

CITY OF NANTICOKE



**WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 19, 2020

City of Nanticoke Municipal Building, 15 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke Pa

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

**WORK SESSION-**

**None**

**Administrative Updates-**

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin** has included his January 2020 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 Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk to adjourn the work session. Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR MEETING** Comments from the Public agenda items only.

None

**Old Business**

President Brown reminded the residents on what the City Council's purpose is and how they run the meetings per the Home Rule Charter. President Brown stated all these issues on "Old Business" should be discussed with the Mayor since he is at City Hall daily for at least seven hours or come see Donna Wall and she can assist you. There is no need to ask these questions at a meeting.

**Mr. Stachowiak** disagreed with President Brown's statement. Mr. Stachowiak says he mentions his concerns at a meeting so it is on record. He has had numerous meetings with the old Mayor and Donna Wall concerning the ADA issues in town and he stated "it has gone nowhere". This is why he comes to the meetings with his issues, stated Mr. Stachowiak. President Brown asked Mr. Stachowiak to come see the New Mayor about this issue.

The New Sign(s) for Nanticoke - The owner from Mozip Signs did return Jennifer Polito's call and forwarded her the required form that was needed to secure funding for the sign. He also enclosed a photo of what our former Mayor chose as a design. Mayor Coughlin is forming a committee to discuss the photo and a meeting is going to be scheduled soon.

**Mr. Andy Gegaris** asked Council what happened with the agreement to have LCCC pay for a new sign? President Brown stated no agreement was ever executed under Mayor Wiaterwoski. Mr. Gegaris asked if Council recalled a bill from the engineers regarding a new sign that former Mayor Wiaterowski was trying to get. Jennifer stated she does not recall a bill and Mr. Gegaris said there was one back in 2015 when he was the manager and he has a copy of it in his binder. Jennifer stated she thinks it was all one bill with the renovations to the Patriot Park that the City was applying for a grant to complete the project. Jennifer stated the City was not awarded the grant so the project was not completed.

Agreement with Plymouth Township for Fire Services:  
Sept 2019 – Dec 2019 The City billed and collected \$4,800.00.  
Jan 2020 the City billed Plymouth \$2,650 due by 2/28/2020.

Stell Enerprises Agreement for use of City property – Property is all flagged off and the Mayor and DonnaWall are meeting with Rob Stell on Thursday 2/20/2020 to discuss the survey and lease.

**Mr. Stachowiak** asked Council if they have or intend to hire a realtor to assist them with completing a lease agreement and President Brown stated when we get to that point, Council will consider his recommendation. Mr. Stachowiak asked Council who was clearing the area down on Lower Broadway and Donna stated a Sewer Contractor. Mr. Stachowiak reminded Council that the more cleared land that the City owns will raise the storm water fees for the City. Mr. Hank Marks agreed with Mr. Stachowiak about bringing issues to Council meetings and he likes to hear what Mr. Stachowiak has to say.

Plan to address the issues with the tractor trailers on Kosciuszko Street- Once the South Valley Parkway is officially open and PennDot gets all their signage up we will address this issue if it continues. Donna has called the GPS System numerous times to update their GPS instructions.

**Mr. Ron Knapp** asked Council if they intend to redirect LCCC traffic to use the South Valley Parkway too and President Brown stated that is the plan.

Dave Alberola (Advertising Benches)-Donna was in touch with Dave regarding an agreement. He was told to give us a count of the number of benches he has in town and Council has to decide how much they want to be paid for the use of City property to advertise on the benches.. Once he gets us that information we will discuss forming an agreement.

Phase II of the PIB Project began in Honey Pot in the Fall of 2019. Phase II will resume this Spring to finish using the money borrowed to pave streets. Currently, there is 1,116,622.62 remaining in the PIB bank account. Donna Wall has a complete list of Streets being paved this Spring. The list is also on the back board for review.

**Mr. Stchowiak** asked Council if the ADA Ramps are going to be completed with the PIB loan and Donna Wall stated yes.

**Mr. Andy Gegaris** asked how Phase I versus Phase II of the PIB project to pave roads in town were chosen. Donna Wall replied by an engineer's report stating worst to best roads. The worst were done first.

### **New Business**

**A Motion** to approve the February 5, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$ 654,588.76 (Payroll \$101,814.30 and Payables \$552,774.46) was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

**Mr. Larry Beck** brought to Council's attention that on the corner of 320 South Chestnut Street there are two chairs that need to be disposed of and he spoke to Councilmember Marcella and the Mayor after the last meeting. He stated they have been there for weeks. President Brown said the City will take care of it.

**Mr. Mike Stachowiak** expressed his disapproval items not being updated under "old Business" and hopes he and the Mayor discuss their decisions with their Council before finalizing them. Vice President Telencho confirmed that the President and Mayor are in communication with the rest of Council as they make decisions. Mr. Marks stated Mr. Stachowiak has valid questions and he also wants to hear what he has to say.

**Ms. Lynn Knight** asked Council if the City has 2 code officials like the article in the newspaper said. President Brown said yes and she said then Jack Minsavage is lying to her by saying he is the only Code officer and he works 24/7 for the City. Donna Wall clarified that there is 2 people in the department but Jack is the only Code Official. Andy Kratz is our Zoning Officer. Ms. Knight stated she has brought to Jack's attention about a house that uses their property as a storage facility for their camper and boat and nothing has been done by the City's Code Office. When she told Jack about it, he said he was heading there then and he lied. He was never there. President Brown stated Chief Roke is in the back and he will get with Jack to take care of the issue. Ms. Knight asked to see the Mayor and Donna after the meeting to give her papers regarding a complaint she has to discuss with them.

**Mr. Hank Marks** stated Jack is just code violations and Andy is zoning. He asked if it is correct that Andy Kratz has retired. Donna Wall replied no, just from Ashley Borough. Mr. Marks stated "There is Hope" for the City. It took 6 years complaining about the junk and abandoned vehicles on Loomis and other side streets and finally the City Officials, Code department and Police department have done something about it, Mr. Marks replied. He said past administrations just ignored these issues. The article that the City placed in the Citizens Voice about the City cracking down on blighted properties was a good move by the City Officials said Mr. Marks. Mr. Marks stated too much money is being spent on salaries and wages leaving no money to fixing up the town. Mr. Marks thanked Council for their accomplishments during the past few months.

**Mr. Ron Knapp** referred to the MS 4 Report, appendix A, that must be furnished to the City residents for review once it is complete. He asked if this report has been done and Donna Wall said it is currently being worked on and when it is complete a copy of the report will be available to be viewed. Mr. Knapp asked President Brown if a committee to clean up town has been formed and President Brown replied yes. Mr. Knapp made Council aware of Volunteer Litter Clean-up Team is available to help clean up the town. Requirement is that the City's Refuse collector come around and pick up the bags of garbage. He asked if the City would like to be a part of this group. Donna wall said we have the Conservation Club cleaning up on Lower Broadway on April 19, 2020 and any other groups must contact the City if they want to volunteer their services. Mrs. Zarzycki stated her area could use some clean up and Mr. Knapp said he would speak with her after the meeting. Mr. Knapp asked if JP Mascaro can put garbage cans in the park and DPW Foreman Rick Josefowicz replied they have 8 in the park. Mr. Joe Renco asked to have Mascaro replace some of the older ones that are in bad shape.

**Mr. Andy Gegaris** asked to speak even though he did not fill out a sheet and President Brown let him proceed with his comments. Mr. Gegaris replied to Ms. Knight saying that she probably does not recognize him but he was there in her yard the day she verbally attacked Jack and the former Mayor when they were trying to help her with an issue. Mr. Gegaris stated Jack and former Mayor Wiaterowski are excellent people and the love the City. Ms. Knight replies her experiences with Jack is different than his. Mr. Lou Gianuzzi asked if the City has made any progress on the towing contracts. President Brown stated the Mayor is looking into this issue. President Brown replied the Towing company in town does an excellent job and is very good to the City.

President Brown asked the other Councilmembers if they had any comments and all replied "No".

**Correspondence-**

None

**Announcements-**

Nanticoke City Tax Bills are being mailed out on Monday, March 2, 2020. Pearl from Berkheimer will be here on 4/16/2020 at City Hall in the Chambers to collect the taxes in discount.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, Mar 4, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

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