



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

### WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

15 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

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, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

Excused from meeting: Council Member, John Pietrzyk.

At 6:55 pm, Attorney Finnegan held a Bid Auction for 168 W. Broad Street and asked the audience if anyone was interested in purchasing this property from the City. No one entered a bid so he then turned the meeting over to President Brown to proceed with the Council meeting.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**Ordinance #9 of 2020 (First Reading)**, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing to amend it's Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law; agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities.

**Ordinance #10 of 2020**, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, extending the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the City of Nanticoke until terminated through Executive Order of the Mayor.

**A motion to award** the demolition of 29 Loomis Street to **SRI**, (lowest bidder) in the amount of \$10,500.00.

#### **Administrative Updates-**

- **Mayor Kevin Coughlin** has submitted the [July 2020 Department Reports](#) for Council's review. Jennifer Polito will have them posted on the City's website for public review by Thursday, August 20, 2020.

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

-Donna updated Council and residents on the Street paving projects in the City. Storm Basins are repaired on Mack and Pulaska Streets and they will be milled and paved this week. The next streets up for basin repair, milling and paving are Broad Street, Apollo Circle and Coal Street.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Telencho to adjourn the work session. Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR MEETING**    Comments from the Public agenda items only.            None

## Old Business

-Update on the issue of ownership of the Alley behind Center Street. Attorney Finnegan stated that after reviewing the deeds of the properties, the Alley behind Center Street is not owned by the City. With that being said, Attorney Finnegan stated the City has no legal interest in this issue and suggested the residents of Center Street either try to settle this issue with Mr. Oliver and if that does not work, consider hiring an attorney to settle this dispute. Many residents were not happy to hear this and began asking more questions. Attorney Finnegan answered a few questions but then instructed President Brown to move on with the Council meeting and after the meeting, he would meet with the residents for a further discussion.

-Update on the "Thank You" letter to the US Government Officials in Washington requested by City Resident Ronald Knapp; The Mayor has this task on his desk to do and a letter will be drafted shortly.

## New Business

**A Motion** to approve the August 5, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried 3-0. Councilmember Brown abstained.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$330,900.47 (Payroll(s) \$104,447.98 and Payables \$226,452.49) was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Telencho. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance #9 of 2020 (First Reading)**, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing to amend it's Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law; agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance #10 of 2020**, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, extending the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the City of Nanticoke until terminated through Executive Order of the Mayor was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to award the demolition of 29 Loomis Street to **SRI**, (lowest bidder) in the amount of \$10,500.00 was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

**Mrs. Dorothy Weolfolk** of 1118 Hanover Street addressed Council with a complaint regarding speeding on Hanover Street. She stated speeding has always been a problem on her road but since it was paved it has now become a speedway with speeds over 50-mph in a 25-mph zone. She suggests putting more stop signs on Hanover Street to slow down traffic. Dorothy stated she spoke to Officer Amos Vanderoff and put in a formal complaint about the excessive speeding. She is very concerned for the residents who live on Hanover Street and that there is going to be a severe accident one day if the speeding is not controlled. Chief Roke stated that we cannot just put up stop signs. Donna Wall stated a traffic study will need to be done to see if the State approves the request. President Brown agreed with her and asked Chief Roke to look into this matter and do some speed enforcement on Hanover Street. Chief Roke said he will do speed enforcement on Hanover beginning early next week. Mr. Gianuzzi stated he lives on Main Street and is having the same issues with speeding. Chief Roke replied he had officers perform speed enforcement on Main Street and numerous fines and citations were issued. Mr. Ron Kanpp suggested purchasing one of those machines that reads your speed

as you pass by to try to deter people from speeding. Chief Roke stated he has literature on the machines and will look into the City purchasing one of them.

**Mr. John Barno** wished to address the issue of the alley behind Center Street and President Brown stated Attorney Finnegan will speak to everyone involved with this matter after the Council meeting.

**Mr. Hank Marks** opened by saying that stop signs do slow down traffic and then informed Council on when and why he began attending the school board meetings and after starting a committee he was able to have new people elected to the school board to make necessary changes to control spending. He says he has hope for the City with the next election. Mr. Marks also stated he now knows why the City pushed to get out of Act 47 and asked Council if they knew why. He stated the City should have stayed in Act 47 because the State then controlled what was settled in contract negotiations with the unions. Mr. Marks stated the City must start negotiating and taking from the unions instead of giving them what they want because the residents cannot afford high raises and benefits. Mr. Marks then commented on the 3 increases in taxes during the past administration and President Brown clarified some of Mr. Marks's comments and thanked Hank for his comments.

**Mr. Lou Gianuzzi** asked for updates on the benches, the Villa and the downtown streetscape. President Brown stated the issue with Mr. Alberola and the benches has been resolved. Vice President Telencho stated he has spoken to Sara Hailstone, a consultant for the Municipal Authority and she has been keeping him updated. Vice President Telencho stated as for the streetscape there are two owners who are in litigation regarding the sale of their properties and Donna Wall stated during the pandemic, the courts have been closed so everything is delayed. Vice President Telencho stated as for the Villa, the sale of the property is 90% complete and an environmentalist was there last Friday. Vice President Telencho stated as for the Bowlarama, an RFQ went out looking for a developer and "For Sale" signs will be posted on the property.

**Mr. Ronald Knapp** had a complaint about garbage on Main Street by the LCTA pickup and cleaning up the City. He suggests that the City put garbage cans throughout the City to control littering and have the LCTA put up a Cube on Main Street with a garbage receptacle. Donna Wall stated LCTA will not put one up, the City needs to find a grant for that because LCTA does not have the funds. Mr. Knapp closed with saying that when he brings issues to these meetings he expects to be taken seriously. President Brown responded by suggesting starting up a Civic Pride Group to help with some of the issues in the City and the Mayor stated he would like to form a Blight Committee and is looking for volunteers.

**Correspondence-** None

**Announcements-** None

**Councilmember Comments-**

All Council members were good and had no further comments.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

Councilmember Butczynski made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Telencho, roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, Sept 2, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.**

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**Jennifer W. Polito**  
**City Clerk**