



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

### **RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2026**

**Call to Order:** City Clerk Jennifer W. Polito

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

The City of Nanticoke City Council Re-organizational meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by City Clerk Jennifer W. Polito.

District Judge Donald Whittaker administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected and re-elected officials; Mayor Kevin Coughlin, Councilmembers Mark O' Connor, Lesley Butczynski and John Telencho.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**The following were present:** Council Members, Joseph Dougherty, John Telencho, Kenny James, Mark O'Connor, Lesley Butczynski, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney Rachel Finnegan.

**Excused:** City Manager, Donna Wall.

#### **Re-organization of Councilmembers:**

Mayor Kevin Coughlin nominated to elect Councilmember Joseph Dougherty as Council President and the nomination was second by Councilmember Mark O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

President Joseph Dougherty nominated to elect Councilmember John Telencho as Council Vice President and the nomination was second by Councilmember Kenny James. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember O'Connor to adjourn the Re-organizational meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

### **ROLL CALL:**

**The following were present:** Council Members, Joseph Dougherty, John Telencho, Kenny James, Mark O'Connor, Lesley Butczynski, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney Rachel Finnegan.

**Excused:** City Manager, Donna Wall.

### **WORK SESSION**

**A motion to approve Resolution # 1 of 2026,** a Resolution of the City Council for the City of Nanticoke confirming the Appointments and Re-appointments of Mayor Kevin Coughlin to various Boards, Authorities and Commissions of the City of Nanticoke.

**A Motion to approve Resolution #2 of 2026,** a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the City Clerk Salary of \$8,000.00 per year as set by Mayor Kevin Coughlin.

**A Motion to approve Resolution #3 of 2026,** a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, County of Luzerne , Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Re-appointing Donna Wall as a member of the Lower South Valley Land Bank Board of Directors.

**A Motion to accept the Resignation Letter** from Police Officer, , Kyle Bielecki, effective January 2, 2026.

**A Motion to accept the Resignation Letter** from Police Officer, Anthony Waitkus, effective January 2, 2026.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:**

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin executed the following Executive Orders:**

**Executive Order #1 of 2026,** setting the City Clerk Annual Salary at \$8,000.00 per year.

**Executive Order #2 of 2026,** re-appointment of Lee Wompierski to the Nanticoke City Municipal Authority for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2030.

**Executive Order #3 of 2026,** re-appointment of Esther Santuk to the Nanticoke City Housing Authority for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2030.

**Executive Order #4 of 2026,** re-appointment of Thomas Selecky to the Nanticoke City Planning Commission for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2030.

**Executive Order #5 of 2026,** re-appointment of Charles Alles to the Zoning Board for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2030.

**Executive Order #6 of 2026,** re-appointment of Thomas Wall to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Board of Directors for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/2030.

**Executive Order #7 of 2026,** re-appointment of Steve Kotch to the Fire Civil Service Board for a 1-year term expiring 12/31/2026.

**A Motion** was made by Vice President Telencho seconded by Councilmember James to adjourn the work session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**A Motion to approve the December 15, 2026** minutes was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Councilmembers John Telencho and Lesley Butczynski abstained.

Motion carried 3-0.

**A Motion to approve the payment of the bills** in the total amount of **\$373,175.14, (Payrolls) \$139,508.22 and (Accounts Payable) \$233,666.92, with the exception of Check #13074 to Colours Inc,** was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember James. Councilmembers John Telencho and Lesley Butczynski abstained.

Motion carried 3-0.

**A motion to approve Resolution # 1 of 2026,** a Resolution of the City Council for the City of Nanticoke confirming the Appointments and Re-appointments of Mayor Kevin Coughlin to various Boards, Authorities and Commissions of the City of Nanticoke was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to approve Resolution #2 of 2026,** a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the City Clerk Salary of \$8,000.00 per year as set by Mayor Kevin Coughlin was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to approve Resolution #3 of 2026,** a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, County of Luzerne , Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Re-appointing Donna Wall as a member of the Lower South Valley Land Bank Board of Directors was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to accept the Resignation Letter** from Police Officer, , Kyle Bielecki, effective January 2, 2026 was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to accept the Resignation Letter** from Police Officer, Anthony Waitkus, effective January 2, 2026 was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember O'Connor.

Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Mr. Gary Gronkowski** of 36 Birch Ave asked Council to please do something about the noise coming from the diesel refrigerated trucks that idle 24/7 days a week since November at Spreetail. Mr. Gronkowski stated it is not just the noise it is the trembling of the walls in the house facing the warehouse. Mr. Gronkowski stated he and his wife have been sleeping apart to get away from the disturbance of the refrigerated trucks; he sleeps on the couch and his wife

sleeps in a spare bedroom. Mr. Gronkowski asked that Council does more than just send an email to Spreetail; the city needs a noise ordinance. President Joseph Dougherty agrees that city residents should not have to live with this and he suggests that the Mayor and Solicitor go see them personally and schedule a meeting with the developers to discuss this issue. Mr. Gronkowski also stated that the truck traffic using Kosciuszko Street rather than the South Valley Parkway is also a nuisance. Mayor Coughlin agrees that they need to be spoken to and Spreetail should be good neighbors to the city residents. President Joseph Dougherty stated the police are out to stop the truck traffic by fining them on each occurrence if they are using the incorrect routes in and out of the city.

**Mr. Michael Zaremba** of 20 Cherry Drive stated Mr. Gronkowski covered everything on the issues with the refrigerated trucks idling 24/7 and he questioned what is going on with the garbage because when he called Berkheimer, they were unable to answer any of his questions. Finance Director Jennifer Polito explained due to the transition to Berkheimer, there is a delay in sending out the Refuse Bills for 2026 until Feb. 1, 2026. Jennifer stated Berkheimer was unable to answer your questions because they are still in the set-up phase and residents have not been issued identifying numbers as of yet. Jennifer stated once the bills are issued, residents will be issued an account number and the bills will have a phone number and website printed on them for customer service.

#### **Correspondence-**

Resignation Letter from Police Officer, , Kyle Bielecki, effective January 2, 2026.

Resignation Letter from Police Officer, Anthony Waitkus, effective January 2, 2026.

#### **Announcements-**

The mailing of the Refuse Bills will be delayed due to the transition of Billing and Collections to Berkheimer and Associates. We will post updates on the city's Facebook page and website ([www.nanticokecity.com](http://www.nanticokecity.com)) as soon as we have more information. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Nanticoke City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

#### **Councilmember Comments-**

**Vice President Telencho** wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he is looking forward to be back on Council and to work with everyone as a team.

**Councilmember James** congratulated Mayor Coughlin on his re-election and Lesley and John for being elected back on Council. Mr. James thanked Bill Brown and Joe Nalepa and wished them best of luck in their future endeavors. Mr. James stated we have a good team to work with and we will do all in our power to settle this issue with Spreetail. Mr. James thanked Rick with clearing the roads after the last storm; he knows too well how hard it is to remove ice off the roads. Mr. James noticed Mr. Shaw, head of Nanticoke Ambulance, in the audience and thanked him for his report each month and stated we appreciate you and the ambulance team.

Mr. James congratulated Joe Dougherty on becoming President of Council and stated we could not have gotten a better man to take over President Brown.

**Councilmember Butczynski** had no further comments.

**Councilmember O'Connor** congratulated Mayor Coughlin on his re-election and Lesley and John for being elected back on Council. Mr. O'Connor thanked Bill Brown and Joe Nalepa and wished them best of luck in their future endeavors. Mr. O'Connor thanked the DPW department for a great job clearing the streets during the ice/snow storm. Mr. O'Connor stated we will take care of the issue with Spreetail.

**President Dougherty** congratulated Mayor Coughlin and welcomed back Mark, Lesley and John. Mr. Dougherty stated he looks forward to working with Council and thanked them for nominating him as President. Mr. Dougherty wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated God Bless you all.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

Councilmember James made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember O'Connor, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, Jan 21, 2026.**

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**