



NANTICOKE CITY

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2019

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00 PM

Call to Order: Vice President of Council, Kevin Coughlin

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

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

Excused: President of Council, William Brown.

WORK SESSION-

Ordinance # 4 of 2019 (Second Reading) - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the 2020 Budget. **(Polito)**

Ordinance # 5 of 2019 (Second Reading) - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke establishing the millage rate of taxation for 2020. **(Polito)**

Ordinance # 6 of 2019 (Second Reading) - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending the Earned Income Tax rate for residents under Section 463-39(B) of the City of Nanticoke Code of Ordinances from 2.0% to 2.25%. **(Polito)**

Ordinance # 7 of 2019 (Second Reading)(Amended) - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending Ordinance #6 of 2015 decreasing the Sewer Rental and Maintenance fees for residential properties from \$150.00 to \$125.00 per year. **(Polito)**

Ordinance # 8 of 2019 (Second Reading)(Amended) - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending Ordinance #2 of 2013 which authorized, empowered and directed the proper City Officials of the City of Nanticoke to issue Refuse and Recycling bills for the City and which established a fee for bulk item pick-up, said amendment providing for an increase in said fees. **(Polito)**

Ordinance # 9 of 2019 (Second Reading) - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving an agreement with the Township of Plymouth for the provision of Fire Protection Services. **(Finnegan)**

Approve the bids submitted by snow plow contractors for 2019/2020.

Administrative Updates-

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

- CDBG Block Grant application will be submitted on 11/21/2019.
- The demolition of the Beer Distributor is complete and debris are removed.
- The demolition of the home on W. Church St that exploded has been completed and the clean-up will begin this week.
- W. Main Street project will be delayed until after the Thanksgiving holiday.
- The Paving in Honey Pot is completed.

- The Christmas Parade will be held on December 15, 2019. Anyone who wants to participate, line up begins at the GNA High School parking lot at 2:30 pm.

Mr. Marks asked Council what was the official calling on what caused the explosion at the home on W. Church St. and Vice President, Kevin Coughlin asked Chief Hazleton to answer this question. Chief Hazleton replied it was a gas leak.

Mr. Stachowiak asked for an update on the opening of the Honey Pot Bridge and the funding to fix it. Donna replied the bridge will be opening soon and we are trying to get grants to pay for the replacement of the bridge. Mr. Stachowiak referred to an article in the paper that stated once the construction at the corners of Main Street and Kosciuszko Street is completed, tractor trailers will not have such a hard time getting through that intersection. He asked are we allowing the truck traffic to enter Nanticoke up Kosciuszko Street? Donna said no, that must be a misprint in the paper. Once the South Valley Parkway opens back up, all trucks will use 29 to the South Valley Parkway to the warehouses, replied Donna Wall. Mr. Marks commented that no trucks should use Kosciuszko Street due to the houses and schools on that street. Mr. Knapp recommended putting up signs stating no tractor trailers beyond this point. Donna stated this issue will go away once the South Valley Parkway reopens. There is a lighting issue holding up the reopening. Mr. Pavelitz asked if the City's DPW department is responsible for opening the bridge and Donna said yes once they do some work. Mr. Pavelitz asked if it was evaluated and if so, what was the outcome? Donna replied yes and the evaluation report states the bridge must be replaced.

Mayor Nicole Colatosti-Mackiewicz has included her October 2019 monthly department reports. The reports are included in Council's packets, posted on the back board in Council Chambers and on the website.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Telencho asked if the \$20 dollar installment fee was taken off the Refuse ordinance because it was not stated in the minutes from the prior meeting. Jennifer replied yes. She said the amendment was voted on last meeting and the amended ordinance is on the back board. Mr. Telencho stated that it also should have been noted in the minutes. Mr. Telencho asked why are we raising taxes when the newspaper stated that Nanticoke is experiencing economic growth. Donna stated the newspaper is often misquoted and she is sure they were referring to the coming of the warehouses.

Old Business

None.

New Business

A Motion to approve the November 6, 2019 minutes was made by Ms. Butczynski, second Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion carried.

A Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$354,397.88 (Payroll \$101,655.36 and Payables \$252,742.52) was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Ms. Butczynski.

Motion Carried.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 4 of 2019 (Second Reading)** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the 2020 Budget was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Ms. Butczynski. Mr. Marcella voted No.

Motion Carried, 3-1.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 5 of 2019 (Second Reading)** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke establishing the millage rate of taxation for 2020 was made by Mr. Marcella, second by Ms. Butczynski.

Motion Carried, 4-0.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 6 of 2019 (Second Reading)** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending the Earned Income Tax rate for residents under Section 463-39(B) of the City of Nanticoke Code of Ordinances from 2.0% to 2.25% was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Mr. Marcella voted No.

Motion Carried, 3-1.

A Motion to amend **Ordinance # 7 of 2019 (Second Reading)** to eliminate the decrease in the sewer fees for non residential properties. The decrease in fees only applies to residential properties. The comment "So Moved" was made by Vice President Kevin Coughlin and a motion to amend the ordinance was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Ms. Butczynski.

Motion Carried, 4-0.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 7 of 2019 (Second Reading) (Amended)** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending Ordinance #6 of 2015 decreasing the Sewer Rental and Maintenance fees for residential properties from \$150.00 to \$125.00 per year was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Marcella.

Motion Carried, 4-0.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 8 of 2019 (Second Reading)(Amended to remove the \$20.00 installment fee)** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending Ordinance #2 of 2013 which authorized, empowered and directed the proper City Officials of the City of Nanticoke to issue Refuse and Recycling bills for the City and which established a fee for bulk item pick-up, said amendment providing for an increase in said fees was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Marcella.

Motion Carried, 4-0.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance # 9 of 2019 (Second Reading)** - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving an agreement with the Township of Plymouth for the provision of Fire Protection Services was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Marcella.

Motion Carried, 4-0.

A Motion to approve the **2019/2020 Snow Plow Contractor bids** per bid sheet was made by Ms. Butczynski, second Mr. Pietrzyk.

Motion Carried, 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Hank Marks started out by complimenting Councilor Butczynski for showing up to the meeting even though she was under the weather. He then commented on Senator Yudichak switching to the Independent party because he saw the "Light". Mr. Marks stated even though he is not happy with the EIT increase and he said he was going to write a letter to the newspaper; he has changed his mind and is going to let the new members of Council to prove themselves and he wishes them the best of luck.

Mr. Ronald Knapp wanted clarification on the amended ordinance # 8 of 2019 and does non residential properties mean the businesses in town and Jennifer replied yes. Attorney Finnegan stated nonresidential customers are billed by usage. He also stated West Main Street is sinking in leaving a huge pot hole. He would like someone to call to have this issue addressed. Donna said that is a Water Company project and the project has been shut down by PENNDOT and the Water Company will be out to fix it.

Mr. John Telencho asked why no one is enforcing the City's ordinance that prohibits truck traffic on Main & Kosciuszko Streets. Donna said right now that is there only way to the warehouses. Mr. Telencho asked who owns the advertising benches, the City? Jennifer replied no. Vice President Kevin Coughlin stated Dave

Alberola owns them. Mr. Telencho asked if we collect rent and is there an agreement. Donna said no but we will get an agreement.

Mr. Stachowiak withdrew his questions because Donna Wall answered them before the meeting. He did want to state that Main Street was not restored back to its smooth surface after the utilities did their upgrades and we need to start holding them accountable when their work is not completed correctly. Also, the road by Shultz's house on Main street is sunken in again, stated Mr. Stachowiak. He said PENNDOT needs to fix the vault to stop this issue from reoccurring. Mr. Joe John asked how long it has been since Main Street entering into Nanticoke was paved. Donna said maybe 2 years, it has not been too long. Mr. John said the road is full of cracks. Donna replied it is a state road, not Nanticoke's responsibility. He said someone needs to call PENNDOT to come fix and maintain the road. Mr. Pavelitz said it is the storm inlet not the vault on Main Street by Shultz's causing the road to sink. He says he looked into it when he worked for the City and the City needs to replace the storm inlet. Mr. Pavelitz also stated that the City's DPW department has done no road maintenance since he retired. Robert Rowles stated State Street to Main Street was just done. Mr. Pavelitz wants on paper what hot patching has been done in the City since he retired. Mr. Ron Knapp commented that cold patch is not a permanent fix. It washes out and the pot holes return. The road his Mom lives on that the DPW department fixed with cold patch has all reopened into pot holes again. He is concerned for his Mom and it is not good for the Fire trucks that use that road to enter their garage. Mr. Pavelitz stated the problem with the City's DPW department is there is no supervision over the workers.

Mr. Andrew Gegar had some budget questions. He first asked that the line item for Delinquent Real Estate taxes is \$50,000 and it was the same on the 2019 Budget. He asked how the City got this number and will the City collect that amount. Jennifer replied that number is an educated guess based on a three-year average. In 2019, we did collect more than that but she never over estimates that number, Jennifer stated. Jennifer said we never know what we will collect versus what goes to foreclosure. He asked if we had a list of delinquent residents and she stated no and she said one the tax bills go from being late to delinquent, Berkheimer then sends them to NE Revenue for collection and she would have to contact them for that information. Mr. Gegar asked why did the 2020 liquid fuels allocation go down from 2019; did the City lose a road? Jennifer said no and Donna said we would have to ask the state why. Mr. Gegar questioned where \$250,000 in the special revenue fund went, to a contingency? Jennifer stated no. Donna said it was a grant that had to be paid back because the City could not use it on the Lower Broadway property due to the ground being severely contaminated.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

The City of Nanticoke will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2019 and Friday, November 29, 2019 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Mayor and Council want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk