



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

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

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Mayor Kevin Coughlin read a Proclamation to recognize Ava Simms and Lilyana Lukasewicz for their efforts to clean up garbage of their street. The Mayor thanked the girls for their efforts. (see attached).

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

The following were present: Council Members, William Brown, John Telencho, Lesley Butczynski via Telephone, Mike Marcella, Joseph Nalepa, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito and Solicitor, Attorney Finnegan.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**A Motion to award** the Demolition of 1206-1208 Prospect Street to MEI Demo & Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$18,500.00 (Base Rate of \$16,000 and Option Rate of \$2,500).

#### **Administrative Updates-**

The Mayor has executed Executive Order #12 of 2021 and has sworn in Interim Fire Chief, Mark Boncal as the City of Nanticoke's Fire Chief; effective March 22, 2021. President Brown congratulated Chief Boncal on his promotion and told the Mayor that Mark was a good choice.

**Donna Wall** updated Council and residents on the following:

- Donna stated the Veteran Banner Program has been a great success with 62 applications to date and applications can still be submitted up until Friday, April 9, 2021.
- Liquid Fuels Audit on the Highway Aid Fund was completed and there was 1 finding. The finding is minor and was corrected immediately after it happened. A bill was paid from the wrong Fund and corrected in a timely manner.
- The City has applied for \$425,000 from the State Facility Grant from Luzerne County and the grant funds will be used for Phase 1 of the East Field Street Ramp project.
- The City of Nanticoke, through Community Development Funds, has 9 of 10 small business grants available through the Nanticoke LEAP Program. As of right now 1 business in Nanticoke has applied for the grant.
- The City has been awarded approximately \$1,019,527.00 from the American Rescue Funding Grant. Guidelines have not been released but it was made known that the grant could not be used to fund Pensions.
- Phase 1 of the Streetscape will be on a Virtual Public Display on April 14, 2021 and April 17, 2021 with exhibits and project description. Come see Donna for more information

about the Phase 1 of the Streetscape. The virtual display will be on PennDOT's website until April 28, 2021.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Marcella 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 March 17, 2021 minutes was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$839,677.75 (Payroll(s) \$95,354.55 and Payables \$744,323.20) was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to award** the Demolition of 1206-1208 Prospect Street to MEI Demo & Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$18,500.00 (Base Rate of \$16,000 and Option Rate of \$2,500) was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Mr. Ron Knapp** thanked the Mayor for acknowledging the two young girls for their efforts to clean up garbage off their street and then addressed Donna Wall regarding her employment Title, specifically asking if she is the Interim City Manager and Donna replied yes. Mr. Knapp asked why are you "Interim", who is doing her old duties and is her old position open to fill? President Brown informed Mr. Knapp that at the Council meetings he is to address Council and told Donna she does not have to answer Mr. Knapp questions. Mr. Knapp then referred to the City's Refuse Fees, specifically residents who do not pay the annual Refuse fee. Mr. Knapp stated that he has a letter from a resident who has 5 court dockets, 2017 through 2021, of a resident who has not paid their Refuse fees and he stated this is a concern of his. Mr. Knapp asked Council that if a resident does not pay the annual Refuse fee is the City obligated to pick up the trash and President Brown responded yes. Mr. Knapp stated this is exactly the reason he is bringing this to Council's attention and something needs to be done because he is tired of being the "Whipping Boy" for residents who do not pay their Refuse Fees. Mr. Brown stated that Council and the Administration are aware of the issue and Attorney Finnegan stated they have looked into different mechanisms to handle past due accounts but are not ready to make it public knowledge as of yet, until a decision is made. Mr. Knapp then asked for a number of past due accounts by name and President Brown said Council will have that information at the

next meeting. Mr. Knapp replied “Good”, because he is going to keep bringing up this issue at the Council meetings until the City does something about it.

**Correspondence-**

Letter from Luzerne County Community College thanking the Nanticoke Fire Department. (See Attached)

**Announcements-**

\*\*\*Reminder\*\*\*The Nanticoke City Real Estate Tax payments are due at the **Discount** rate by Monday, April 15, 2021. Due to the Pandemic, Berkheimer will not be sending a Representative out to City Hall to collect the taxes in person. If you mail in your payment with a self-addressed and paid envelope, a receipt of payment will be sent back to you.

**Councilmember Comments-**

**Vice President John Telencho** gave an update on the April 1, 2021 meeting regarding the Villa property stating that the demolition date is scheduled for June 1, 2021 and the new building will have seven units of which two are already taken by a Physical Therapist and a Pharmacy. He stated these units will move fast. Vice President Telencho congratulated Mark Boncal on his promotion to Chief of the Fire Department.

**Councilmember Butczynski** stated she is good and has no further comments.

**Councilmember Marcella** had no other comments.

**Councilmember Nalepa** thanked the DPW Department for the improvements at the park; it looks very nice and congratulated Mark Boncal.

**President Brown** had no other comments.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

Councilmember Nalepa made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Marcella, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, Apr 21, 2021 @ 7:00 pm.**

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**