

NANTICOKE CITY



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 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, Lesley Butczynski, John Pietrzyk, Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall and Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito. Councilor, Mike Marcella was excused from the meeting.

WORK SESSION-

A Motion to adopt Ordinance #2 of 2019 (on the Second 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.

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall had the following updates:

- ✚ The City had a pre-bid conference with the contractors regarding the E. Union St. Alley project and work will begin on June 6, 2019.

Mayor Nicole Colatosti-Mackiewicz executed Executive Order #3 of 2019 hiring Justin Casey, Kristofer Seiwel and Matthew Wrubel as part-time summer help in the DPW & Code departments at \$10.00/hour effective May 29, 2019.

A Motion was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Pietrzyk to adjourn the work session. Work session adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

None

Old Business

A Motion to approve the May 1, 2019 meeting minutes was made Ms. Butczynski, second Mr. Coughlin. Mr. Brown abstained. Motion carried.

At the last meeting, **Mr. Stachowiak** asked who is using the City's land on lower Broadway rent free when the City must now pay a storm water fee. Council's response was that Dallas Nursery had a gentlemen's agreement that if they could store their equipment on the City's property, the City may help themselves to the pile of top soils that is there at any time the City needs it. Stell Enterprises bought out Dallas Nursery and the agreement rolled to the new owner.

At the last meeting, **Mr. Knapp** brought to the City's attention that the alley way on Ridge & Noble Streets is in need of repair due to numerous potholes and Council asked Donna Wall to look into this matter with the DPW Department. Council's response was that the City DPW workers will fill the holes and when funds come available the City will mill and pave that area.

New Business

A Motion to approve the May 28, 2019 meeting minutes was made Mr. Coughlin, second Mr. Pietrzyk. Ms. Butczynski abstained. Motion carried.

A Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$112,593.51 (Payroll \$0.00 and Payables \$112,593.51) was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion carried.

A Motion to adopt Ordinance #2 of 2019 (on the Second 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 Mr. Coughlin. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Joe Rentko had a comment on the Fireworks ordinance being passed this evening and thought 10:30 pm was too late for the fireworks to be permitted. He thought it should be 10:00 pm for the consideration of the people who need to get sleep who work 2nd or 3rd shifts. Donna stated that 10:00 pm was discussed but all of Council agreed on 10:30 pm. Mr. Rentko asked who will enforce the time set in the ordinance, and President Brown replied the Police Department would respond to any calls if residents do not follow the ordinance.

Mr. Hank Marks wanted to express his disapproval of the advertisement for another full time firefighter. He compared the City's 2019 budget to other municipalities our size and stated we are the highest. Other's budgets are less because they use part time firefighters and we don't, Mr. Marks replied. He said other municipalities like Newport, Hanover and Pittston are using part time firefighters to reduce their budgets. He said we must start hiring part time firefighters versus full time firefighters to save money. Mr. Brown responded by saying a full time firefighter has left his employment here at the City and due to the contract the City must hire a replacement to keep the 10th man as stated in the union contract. The Captain of the Fire Department, Mark Boncal, asked President Brown if he could respond to Mr. Marks and he was allowed to

have the floor. Captain Boncal replied by saying that he is tired of hearing Mr. Marks bash the Fire and Police Departments. Captain Boncal stated that he works part time for Newport Twp. and in the month of May, 21 shifts went uncovered in their township and they needed Nanticoke's assistance because they did not have enough full time help to man all their shifts and the part time help was not available. Captain Boncal stated in Newport Twp. last month, there was a call regarding a 2 year old unresponsive and needed Nanticoke to respond. The evening of the bad storms, Glenn Lyon was cut off by having trees and power lines down and again Nanticoke was called out to respond and that same night a structure fire was called in and no one from Newport was responding, so Nanticoke was called out to respond to that call. Captain Boncal stated that part time help is not always the answer and that Hanover Twp. and Newport Twp. are always relying on Nanticoke City to back them up in their times of need. President Brown stated that it happened once before and will happen again, if Council considers going to a part time fire department, these chambers will fill up with very unhappy residents who disapprove. President Brown stated the average cost per day, for a resident to have full time police and firefighters is a little over \$1.00/day and many residents are okay with that knowing that they are protected 24/7.

President Brown Congratulated **Mr. John Telencho** on his win as a Council member beginning in 2019 before he let him have the floor.

Mr. Telencho asked what is going on with the Bowlarama now? He said he is hearing and people are calling him saying an "LLC" is purchasing the property for \$50,000 but no one knows who is behind the purchase. Council and Attorney Finnegan say this is news to them and they have not heard that from anyone. Attorney Finnegan said it is due to go up for tax sale in August of 2019 and the City will consider making a bid but who says we won't get out bid.

Mr. Stachowiak asked if he could get an answer on what the Honey Pot Bridge inspection revealed. Donna Wall said it is closed for now and it is going on the list for the City to get money to fix it properly. Donna Wall stated the inspection report revealed that the bridge is not safe to be driven on and it must be fixed before re-opening. Mr. Stachowiak asked if an estimated cost was made to fix the bridge and Donna Wall stated no, we are working with PENNDOT on this issue. Mr. Stachowiak stated 11 years ago he brought this bridge issue up to Council and it was not made a priority to fix. Mr. Cardinelli asked for clarification on where this bridge is in town and Donna Wall explained to him where it is.

Correspondence- A thank you card was given to Chief Wall and the Police Officers from a 3rd grade student, Amaya Zegarski, for keeping the children safe while crossing the street during the 2018/2019 school year. President Brown read the card and thanked Amaya for the card.

Announcements- President Brown announced the City of Nanticoke is holding the Annual Big Bang Celebration on Saturday, June 29, 2019 (rain date Sunday, June 30, 2019) on the GNA High School Football field. Please come out and enjoy the food, activities and great fireworks display at dusk. Gates open at 4 pm.

Meeting Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed, June 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk