

## CITY OF NANTICOKE



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

**Wednesday July 19, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Councilmember, Michael Marcella

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

#### **ROLL CALL:**

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

#### **WORK SESSION**

**A Motion** to approve an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between Hanover Township, City of Nanticoke and Newport Township for the purpose of jointly funding an Act 537 Plan Updating Project which is funded by ARPA funds from Luzerne County, upon Solicitor's approval.

**A Motion** to hire Hailstone Economics to assist with the management and reporting of the ARPA funds as well as assistance with the management of the process for updating of the Act 537 Plan for the sewer conveyance systems for the City of Nanticoke, Hanover Township and Newport Township.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance #4 of 2023, (First Reading), an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place question on the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election Ballot to delete Section 2.10 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to eliminate the provision which provides that City Council Members may not serve more than three (3) elected, consecutive City Council terms.

**A Motion** to approve Ordinance #5 of 2023, (First Reading), an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place question on the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election Ballot to delete Section 3.09 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to eliminate the provision which provides that the Mayor may not serve more than three (3) elected, consecutive Mayoral terms.

**Vice President John Telencho** asked Council why the above Ordinances #4 and #5 were not discussed with him prior to being told by the Mayor that these ordinances will be on the July 19, 2023 agenda. He said he would have liked to have some input and discussion on these matters. He asked who put the ordinances on the agenda and why is there such a rush.

**Councilmember Joseph Nalepa** replied that there is no rush and that there have been numerous casual discussions on removing term limits over the past few months. **Vice**

**President John Telencho** replied but those discussions did not include him. **Councilmember**

**Butczynski** asked Vice President Telencho why he did not ask any questions or express his thoughts when the Mayor informed him of these ordinances on June 27, 2023. **Councilmember Joseph Nalepa** stated that these ideas of removing term limits benefits the city because past election cycles have shown that people are not coming forward to be a candidate for City Council. Councilmember Nalepa stated that since there has been very little interest in wanting to hold a seat on Council, this would allow the people who are already on Council to remain, if elected. **President Brown** stated the ordinances need to go on the agenda because the Charter requires two readings and the Election Bureau needs to know in August if the questions are going on our ballot. President Brown and Councilmember Butczynski agreed not to table these motions and to move forward and vote on them in this meeting.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin** asked that we keep Mr. Hank Marks and his family in our prayers as he passed away this week. He was the founder and member of the Tax Association and a life long resident of the city.

Mayor Coughlin thanked everone who was involved in making the 2023 Big Bang a huge success.

Mayor Coughlin thanked Rick Josefowicz from the City's DPW Department for the excellent work done by himself and his department on the sewer break and milling of roads which saved the city over \$18,000.

**-Mayor Kevin Coughlin** has submitted the **June 2023 Department Reports** for Council's review and Jennifer Polito has posted them on the City's website at [www.nanticokecity.com](http://www.nanticokecity.com)

**City Manager, Donna Wall** has updates for Council:

- The City's Streetscape has begun this week.
- PA American Water Co. has contracted RLE to perform the new water main construction on the following streets:
  - Market Street From Noble to Slate Streets.
  - Slate Street from Market to Prospect Streets.
  - Ridge Street from Hanover to Market Streets.
  - E. Ridge Street from Market to Walnut Streets.
  - Walnut Street from E. Noble to Washington Streets.
  - Union Street from Hanover to Market Streets.
  - Coal Street from Slope tp Nanticoke Streets.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Telencho to adjourn the work session.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Mrs. Christine Josefowitz** asked what happens if a Council Member can't run again due to being at the maximum term limit and no one else runs in the upcoming election? City's Solicitor,

Attorney Finnegan replied he needs to look into the wording of the Charter before answering that question. Attorney Finnegan stated either the Provisions of the Charter depending on its wording or the Election Case Law will decide the above question.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

**A Motion** to approve the **June 21, 2023** minutes was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Telencho. Motion carried 4-0, Councilmember Joseph Nalepa abstained.

**A Motion** to approve the **ratification of the bills** in the total amount of **\$251,530.85; (Payroll(s)) \$116,778.24 (Accounts Payable) \$134,752.61** was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the **paymemnt of the bills** in the total amount of **\$496,558.45; (Payroll(s)) \$128,609.19 (Accounts Payable) \$367,949.26** was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between Hanover Township, City of Nanticoke and Newport Township for the purpose of jointly funding an Act 537 Plan Updating Project which is funded by ARPA funds from Luzerne County, upon Solicitor's approval was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to hire Hailstone Economics to assist with the management and reporting of the ARPA funds as well as assistance with the management of the process for updating of the Act 537 Plan for the sewer conveyance systems for the City of Nanticoke, Hanover Township and Newport Township was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Telencho. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance #4 of 2023**, (First Reading), an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place question on the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election Ballot to delete Section 2.10 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to eliminate the provision which provides that City Council Members may not serve more than three (3) elected, consecutive City Council terms was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried 3-2.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance #5 of 2023**, (First Reading), an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place question on the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election Ballot to delete Section 3.09 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter to eliminate the provision which provides that the Mayor may not serve more than three (3) elected, consecutive Mayoral terms was made by President Brown seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried 3-2.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Ms. Angel Brotman** thanked Donna, the Mayor and Council for the replacement of her opening to her driveway.

**Mr. Larry Beck** requested that the DPW Department fill in the holes in his alley if it cannot be paved this year due to the loss of equipment in the fire. DPW Foreman, Rick Josefowitz replied the COG may be able to fit the paving in their schedule and if not, the DPW department will fill in the holes.

**Correspondence-**

None

**Announcements-**

None

**Councilmember Comments-**

**Vice President Telencho** sends his condolences to the family and friends of Hank Marks.

**Councilmember Butczynski** thanked all who came together to help out and support the City's Annual Big Bang 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, especially Kevin and Ann Marie Coughlin.

**Councilmember Marcella** thanked all who helped out with the City's Annual Big Bang 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration

**Councilmember Nalepa** thanked all who were involved with the City's Annual Big Bang 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. He commented it is a great event that brings the community together. Councilmember Nalepa further commented on eliminating the term limits by saying no one wants to be elected to Council as a political career. The members of Council are here because they truly love and care about their city.

**President Brown** no further comments.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

Councilmember Nalepa made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Telencho, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, August 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**