

CITY OF NANTICOKE



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 22, 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, John Pietrzyk, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

Excused from meeting: Council Member Lesley Butczynski.

President Brown announced that they held a supervisors meeting and a brief executive session on a personnel matter prior to the meeting.

WORK SESSION-

Resolution #12 of 2020, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke adopting an amended Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

Ordinance #8 of 2020 (First Reading), An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the agreement and participation of the Police Department of the City of Nanticoke with the Luzerne County Driving Under The Influence (DUI) Task Force and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

Attorney Finnegan briefly explained this ordinance to Council and Residents and President Brown thanked him for the explanation.

Motion to authorize Solicitor to negotiate agreement with owners of 29 Loomis Street to obtain consent for the demolition of improvements on the property and placement of a municipal lien and authorize the proper City Officials to solicit bids for said demolition.

Attorney Finnegan explained to Council and Residents the issues with this property and why this blighted property should be demolished, President Brown thanked him for the explanation.

Motion to approve the purchase of a Ductless AC/Heating unit in the amount of \$4,000.00 (includes installation) for the DPW Garage.

Administrative Updates-

- **Mayor Kevin Coughlin** has submitted the June 2020 Department Reports for your review. Jennifer will have them posted on the website as of Thursday, July 23, 2020.

- **Mayor Kevin Coughlin** executed Executive Order # 9 of 2020, Guidance Regarding Employee Vacation Travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

-Donna announced that Susquehanna Ave., Keech St. and E. Grove St. paving will be completed by the end of the week. Donna stated that Apollo Circle, Coal St., N. Market St., Mack St., Pulaski St., and E. Broad St. are the next streets to be paved.

-Donna announced that State Street ADA Ramps are finally going to be completed and that the City was waiting for an occupancy permit from PennDOT.

-Donna announced that WWSA put out a statement informing the residents of the guidelines to properly dispose of pool water and if they are caught running the water into the streets and storm drains, there will be a violation issued to the homeowner.

-Donna announced that the Mayor and the City will be participating in "Rocking the County" (a music band driving through town) on Friday, July 31, 2020 between 6-7:30 pm. There will be more information on the City's Facebook page and the City's website once the planned route has been approved.

President Brown asked Donna what are residents to do with their pool water and she and Councilmember John Pietrzyk stated to run it onto your grass, that the soil will filter out the chemicals.

Former Mayor Bushko asked Donna where the money is coming from to pave the streets and she said from the \$3 million PIB loan that the City took out back in 2016.

A Motion was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded by Councilmember Telencho 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 July 08, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk seconded Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$312,166.25 (Payroll(s) \$103,613.40 and Payables \$208,552.85) was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution #12 of 2020, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke adopting an amended Radiological Emergency Response Plan was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #8 of 2020 (First Reading), An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the agreement and participation of the Police Department of the City of Nanticoke with the Luzerne County Driving Under The Influence (DUI) Task Force and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to authorize Solicitor to negotiate agreement with owners of 29 Loomis Street to obtain consent for the demolition of improvements on the property and placement of a municipal lien and authorize the proper City Officials to solicit bids for said demolition was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the purchase of a Ductless AC/Heating unit in the amount of \$4,000.00 (includes installation) for the DPW Garage was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Hank Marks commented “Don’t Fiddle Around” and then compared the City Officials and the City of Nanticoke to Constantine and the Great Roman Empire. Mr. Marks stated Nero watched everything burn during the fall of the Empire as the City Council is watching the City of Nanticoke fall apart. Mr. Marks stated the City of Nanticoke has the costliest Fire Department for a town of their size. Mr. Marks stated since 1998, the City has declined and Mayor Bushko inherited a financial mess which led the City into Act 47 – Distress; with the State stepping in to help the City reverse their financial situation. Mr. Marks commented since January 2010 through now, the budget has doubled (3.3 to 6.4 million), tax increases with nothing to show for it and increases in wages and benefits.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

None

Councilmember Comments

Vice President Telencho asked for an update from Police Chief Mike Roke on the issue of installing speed bumps in Honey Pot to slow down the traffic that was brought up by Mr. Prushinski at the July 8, 2020 meeting. Chief Roke stated that a traffic study would need to be done by PennDOT and the City’s engineers would need to be retained for this project. Chief Roke also stated that the speed bumps will open the City up to liability issues so he does not recommend installing the speed bumps at this time.

All other Council members were good and had no further comments.

Meeting Adjournment-

Councilmember Pietrzyk made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Marcella, roll call. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, Aug. 5, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk