

NANTICOKE CITY



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 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, Mike Marcella, John Pietrzyk, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

The following were excused: Councilor Lesley Butczynski and Interim City Manager, Donna Wall.

Attorney William Finnegan stated the meeting was delayed until 7:12 pm due to the Council and Solicitor being in an executive session regarding a personnel matter involving the Police Chief Thomas Wall.

WORK SESSION-

A motion to approve Resolution #10 of 2019, A resolution of the City of Nanticoke authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$600,000.00 from the Debt Service Fund to the Special Revenue Fund.

A motion to award Phase II of the 2019 PIB Street Improvements to M&J Excavation Inc. in the amount of \$1,705,068.50 (Lowest Bidder).

A motion to approve reimbursement agreement with the Nanticoke Housing Authority for paving work at Apollo Circle.

Administrative Updates-

Mayor Nicole Colatosti-Mackiewicz executed Executive Order # 4 promoting Rick Josefowicz to the DPW Foreman position under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Nanticoke and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 401 effective August 26, 2019.

Mayor Nicole Colatosti-Mackiewicz executed Executive Order # 5 hiring of Michael Mihneski, II as a full time Department of Public Works employee under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Nanticoke and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 401 effective August 26, 2019.

Mayor Nicole Colatosti-Mackiewicz has included her July 2019 monthly department reports. The reports are included in Council's packets, posted on the back board in Council Chambers and on the website as of Thursday August 22, 2019.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

President Brown asked Jennifer to explain Resolution # 10 of 2019 concerning the \$600,000 transfer from the Debt Service Fund to the Special Revenue Fund and she explained that when she prepared her debt calculation last year she brought to Council, Mayor and City Manager's attention that there is excess funds in the Debt Service Fund that goes back to the prior administration when the City was in Act 47. Since the City is in need of new computers and additional funds to complete phase II of the PIB paving project, she suggests transferring this excess to the Special Revenue Fund for the mentioned capital expenditures.

Mr. John Telencho asked how much money will reside in the Debt Service fund after the transfer and Jennifer replied a little over \$400,000. She explained that we must always keep at least one year's worth of the debt payments in the fund when preparing the calculation each year. Mr. Ronald Knapp asked if Council would consider putting a TV in front of the Council Chambers so when he has pictures of issues he can plug in a flash drive so everyone can see what he or others are talking about. President Brown said we will consider his recommendation. President Brown asked Jennifer to explain what the PIB project entailed concerning the award to M&J Excavating. She replied this is the second half of the PIB loan being spent to pave roads. President Brown named most of the streets being paved with phase II of the PIB project and asked Jennifer to post the complete list in the back of Council Chambers for the residents to review. President Brown asked Attorney Finnegan to explain the agreement between the City and the Nanticoke Housing Authority and Attorney Finnegan said twelve areas in Apollo Circle will be paved and the Housing Authority owns those streets and they are willing to reimburse the City for the cost of the paving. Mr. Hank Marks commented that the City needs to cut spending on Salaries and Benefits for its employees.

At this time President Brown welcomed Michael to the City and congratulated Rick on his promotion and commented "this is the first time Council is hearing of the Mayor's decision to execute these Executive Orders". Vice President, Kevin Coughlin showed his disapproval of the Mayor not informing Council ahead of time of her decisions and said this is not the first time they are finding out matters in a meeting. He says this will stop once he is the Mayor.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the August 7, 2019 minutes was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second Mr. Marcella. Motion carried.

A Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$369,850.50 (Payroll \$101,886.49 and Payables \$267,964.01) was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Mr. Marcella. Motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote. Vice President Coughlin voted "NO" to the approving of the bills to be paid.

A motion to approve Resolution #10 of 2019, A resolution of the City of Nanticoke authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$600,000.00 from the Debt Service Fund to the Special Revenue Fund was made by Mr. Coughlin, second Mr. Marcella. Motion carried.

A motion to award Phase II of the 2019 PIB Street Improvements to M&J Excavation Inc. in the amount of \$1,705,068.50 (Lowest Bidder) was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second Mr. Coughlin. Motion carried.

A motion to approve reimbursement agreement with the Nanticoke Housing Authority for paving work at Apollo Circle was made by Mr. Marcella, second Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

President Brown informed residents that he asked for the Mayor to be present at this evening's meeting but she declined due to a prior obligation she needed to attend.

Mr. Ronald Knapp thanked the City's DPW department for promptly trimming the sumac bush that was blocking his alley by the property owner who is not taking care of his property. Jennifer commented the City is

working on the issue of the mess of the property but the owner is an out of state Landlord and Jack is having difficulties getting the owner to respond to our letters. Mr. Knapp suggested getting the Senator and State Representative involved in these out of state landlord issues who are not complying with the rules set by the City.

Mr. John Telencho thanked the DPW department for promptly removing the tree that fell during last week's storm over by the cemetery. Mr. Telencho asked if the recycle bins were moved and to where? Jennifer stated she is not aware of them being moved and Council said they were under the impression they were moved. Jennifer stated DPW Worker Rick Josefowicz had a place but decided against moving them out into the area that was not covered from the weather. Mr. Telencho asked Council now that Plymouth dismantled their Fire Department and Nanticoke will be covering their areas, was Nanticoke residents asked their opinion on this decision. Mr. Telencho asked specifically what areas the City's Fire Department will covering Captain Mark Boncal commented that question. Mr. Telencho asked if we are being reimbursed for our services and Jennifer stated they are currently working on an agreement. Council says this is all news to them, once again they are not aware of matters in the City. President Brown asked if our firefighters are covered under workers compensation if something should happen to them and Jennifer replied yes. Attorney Finnegan stated he has not been asked to draft an agreement as of yet, but when he does, Council will have to vote on the agreement via a resolution.

Mr. Dane Sorensen informed Council since he complained about Mascaro's constantly missing his garbage in the alley and our Refuse Clerk Patty Zendarski made some calls, the garbage is now being picked up every week. He thanked Patty for all her efforts. Now there is an issue with the recycling, they either do not come and pick them up or they empty ½ the can and flip it upside down leaving recyclables on the street for him to pick up. Jennifer stated we had complaints like this at the last meeting and she spoke to Patty. Patty, that next day after the meeting called Michael at the main location about this matter and he said he will take care of it. President Brown stated he will go higher up than that and call Sam tomorrow.

Mr. Mike Stachowiak stated that there is a lack of sports parks in Nanticoke for kids to play and practice at. He said Hanover Twp. is letting them use their field but the bathrooms are in bad shape and kept locked. He asked if Nanticoke could put portable toilets at the park to help with this issue. Councilor Pietrzyk stated we did have some there but someone kept tipping them over so we stopped. The spokesperson for the park said they cannot put portable bathrooms there because they have no insurance to cover any damage to them. Mr. Stachowiak hopes the City can do something and President Brown said Council will look into it. Vice President Coughlin suggested West Side or Honey Pot fields for now. Former-Mayor Bushko suggested doing something with the land down on Lower Broadway to bring a sports field to Nanticoke.

Mr. Hank Marks asked what the new Firefighter, David, is costing the City for his wages and benefits. President Brown asked Jennifer if she knew and she replied she does not know the exact amount but she will look into it for Mr. Marks. Mr. Marks commented he guesses he has to wait until next meeting and Jennifer replied no and she asked him to please call or come see her tomorrow.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

President Brown made the following announcements:

On September 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm, the City of Nanticoke will hold a public hearing here in Council Chambers to discuss the proposed **2019 CDBG Block Grant**.

The City of Nanticoke will be closed on **Monday, September 2, 2019** in observance of Labor Day.

Meeting Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed, Sept 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk