

NANTICOKE CITY



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2018

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00PM

Call to Order: President of Council William Brown
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer Polito

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

WORK SESSION-

A motion to approve Resolution #5 of 2018 authorizing the appropriate City Official to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Municipal Authority.

Administrative Updates

-Donna updated Council and residents on the opening and closing of the roundabouts.
-Donna updated Council and residents on the LSV COG meeting that was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Hanover Township was awarded the COG's 2017 LSA Grant and the COG has purchased 2018 P/U Truck, Leveling System, Auger and Extensions, and a Skid steer with brush attachments. Donna stated all this equipment plus what has been purchased in the past will benefit the municipalities so they can save money on the milling and paving of their roads. Donna also stated, Nanticoke is first in line this year to utilize the COG to pave Field Street, W. Union Street, and Hay Street.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz, second by Mr. Pietrzyk to adjourn the work session. Work session adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Telencho asked Council if the COG is going to purchase a Street Sweeper and Jennifer replied not with this LSA Grant and Donna said they have spoken about getting one with future grants. Mr. Telencho stated the area by CVS is a mess and needs a good cleaning.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the April 4, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Coughlin second by Mr. Pietrzyk as long as Jennifer corrects the statement that said the Coffee's were dumping garbage behind their property per Mr. Spear.
Motion carried.

A Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$391,077.66 was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz, second by Mr. Coughlin. Payroll (\$100,980.13) Payables (\$290,097.53.) Motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution #5 of 2018 authorizing the appropriate City Official to approve the Mayor's appointments and reappointments to the Municipal Authority was made by Mr. Coughlin and second by Mr. Pietrzyk.
Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Rob Spear and Kathy Murphy of 162 S. Hanover Street wants to make a clarification on the statement made in the April 4, 2018 minutes that states “Rob replied it is not just them dumping there”. Mr. Spear says this insinuates that he said the Coffee’s are dumping garbage behind their property and they are not. So to make this clear, it is not the Coffee’s dumping the garbage on their property, it is other residents dumping on the Coffee’s property. Mr. Spear also asked Council if they drove by the area on Market St. where Curry Donuts is to notice how dark it is at night. Councilor, Mrs. Mackiewicz stated she did and she agrees that the area needs more lighting. Mr. Spear stated there are no street lights in that area. Mr. Brown mention that possibly putting up a solar light may help. All agree that there is a need for more lighting in that area.

Mr. Telencho wanted an update on the ADA ramps that were installed improperly and approved by the passed engineering firm. He asked if they have been fixed and Donna replied yes. He asked who is paying for it and Mr. Brown stated we are. Mr. Telencho wanted to know why we do not go after Penn Eastern since they approved the ramps even though they were installed improperly. Donna stated it will cost more to litigate this issue so we are just paid to have it completed or the City would lose future CDBG funding. We had a short time frame to do this, Donna stated. Mr. Gianuzzi asked Council why they were not installed properly and why were the inspectors not out periodically following the contractors to make sure the job was completed properly. Mr. Brown said they were inspected and we are not happy with a few streets that were paved and now have cracks in them that were signed off on by the engineers. Donna Wall stated we are having the cracks in the new asphalt repaired by the contractor once the weather warms up. Mr. Telencho also wanted an update on the Bowlarama and asked if it is going up for tax sale. Attorney Finnegan said it is, in September. Mr. Telencho asked Council WHY the City just does not purchase it already. Attorney Finnegan said we do not have the money it will take to purchase and demolish, over 1 million dollars stated Attorney Finnegan. Mr. Telencho said to purchase the property and just sell it. Why do we need to demo it? Attorney Finnegan said if we purchase the property we are morally responsible to take it down and we are not aware of any buyers who are interested in purchasing this property. Mr. Telencho referred to an article written by Melanie Mizenko who interviewed Attorney Finnegan stating everything we cannot do and asked why we do not get answers on what can be done. Mr. Telencho asked how Ashley got rid of the property they had and President Brown responded that DEP was brought in because of environmental issues. Mr. Telencho asked if the Bowlarama was tested and Code Officer Jack Minsavage said yes it was and no issues were found. Mr. Joe John wanted Council to clarify what needs to be done if the City acquires the property. Attorney Finnegan said the City simply does not have the money to do all that is needed to be completed in order to purchase and demo the property. Mr. Brown suggested we wait until it goes up for tax sale. Attorney Finnegan stated that Scaleat is current on a payment plan which he has violated and if he does not pay his fines, a lien will be filed. Mr. Telencho asked why we cannot get grants like Wilkes Barre did with the Sterling Hotel. Donna stated we are trying to get grants as they open up.

Mr. Hank Marks stated he had a major issue to bring to everyone’s attention that is very alarming to him. He ran into two people who used to be residents of Nanticoke and both stated they no longer live in Nanticoke because the town is falling apart. Hank Marks stated we are allowing the Blacks and Hispanics in and it is driving out the good people. Mr. Brown told Hank that the City cannot discriminate against the people moving into the city. Mr. Marks stated we are turning into Hazleton by letting these people in.

Correspondence –

None

Announcements-

The Nanticoke Historical Society presents **Virtual Tour #4**, so come join us in a trip back into the time and see the way Nanticoke used to be. Explore the streets of old Nanticoke through pictures and video of things and places long since gone. Date is Sunday Arpil 22, 2018 at 3:00 pm at St. Faustina.

Meeting Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32PM.

Next Meeting, Wednesday May 2, 2018 at 7:00PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk