



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

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Call to Order: President, William Brown
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: Finance Director, Jennifer Polito

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

WORK SESSION

Discussion of Council Meeting Action Items

a. Motion to approve proposed Resolution #1 of 2017 authorizing the City to sign Federal Reimbursement Grant #R15040002-1 with Pen-Dot amending Resolution #15, 2015 (Wall)

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

Administrative Updates for Council - None.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public (agenda items only)
None

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve the December 21, 2016 minutes was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Mrs. Mackiewicz, motion carried.

Mr. Coughlin made a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$259,282.03 (Payables \$166,773.22) (Payroll \$92,508.81) second by, Mr. Pietrzyk, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz, second by Mr. Coughlin to approve Resolution #1 of 2017 authorizing the City to sign Federal Reimbursement Grant #R15040002-1 with Pen-Dot amending Resolution #15, 2015 Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Telencho wished everyone a Happy New Year and said let's get down to business. Mr. Telencho referred to the last meeting when the Mayor said he was going to present the residents with updates and accomplishment that the City has made throughout 2016 and he wanted to know when this was going to be done. Donna Wall stated that the presentation would be at the next meeting on January 18, 2017. Mr. Telencho asked what we have done with all the grants we have received. Do we have 10 million plus dollars just sitting around somewhere? Donna Wall stated that the monies are all tied up in the downtown streetscape. Mr. Telencho wanted to know who gave the Construction Company permission to put materials and garbage on the Old Bowlarama property. He states it is blocking the sidewalks. Donna believes the owner gave Bower Construction permission but she will look into it for the next meeting. Mr. Telencho asked if the City was really going to establish Act 90 regarding blighted properties or is the City just blowing smoke. Attorney Finnegan stated that he and Jack just met today and we were discussing all the problem properties in the city. Mr. Telencho wants meetings like that and all reports presented at meetings published on the website to keep residents informed of what is going on. He states not everyone can attend the meetings. Bill Brown suggested for Donna to check the papers to see what municipalities publish a Community Report and the City should take part in this. Mr. Telencho stated on the Sept. 21, 2016 meeting stating there would be Citizens input and is this being done. Donna stated that this was done and that was concerning CDBG grant monies that are awarded once a year. She states there was 2 meetings that were advertised to discuss the CDBG Grant funds awarded to the City. Mr. Telencho asked why the 2015 Audited Financial statements are not out on the website. He states that they are supposed to be finished by March 31, 2016. He states we are not fixing the problems that the auditors write in their reports. Jennifer replied to his questions that there were circumstances beyond the City's control that has delayed the audit and they are the fact that there is a new GASB Act 68 that no pension company adhered to and the auditors had to add additional notes to opt out of the GASB 68 requirements and the fact that the auditors did not start the audit until August due to personnel issues in their office. Jennifer also stated that some things in the audit cannot be fixed to the manpower required such as Segregation of Duties. The City just cannot afford to hire enough people in the finance office so that duties are not duplicated by one individual. Jennifer stated we are fixing issues like tightening the internal controls in the City. She stated that is why we went cashless and that is why she was hired. Mr. Telencho asked what we can do about the website to getting information out there faster. He stated that there is no agenda for this meeting again. He wants to know if a City employee can post to the website or are we at the mercy of the Website owner. Jennifer stated that a City employee cannot edit the website and the problem is not the owner, it is the timeliness of the City getting JD the information.

Mr. Telencho suggested having the website run by students of the college....they will do it for free. Jennifer stated for the minimal fee JD charges the City, he does a great job with the website.

Mr. Gianuzzi asked if residents were allowed to paint lined on the streets and curbs by their handicap signs and Tom and Donna both stated no. Mr. Gianuzzi said that Northeast Counseling painted their curbs and wanted to know why they were allowed. Donna said they were just cited for it. Mr. Gianuzzi complained about the tractor trailers again and wants to know what the City is doing about the issues. Atty. Bill Finnegan said we have done everything we can due within the law. Bill Brown said as far as Hassey's property it is up for sale and we have done everything we can. Tom stated that there are more important issues that his officers are attending to than these tractor trailers. Mr. Gianuzzi inquired about the loss of income of 40,000 due to Warrior Run canceling their contract with the City and going to Hanover Twp. He wanted to know what that money was used for and if anything was done in the budget to account for this loss of revenue. Jennifer stated that the money was used to pay salaries and purchase equipment. She also stated the Police Budget was adjusted for 2017 and the police department will be doing their best to increase their revenues through fines and grants. Mr. Telencho wanted to expand on Mr. Gianuzzi's comment on the tractor trailers and stated that they have been parking on Broadway. Tom asked that when residents see issues like this during business hours to please call Tom and he will send an office or do himself to deal with the issue. The officers just do not have time to ride around looking for issues. Tom added that the police department just purchased a plate reader to increase revenues in the department. Tom informed the residents he is doing his best to repair the City's relationship with the newspapers to have them issue updates on issues resolved in the City. Tom wants everyone to start focusing on the positive things happening in Nanticoke versus always being so negative against the City. The City is truly moving in the right direction tom stated. Mr. Gianuzzi complimented the police officer that was out patrolling on Sunday for actually taking a minute to wave to the residents and he hopes this type of attitude keeps up.

Mr. Mike Marcella commented on how difficult it is to make a turn onto Main Street off of Walnut due to people parking too close to the corners. He suggested having the officers' patrol that area more often and or put a mirror on the building to help the drivers navigate through that area. Tom says the officers can cite but they are not staffed enough to have one officer to always be at that corner. Tom also stated the new street scape will fix that issue once it is complete. Mr. Marcella also commented about the Nebo Baptist Church and Housing Authority have also painted the curbs in front of their properties. He asked why it is okay for some but not others. Bill Brown stated no property owner is allowed to paint City property and no one gave them the permission to do so. Mr. Brown said it will be looked into by the City.

Announcements

Council President Bill Brown, informed the attendees:

The Refuse payment #1 is due no later than January 31, 2017 in the amount of \$120.00 and the Full payment is also due by 1/31/2017 in the amount of \$220.00. City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

The next Council meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Mr. Coughlin made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Jennifer Polito, Finance Director

Mary Beth Cheshinski, City Clerk