



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

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

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

**Call to Order:** President of Council, William Brown

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Invocation:** City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

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

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin swore in Andrew Kopco as a fulltime career firefighter and his family was present for pictures.**

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**A Motion** to approve the 2022/2023 Wage Reopener of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025) between the City of Nanticoke and the Local 2655 of the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO-CLC.

**A Motion** to approve the purchase of a 2021 Police Interceptor from Rottet Motors Inc. in the amount of \$43,813.93. COSTARS Pricing.

President Brown turned the meeting over to Attorney Finnegan to explain the following ordinances that Council is proposing to put on the 2021 election Ballot.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 4 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 2.04 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to change the minimum age qualification for Council Members from 21 to 18.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 5 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 2.12 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to provide that all regular meetings of Council must occur at or after 6:00 pm and attendance of Council Members shall be defined by Pennsylvania Law.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 6 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 3.06 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to provide that the Mayor shall not hold any other elected public office or be employed by the City in any other capacity.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 7 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 4.02.A of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to provide an alternative to Manager education and experience requirements of 10 years experience with Associate's Degree.

**Administrative Updates-**

**-Mayor Kevin Coughlin** executed Executive Order # 17 of 2021 on June 29, 2021, pursuant to Article III of the City Home Rule Charter, to hire Andrew Kopco as a full time Career Fireman.

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin** executed Executive Order # 18 of 2021 on July 1, 2021, terminating the Declaration of Emergency relative to the Coronavirus Pandemic effective immediately.

**Donna Wall** updated Council and residents on the following:

- Donna stated that the City received the first half of the American Rescue Plan grant in the amount of \$539,674.46. Donna stated that Mayor and Council will review the guidelines and they will decide how to spend down on the grant. If anyone wants to see the guidelines they can come see Donna Wall for a copy.
- WVSA has replaced 3 catch basins, cleaned out 3 tons of debris from storm drains and swept 18.5 tons of debris off the City's streets this year. WVSA is planning to sweep more streets but have not disclosed which ones as of yet. Once we know, we will post the streets on the website and Facebook page.
- Donna updated Mr. Ron Knapp on the sidewalk on W. Main Street that he brought to Council's attention at the last meeting and stated that the Mayor looked at the sidewalk and has the same concerns for public safety. Donna said Rick Josefowicz has contacted PennDot and the Contractor and they stated they will fix the issue.

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

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

**Mr. Ron Knapp** thanked Attorney Finnegan for his explanations of the Ordinances. Mr. Knapp commented that he knows these changes will allow for better educated and qualified candidates for the positions of Manager in the future. Mr. Knapp asked if this change is being considered to allow for Donna Wall to be the full-time Manager versus an Interim. Attorney Finnegan stated that Donna is a full-time Manager and he explained that changing this part of the Charter would benefit the City by expanding the pool of candidates to include those who might have substantial municipal related experience but not have a higher education degree. Mr. Knapp expressed the view that lowering the age requirement to 18 years of age to sit on Council is too low, people can't even buy beer at 18. President Brown stated that Council felt if a candidate can vote, they can sit on Council.

**Mr. Hank Marks** asked Council if the new Firemen replaces a Fireman and President Brown said yes. Fire Chief Mark Boncal stated Andrew replaces him in light of his promotion to Chief. Mr. Marks then compared Newport Township's budget, square miles of the township and the number of firefighters to the City and asked why they can operate for less than us if they have

more square miles to cover. President Brown stated we are a Third-Class City. Mr. Marks agrees with all of the items on the agenda except for the age requirement to be lowered to 18 from 21. He stated the Charter was made to allow for high increases in taxes and it is a slap in the face to the Taxpayers.

**Mr. Ron Knapp** asked to make one more comment regarding these ordinances of such importance by asking if they were published in both papers. Attorney Finnegan stated no because only one advertisement is legally required and because we are trying to save money. Donna stated if Council approves any of these ordinances, there will be public relations to explain these issues further with the residents. Attorney Finnegan further stated that if these ordinances are passed and added to the election ballot, there are additional advertising requirements to inform the voters of the proposed changes.

### **Old Business**

**None**

### **New Business**

**A Motion** to approve the June 16, 2021 minutes was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$439,122.86 (Payroll(s) \$214,626.27 and Payables \$224,496.59) was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the 2022/2023 Wage Reopener of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025) between the City of Nanticoke and the Local 2655 of the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO-CLC was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the purchase of a 2021 Police Interceptor from Rottet Motors Inc. in the amount of \$43,813.93. COSTARS Pricing was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 4 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 2.04 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to change the minimum age qualification for Council Members from 21 to 18 was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 5 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 2.12 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to provide that all regular meetings of Council must occur at or after 6:00 pm and attendance of Council Members shall be defined by Pennsylvania Law was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 6 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 3.06 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to provide that the Mayor shall not hold any other elected public office or be employed by the City in any other capacity was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance # 7 of 2021, (First Reading) an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the November 2021 General Election Ballot to amend Section 4.02.A of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to provide an alternative to Manager education and experience requirements of 10 years experience with Associate's Degree was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Mr. Wolfe** of 1152 Hanover Street brought to Council's attention that the Contractor who worked on his section of his road incorrectly fixed the sidewalk leaving a gap which caused the sidewalk to lift and it is a trip hazard. President Brown asked Mr. Wolfe if he addressed the issue with Donna and they replied yes. Rick Josefowicz stated the contractor said he did what the engineer proposed in the blueprints that the State approved. They are not responsible for making additional repairs that they were not paid for. The City Engineer and Dpw Foreman Rick Josefowicz have looked at the sidewalk and agree it needs to be fixed. Donna Wall stated a contractor will be in town to fix the sidewalk and the City will fix the grass on the tree lawn. President Brown stated we will try to resolve the issues with the sidewalk.

**Mr. Ron Knapp** stated that he received the information regarding the delinquent refuse accounts that he requested from Patty and asked are there any updates on how the City is going to recover this money. Mr. Knapp believes that the delinquent accounts are the reason the Refuse fees have had to increase. Finance Director, Jennifer Polito corrected Mr. Knapp by stating the delinquent fees have nothing to do with the increase of fees. She stated it is solely because the price of the contract increase due to the increase in the landfill fees passed on to the garbage collectors. Vice President Telencho stated that as of June 2021, Patty recovered \$51,000.00 in past due fees. President Brown stated Patty will submit an updated report for second meeting in July. Mr. Knapp asked why did the City only accept one Bid for the contract and Jennifer stated only one Refuse Company submitted a bid despite the fact that other companies attended the Bid Conference. Mr. Knapp asked for an update on the Villa and President Brown asked Vice President Telencho if he had any new updates on this property. Vice President Telencho stated that Sara Hailstone filed the paperwork with the wrong name of the entity. Sara is redoing the paperwork and it could take 45-60 days to reprocess the paperwork with the correct name. Vice President Telencho stated that the MA may have more updates at the July 26, 2021 meeting at 5:30 pm.

**Mr. Hank Marks** commented on the Refuse bids and said only one bid was submitted because there is collusion amongst the garbage companies. Mr. Marks asked if the sale of the Villa went through and Vice President Telencho said yes. Mr. Marks asked why is the MA wasting one of their grants to demolish it; shouldn't the developer apply for a grant? The developer did apply

for funding replied Donna Wall. Attorney Finnegan stated that he believes the authority was formed sometime in 1978 under the name General Municipal Authority of the City of Nanticoke and he is not aware of that name being changed since it's formation.

**Correspondence-**

**None**

**Announcements-**

Mayor, Kevin Coughlin would like to thank all our donators, sponsors and volunteers that participated in this year's Big Bang event that was a huge success.

**Councilmember Comments-**

**Vice President John Telencho** commented that if Council is going to be able to be absent but call in to a meeting, the City needs a new microphone system. Vice President Telencho stated people love the Veteran banner program and want to know if there is going to be another program to accept more applications. Mayor Coughlin replied the program is closed for 2021 but there will be another program in 2022. Vice President Telencho asked when we will advertise the Citywide Yard Sale and Jennifer replied early August, she will post it on the City's website and Facebook page and she will publish it in the community section of the newspaper.

**Councilmember Butczynski** congratulated Andrew Kopco and thanked the Fireman and Policeman for all their hard work.

**Councilmember Marcella** congratulated Andrew Kopco and suggested the Mayor form Committees to discuss some of the upcoming large expenditures that the City is going to be making this year.

**Councilmember Nalepa** congratulated Andrew Kopco and thanked the Fireman and Policeman and stated that they are very professional.

**President Brown** congratulated Andrew Kopco and wished his best to the Fire and Police Departments.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, July 21, 2021 @ 7:00 pm.**

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**