



NANTICOKE CITY
WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL 7:00PM

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Call to Order: President, William Brown
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: City Clerk, Mary Cheshinski

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

WORK SESSION

Discussion of Council Meeting Action Items

a. Motion to approve proposed Resolution #2 of 2017, a resolution approved by City Council to sell, by auction, City owned parcels 66-68 W. Ridge Street.

Motion to adjourn the work session by Mrs. Mackiewicz, second by Mr. Pietrzyk, Motion carried.

Administrative Updates for Council – At this time Mayor Richard Wiaterowski presented a Power Point Presentation reviewing the accomplishments that occurred in 2016.

The Mayor was open to questions. (These comments are included in the comments from the public) The Mayor pointed out several new vehicles purchased, grants applied for and approved. The PIB loan and the new handicap ramps started on Grand Street. The paving of Washington Street is completed as well as the road entering Honey Pot to the ball field. The forming of the COG. Forming of the Safety committee saving \$8000.00 to \$10,000.00 per year. Replacing open positions and promoting from within, and the electrical contract, all three, saving approximately \$178,203.00.

Mayor Wiaterowski praised Donna Wall and Jen Polito for all they have done to help. 2016 has been his favorite year as Mayor and he will run again this May.

The Mayor continued, the possibility of a Nanticoke joining a new County Drug Task Force. Our Detective Joseph Guydosh cannot keep up with the high rate of heroin use here. A situation like today a shooting (murder by gun shots on W. Church Street in the City) and the shooting before Christmas, (Spring Street) both believed to be drug related. If we take this on the Mayor proclaimed we will have more resources to pull together common leads, descriptions etc.

The downtown Street Scape Project is on track.

A notice to vacate was sent January 12th to Mr. Hasay concerning the trailers on Lower Broadway. Zoning direction getting better

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public (agenda items only)

John Telencho questioned proposed Resolution #2, 2017 asking why we are selling this property and what about the other 75 City owned properties?

Bill Brown stated some properties were inherited from the defunct Redevelopment Authority. Solicitor Finnegan answered several reasons to sell, someone expresses an interest as with the West Ridge property. A development objective, Code changes, Donna has the list. Evaluations to have the property get back on the tax roll. Complicated but a prudent way to do it. Other properties as well may be auctioned.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve the January 4th meeting minutes was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz, second by Mr. Pietrzyk, motion carried. Councilor Butczynski abstained. She was excused from the January 4th meeting.

Ms. Butczynski made a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$313,772.20 (Payables \$203,260.55) (Payroll \$109,772.20) second by, Mr. Coughlin, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Mrs. Mackiewicz to approve **Resolution #2 of 2017**, City Council's approval to sell, by auction, city parcels 66-68 W. Ridge Street. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Telencho questioned Act 90. Solicitor Finnegan stated Donna and he will be meeting with Andy Kratz (zoning) and Jack Minsavage (code) on implementing Code Changes. The Solicitor announced an informal work session will be held before the regular City Council meeting February 1st at 6:00PM. Residents will have an opportunity to give their input on current ordinances and changes they feel are necessary.

In early Spring ordinances will be amended. Addressing Mr. Gianuzzi as far as feral cats or any animal ordinance it is not easy, he added.

Mr. J. Telencho and Joe John both questioned if City landlords can be held responsible in some way for drug busts, occurring on rentals. Possibility of taking the property. Solicitor Finnegan has seen, thru the DA office, forfeiture to take homes and cars. A legal mechanism is in place there.

Mr. Telencho asked what direct impact to Nanticoke if Retreat prison facility closes. The Mayor stated Newport is directly hit. Bill Brown added 26 employees of Nanticoke work at Retreat.

Mr. J Hudak stated Newport/Nanticoke are the only ones fighting for Retreat. Bill Brown replied at a recent meeting at LCCC showed others are concerned. The "Voice of Joe".

Attending this meeting were Senator John Yudichak, Wilkes Barre Police Chief, Luzerne County Manager, the District Attorney, Senator Lou Barletta, Representative Cartwright. Mr. J. Hudak questioned if drug crimes are up from last year? (2015) Chief Wall didn't have exact figure, yes increased.

Mrs. Herring questioned if our police officers will have enough equipment to protect themselves and the citizens. Chief of Police Tom Wall "would love to have more men" but will sit down with Jen Polito and look at the budget for more equipment. Overtime hours in the police department with incidents like today's homicide are unpredictable. Drug dealers are more sophisticated now. With the drug task force intelligence information can be shared the Chief added.

Mr. Gianuzzi stated there are known drug houses, same guys, and same houses. Joe John questioned what can we do as citizens? Chief Wall stated the Task Force concept is more concerned for drug dealers to –"get out!" To build a case it takes time before a search warrant can be processed. What citizens can do is call in what you see ASAP. Building a data base with what you tell us will be added.

Mr. Gianuzzi requested Crime Watch signs and Chief wall will provide them.

Linda Prushinski stated her husband (Street Department employee) was hurt last year and first aid kits were to be put in street department vehicles and the City garage. Has this been done? Donna Wall stated Wally, (Street Supervisor) has taken care of this and has the kits.

Announcements

Council President Brown read a letter of support from City officials to Governor Wolf supporting the stance to keep Retreat open. Council President Bill Brown, stated the City refuse payments are due by 1/31/2017.

Councilor Brown added, in future Council meetings, citizens will have the opportunity to bring up issues. We will address them. To get further information, a follow up, please contact Mayor Wiaterowski or Donna Wall. We will not allow the same questions on the same matters meeting after meeting. Things take time and not necessarily a change within a two weeks or a month.

The next Council meeting is Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

Ms. Butczynski made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Coughlin. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Mary Beth Cheshinski, City Clerk