finance Director, Jennifer Polito stated the excess Debt Service millage was used to balance the General Fund Budget for 2025 due to the increase of police officers.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2025 Work Session/Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember James. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$448,652.72 [(Payrolls) \$146,363.49 (Accounts Payable) \$302,289.23]** was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #12 of 2025, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, approving the Budget of the City of Nanticoke for 2026 was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #13 of 2025, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, establishing a Millage Rate of Taxation for 2026 was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #14 of 2025, Second Reading, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, approving Collection and Attorneys' Fees and Costs for Delinquent Refuse Accounts and Schedule of Fees was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Dougherty. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. John Krieger of 212 S. Hanover Street asked City Council to do something to slow down the traffic on Hanover Street because it is getting really bad again. Mr. Krieger suggested to place an additional stop sign on Hanover Street to slow down traffic. City Manager, Donna Wall replied a traffic study was done by PennDOT and it was ruled that an additional stop sign was not needed on Hanover Street. Mr. Krieger asked that the police department place the digital speed sign back on Hanover Street because that deterred people from speeding. President Brown stated Chief Mike Roke will be asked to place the speed sign back on Hanover Street for now.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

City Hall will be CLOSED on the following dates for the Holiday Season:

Dec. 24, 2025

Dec. 25, 2025

Dec. 26, 2025

Dec. 31, 2025 Closing at 12 noon.

Jan. 1, 2026

City Hall will re-open at 8:00 am on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

Mayor Coughlin, City Council and Administration wish everyone a Safe and Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!!

Refuse Bills will be issued and collected by Berkheimer and Associates as of 2026. Bills will be mailed the first week of January of 2026. The cost remains the same at \$395.00 if paid in full by January 31, 2026 or \$415 per year paid in two installments due Jan. 31/2026 and May 31, 2026. Berkheimer does accept online payments via debit or credit card through their portal that will be printed on your bill.

Mayor Coughlin thanked Bill Brown and Joe Nalepa for their years on City Council and always being here for the city. Mayor Coughlin replied we should all appreciate them.

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Nalepa thanked President Brown for his years of service and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember James wanted to address the increase of taxes and he stated he met with Jennifer to review the budget to see where we could find ways not to raise taxes and we could not. Mr. James disagrees with Mr. Telencho on blaming the Fire Trucks for raising taxes, we have to do it even though we did not want to, we are all taxpayers. Mr. James wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanked Bill Brown and Joe Nalepa for their years of service. Mr. James commented on the many years of service President Brown dedicated to the city and stated Bill was always here for the city, he always went above and beyond to help out

when needed, and we could not have gotten a better man than Bill and he will be missed. Mr. James wished Bill Brown good luck in his future and there is always the next election.

Councilmember O'Connor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes everyone has a safe and better New year. Mr. O'Connor stated it has been great to work with Joe and Bill and thanked Bill Brown for his many years of service here at the city.

Councilmember Dougherty wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and stated it was great to work with the both of you guys on Council.

President Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. President Brown thanked all of his supporters, former Mayor Rich Wiaterowski, Former Councilmember John Pietryk and Mayor Coughlin and all other colleagues.

Meeting Adjournment-

Councilmember Dougherty made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember James, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Next Meeting:

Re-organizational Meeting/Work Session/Council Meeting
Monday January 5, 2026 @ 6:00 pm.

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito