



## NANTICOKE CITY

### WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 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, John Pietrzyk, Lesley Butczynski, Cameron Cox, Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall and Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**A Motion** to award the CDBG 2015 ADA Ramp improvements to Artistic Excavating in the amount of \$157,313.00.  
(Lowest Bidder)

Jennifer Polito announced that the month of April is Fair Housing month at the City of Nanticoke and read a Fair Housing statement explaining the Fair Housing Act and informed the City residents that she is the Fair Housing Officer.

The Mayor had a Proclamation regarding the Fair Housing Act that was read by the President of council, William Brown.

#### **Administrative Updates-**

Donna had the following updates:

- ✚ 2018 CDBG project of paving of State St. & Fairchild St. with necessary ADA ramps went out for bid and will be completed this summer.
- ✚ The PA American Water Co. has started their repairs on Main St. and expect the completion to be by the end of May 2019 and then they will pave Main St.
- ✚ Kosciuszko St. will be paved school lets out for the summer break.
- ✚ Field Street improvements have begun and will be paved this summer by the COG.
- ✚ Donna state she and Ann attended a conference that was very informational regarding HR issues, dealing with unions and collective bargaining contracts and how to deal with employee drug issues.
- ✚ The sewer issue on Green St. has been repaired.

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

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

**Vice President of Council, Kevin Coughlin**, suggested we have someone from our engineering firm at the meetings to address questions that the public may have instead of making them wait until our next meeting for an answer.

## **Old Business**

**Grohowski property at 129 Loomis Street in Nanticoke** - Jennifer Polito received a statement from NE Revenue (Collector of delinquent taxes), the property is still in John's name, held up in probate court since he did not have a Will. There are back taxes owed to Luzerne County, GNA School District and the City of Nanticoke. The total taxes owed from 2016 through 2018 totals \$5,213.58. The City's portion is \$1,273.01 as of 3/21/2019.

**Espy Creek drainage issue** – There were two clearings at Prospect St. The first clearing was by PennDot for the roundabout construction and they did put up storm water blankets to control run off when they begin excavating. Earth Conservancy has cleared trees at Prospect, Espy and the Bliss area to do stream restoration on Espy Creek. They just completed installing 1,000 feet of stream bed which they have permits to do so and this should help with the water flow. The work that PennDot will be doing on the roundabout is closest to that house and the water run off issue from Espy Creek is addressed in their permit to do work. Donna asked Mr. Renko if that is the house he was concerned about and he said no, it was the one on the other side of the street and Donna stated PennDot is aware of the issue and is working on a resolution for the homeowner.

## **New Business**

**A Motion** to approve the March 20, 2019 meeting minutes was made Mr. Pietrzyk, second Mr. Coughlin. Motion carried.

**A Motion** to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$318,786.90 (Payroll \$98,996.13 and Payables \$219,790.77) was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion carried.

**A Motion** to award the CDBG 2015 ADA Ramp improvements to Artistic Excavating in the amount of \$157,313.00. (Lowest Bidder) was made by Mr. Coughlin second by Ms. Butczynski. Motion carried.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Mr. Mike Stachowiak** asked Council if anything has been done to repair the bridge on River St. in Honey Pot since it was last inspected in 2008. He said back then the inspection report recommended replacing the bridge within 2 years and that was 11 years ago. President Brown said we will look into this issue with the engineers. Mike then inquired about the sidewalks by the Culinary Institute and if the contractor who installed them wrong back in 2014 is going to be held liable and make them fix them or are they going to be fixed with taxpayer money. President Brown replied we will look into this matter.

**Ms. Julianna Zarzycki** asked Council if there was any way to form a volunteer group and clean up the City. She stated it is a mess. She asked if the Prisoners could be used for that type of cleanup. President Brown replied we can look into this and try to get volunteers to help clean up the City. Julianna said we need to start holding property owners accountable to pick up trash in their tree lawns and streets. Councilor Lesley Butczynski stated that the City's DPW workers have begun cleaning up Main Street and it looks great.

**Mr. John Telencho** asked Council what is taking so long for the Dollar General open, the Zoning board met back in October if 2018 he stated. He asked if they are still coming to Nanticoke. Donna said they filed all their permits but there was a death in the builder's family which has delayed the opening of the store. John asked why we were awarded nothing from the gaming grants (LSA) this year. Donna and President Brown said we applied to take the Ellis building down and that is all we can do. Donna thinks it is because the funding amount to disburse has decreased. John stated the Mayor should be at the Council meeting and have reports once a month per the Home Rule Charter. Donna stated that City's departments give reports monthly to the Mayor which are on the back board and on the website for viewing. Those reports are her monthly reports to Council and the residents of Nanticoke. John said we should note that in the minutes when they are available for viewing because not everyone in town attends the meetings. Jennifer stated she will start noting when the reports are available for viewing in the minutes each month.

**Mr. Anthony Saracino** wanted an update on the ownership of Beach Street & W. Grove Streets. He asked if the City knows if they were abandoned. Attorney Finnegan stated they are City Streets. Anthony asked if the property owner across from Riley Plating was allowed to have the white fence that high and Donna stated yes because it is commercial property.

**Mrs. Wendy Wiaterowski** asked Council if she could read a response she had prepared on behalf of her late husband, Mayor Richard Wiaterowski, who Mr. Hank Marks wrote a letter to the editor of the Citizens Voice about on March 27, 2019. She wanted to give clarification on some of the false statements that Mr. Marks wrote in his letter to the paper. Council allowed her to proceed.

**Correspondence-**

None

**Announcements-**

**The Citywide Yard Sale** has been scheduled for Saturday May 18, 2019 (rain date Sunday May 19, 2019). If you are interested in having your name and home address added to our list, please call City Hall between 8:30 am & 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at 570-735-2800 ext. 101, and Patty will add you to the list.

**Nanticoke Real Estate Tax Payments** can be paid here at City Hall on Thursday April, 25<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Pearl from Berkeimer will be set up in the Council chambers.

**The Bridge crossing into West Nanticoke** is slated to be closed from April 8<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup> and reopen on April 13, 2019.

**Meeting Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed, April 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM

---

Jennifer W. Polito  
City Clerk