

NANTICOKE CITY



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2018

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00PM

Call to Order: Atty. William Finnegan for President of Council William Brown due to being under the weather but present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer Polito

The following were present: Councilors, William Brown, Lesley Butczynski, John Pietrzyk, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito, and City Manager, Donna Wall.

WORK SESSION

A **Motion** to approve Resolution #1 of 2018, authorizing the appropriate City Official to submit a (RCAP) Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 for the Nantego Senior Apartments.

A **Motion** to approve Resolution #2 of 2018, approving the Mayor's appointments to the City of Nanticoke Planning Commission and Zoning Board.

A **Motion** to accept the bid for the sale of property at 140 Pine Street.

Administrative Updates

Executive Order #2 of 2018, was prepared by Mayor Wiaterowski to hire Blake Brown as a Reserve Police Officer. (For Information Only - No vote or motion is needed by council.)

Preconstruction Conference for the Sewer Project on W. Main Street was held at City Hall on February 14, 2018 and the project is slated to begin Mar 1, 2018.

Hillcrest and Enterprise Streets are out for Bid to be paved this spring with 2013 CDBG Funds.

Motion was made by Ms. Butczynski, seconded by Mr. Pietrzyk to adjourn the work session. Meeting adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only

Mr. Telencho asked why our agenda is not specific with an explanation on what each item that is going to be discussed each meeting. He asked for clarification on the items listed in the Work Session and Donna explained each item in more depth. Mr. Telencho asked what the comment "For Information Only" meant after the Executive Order #2. Donna explained that that comment is put there so council does not think they need to vote on the Executive Order. We put the Executive Orders on the agenda to be transparent with everyone and the Mayor has the right to hire an employee and not ask for council's permission. However, the mayor wants council aware of his decisions. Mr. Telencho also asked what streets in 2018 are going to be paved with the PIB loan and Donna replied that has not been yet determined because we are waiting for the COG to decide whose streets are getting done this year with the COG equipment. We do know that we are next in line to take advantage of being a member of the COG and being able to use its resources.

Mr. Joe John asked why Blake is called a Reserve Officer and not a Part Time Officer. Donna stated that the correct title for a part time officer is a Reserve Officer.

Mr. Mike Marcella asked about the roads that are being done with CDBG funds and does the city budget in the general fund for paving. Donna stated CDBG is used for low to moderate income areas in the city only and we have the PIB, COG and Highway Aid funds for paving, no general funds this year.

Mr. Gianuzzi questioned why we are trying to get a grant for the Nantego apartments when we already have housing in the city. Donna stated it is for seniors 55 and over and Mr. Gianuzzi stated that the others were supposed to be for seniors and now anyone can live there. He is concerned about the parking becoming a bigger issue than it already is in that area of town. Donna said there is parking coordinated with this plan but she is not sure how, that we are just trying to secure the funds before we go any further with this project.

NEW BUSINESS

A **Motion** to approve the January 17, 2018 meeting minutes and was tabled to next meeting (Mar 7, 2018) due to not having enough people to vote for the approval.

A **Motion** to ratify the bills in the amount of \$396,074.11 was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Ms. Butczynski.

Payroll (\$194,981.53) Payables (\$201,092.58.) Motion carried.

A **Motion** to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$275,967.69 was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Payroll (\$102,360.57) Payables (\$173,607.12) Motion carried.

A **Motion** to approve Resolution #1 of 2018, authorizing the appropriate City Official to submit a (RCAP) Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 for the Nantego Senior Apartments was made by Ms. Butczynski, seconded by Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion Carried.

A **Motion** to approve Resolution #2 of 2018, approving the Mayor's appointments to the City of Nanticoke Planning Commission and Zoning Board was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Ms. Butczynski. Motion Carried

A **Motion** to accept the bid of \$4,000.00 for the sale of property at 140 Pine Street was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion Carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Telencho wanted to know why do we make ordinances and do not enforce them. He feels we need more Ordinance enforcement in the City. There has been 3 snow storms and the same homes and business in town especially the library, Chestnut St. And Prospect St. do not shovel the sidewalks after a storm. It turns to ice and people are forced to walk in the streets and that is dangerous stated Mr. Telencho. Also he stated the garbage and cigarette butts are all over the area down by Antonio's and throughout the downtown. He asked why we are not enforcing our own rules and the town looks dirty. Donna stated that Jack has responded to numerous calls especially the area around Burger King and has asked them to clear the sidewalks. Mr. Telencho feels we need more help enforcing our ordinances to help clean up the town. He also asked why Nanticoke City DPW workers are filling holes on Main Street which is a state road and who is paying for that. Donna said it was her call and she instructed the City's DPW to go out and patch holes and the city is paying for it. Cold patch is inexpensive and she felt that it needed to be done immediately for the safety of the residents and their vehicles. PENNDOT is not filling holes after every storm, they are waiting until spring. Mr. Telencho inquired about the blighted properties and how are we going to get rid of them since the City does not have a Redevelopment Authority like Pittston and Wilkes Barre. Donna stated that she was just at a meeting with the administrators and mayors of those municipalities and they are all trying to come up with a solution that would help each other tackle the blighted properties in the area.

Mr. Marks asked Council if they care about the future of their city because your administration is letting the city fall apart. Why is there no funds to clean up the city and pave roads Mr. Marks asked council? Mr. Marks answered his own question by stating that this administration has done nothing about decreasing costs in the following areas: Fire Department, Police Department and the Cadillac Health Insurance plans offered to its employees. He states we do not need such large full time fire and police departments in a town of less than 10,000 residents. Tom Wall addressed Mr. Marks by stating that it is not that easy. The city is bound by contractual agreements and we just cannot take away health insurance plans, cut forces in half or demote to part time without going through the unions first. Mr. Marks replied people who come back after years cannot believe how bad Nanticoke has deteriorated. Tom said the blame

should be put on those people who left their towns instead of staying to help out the town. Mr. Marks feels the Home Rule needs to be thrown out and a new council should be voted in and then things may improve.

Correspondence – None

Announcements- None

Meeting Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32PM.

Next Meeting, Wednesday March 7, 2018 at 7:00PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk