

## CITY OF NANTICOKE



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

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

**Call to Order:** President, William Brown

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**The following were present:** Council Members, William Brown, Joseph Nalepa, Joseph Dougherty, Kenneth James, Mark O'Connor, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

#### **WORK SESSION: New Business: (action Items)**

**A Motion to approve Ordinance #2 of 2025, (First Reading),** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the May 20, 2025 Municipal Primary Election Ballot to eliminate Section 2.10 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter which provides that City Council Memembers may not serve more than three (3) elected, consecutive terms.

**A motion to approve Resolution # 1 of 2025,** a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania authorizing an Official ACT 537 Plan Update Revision (limited Scope).

**A motion to approve Resolution # 2 of 2025,** 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 # 3 of 2025,** a Resolution of the City Council for the City of Nanticoke amending Resolution # 15 of 2024.

**A motion to approve** the purchase of 2 new servers and 23 computers due to being obsolete and not being upgradable to Windows 11 by October 31, 2025 in the amount of \$59,603.00 from Golden Business Machines, Inc., using Special Revenue Funds (COSTARS Pricing).

**A motion to accept** the resignation of Lieutenant, Keith Munson of the City of Nanticoke Fire Department, effective February 26, 2025.

**A Motion to approve** to have an Act 305 Study to amend Pension Ordinance for Graduated COLAs to include those on disability pensions.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:**

-Mayor Kevin Coughlin executed the following Executive Orders pursuant to Article VII, Section 7.01 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter:

- a. **Executive Order # 1 of 2025**, re-appointing Christina L. Josefowicz to the Nanticoke City Municipal Authority.
- b. **Executive Order # 2 of 2025**, re-appointing John Gregorowicz to the Nanticoke Police Civil Service Board.
- c. **Executive Order # 3 of 2025**, re-appointing Larry Karnes to the Nanticoke Fire Civil Service Board.
- d. **Executive Order # 4 of 2025**, re-appointing Tony Prushinski to the Nanticoke City Housing Authority.

### **City Manager, Donna Wall had the following updates for Council:**

1. The Sewer project on College Street is completed.
2. Brian Stahl of Northpoint returned Donna Wall's phone call regarding the refrigeration trucks idling in the parking lot at Spreetail. Even though Northpoint no longer owns the property, they do manage it and he stated that there are no plans in 2025 for the refrigeration trucks to use the Spreetail property.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. John Telencho asked why Council is putting the question about removing term limits for Councilmembers on the ballot again when residents already voted it down. President Brown feels that a large number of residents had to misunderstand the question for Councilmember Butczynski to win with the number of votes she had. President Brown stated we are going to explain the question better so there is no misunderstandings. President Brown stated he had numerous people state something was not right with the election results on the ballot questions. Mr. Telencho asked if the 5-year rule comes into effect for re-entering the question on the ballot and Attorney Finnegan replied that pertains to the first 5 years of the Home Rule Charter. President Brown stated that we are one of the only municipalities that have term limits for Councilmembers.

Mr. Mike Marcella asked why another 305 Study on the COLA when no one qualified. President Brown stated we are changing the ordinance to go back to 2006. Attorney Finnegan stated this will be a graduated level of COLA's for retirees.

### **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

**A Motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2024** Work Session/Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to approve** the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$783,898.92 [(Payrolls) \$122,002.36 (Accounts Payable) \$661,896.56]** was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried 4-0, Councilmember Dougherty abstained. A written memorandum for disclosing a conflict of interest is attached to these minutes.

**A Motion to approve Ordinance #2 of 2025, (First Reading)**, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke to place a question on the May 20,2025 Municipal Primary Election Ballot to eliminate Section 2.10 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter which provides that City Council Memembers may not serve more than three (3) elected, consecutive terms was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember James. Motion carried unanimously.

**A motion to approve Resolution # 1 of 2025**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania authorizing an Official ACT 537 Plan Update Revision (limited Scope) was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Motion carried unanimously.

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**A Motion to approve** to have an Act 305 Study to amend Pension Ordinance for Graduated COLAs to include those on disability pensions was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Dougherty.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Ms. Gary Gronkowsy** of Birch Ave thanked Council and stated his questions were already answered.

**Mr. Len Golemb** of Agostino Drive thanked Council for the update on the issue at Spreetail.

**Mr. Larry Beck** of 225 E. Green Street questioned how the revisions to the handicap parking ordinance were going and Attorney Finnegan replied we are still having discussions and will have a meeting to make changes. Most like we will be amending the ordinance replied Attorney Finnegan but it takes time. We must advertise, needs 2 readings and does not go into effect until 30 days after the second reading, it won't happen overnight.

#### **Correspondence-**

Resignation Letter from Lieutenant, Keith Munson of the City of Nanticoke Fire Department, effective February 26, 2025.

#### **Announcements-**

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

#### **Councilmember Comments-**

**Vice President Nalepa** asked Chief Roke if we got any of the new cruisers and Chief Replied yes, 2 ford explorers are in service and we just received a Chevy Tahoe through DOJ Grant currently being upfitted. Mr. Nalepa wished Keith Munson good luck with his career at Wilkes-Barre.

**Councilmember James** wished Keith Munson good luck with his career at Wilkes-Barre, told everyone to stay warm and stated Go Irish!!

**Councilmember Dougherty** had no further comments.

**Councilmember O'Connor** had no further comments.

**President William Brown** wished Keith Munson good luck with his career at Wilkes-Barre Fire Dept. President Brown stated he knew Keith's Father and worked with him here at Nanticoke and then stated Go Penn State!!

**Meeting Adjournment-**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.**

**Next Meeting:**

Work Session/Council Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025  
@ 6:00 pm.

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**