



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday June 7, 2023

Call to Order: President of Council, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

ROLL CALL:

The following were present: Council Members, William Brown, John Telencho, Lesley Butczynski, Mike Marcella, Joseph Nalepa, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney Finnegan.

WORK SESSION

A Motion to approve the City's 2023 engineering rates from Pennoni & Associates, Inc.

A Motion to table the resignation letter from Fire Fighter Dane Aukstakalnis.

A Motion to approve the purchase of cameras for the Fire Department from CVI in the amount of \$3,368.00 using the American Rescue Plan Funds.

A Motion to approve Resolution #10 of 2023, A resolution of the Unit of Government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the modification of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Mayor Kevin Coughlin informed the residents and Council that Chief Roke informed him that two of our new hires for the Police Department are graduating on Thursday 6/8/2023 and taking the exam. Once they pass the exam they will be added to our Police force.

City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council:

- The Mayor and Fire Chief have put a Burn Ban in effect until June 20, 2023 with a possible extension. Councilmember Telencho asked if fire pits are included in the Burn Ban and Chief Boncal states yes if they are burning anything that puts off embers that would ignite a fire. Propane fire pits are allowed. Vice President Telencho asked who should you call if you see a resident not complying with the Burn Ban and Chief Boncal stated 911 not the Fire Department because there may not be anyone at the Fire Department to answer the phone if they are out on a call.
- There was a Streetscape meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023. On June 12, 2023 there will be a notice to proceed and test pits will be performed at area of the Cocoa Hut to test

the soil for contamination. If there is soil contamination, they must take different measure to remove the soil. The Streetscape project is due to start in July of 2023.

- The ADA ramps on Ridge Street and the paving from Chestnut to College Streets will be completed on Friday, June 9, 2023.
- The Field Street Ramp is expected to be completed by mid July.

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

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the **May 17, 2023** minutes was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the **payment of the bills** in the total amount of **\$800,454.65;** **(Payroll(s)) \$248,877.41 (Accounts Payable) \$551,577.24** was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Marcella. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the City's 2023 engineering rates from Pennoni & Associates, Inc. was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to table the resignation letter from Fire Fighter Dane Aukstakalnis was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the purchase of cameras for the Fire Department from CVI in the amount of \$3,368.00 using the American Rescue Plan Funds was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Resolution #10 of 2023**, A resolution of the Unit of Government, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the modification of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Program was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Ms. Julianna Zarzycki of 71 Seneca Drive asked about our speaker system and why we are not using a wireless microphone, like we used to, for the audience because she is having issues hearing their comments. Councilmember Nalepa stated we still have that portable system and we will figure something out for the next meetings. Ms. Zarzycki asked that when Councilmembers call into a meeting that their questions or comments be repeated for the audience because it is hard to hear them through a cell phone. President Brown stated that the City is in the middle of getting a new conference call system for the chambers and that should help with this issue. Ms. Zarzycki asked Council if they noticed that the meeting attendance is down and she stated it is because people do not like how the meetings are run. Councilmember Butczynski responded that she does not see an issue on how the meetings are run and if people are not attending it is not because of the way the City runs the meetings. Councilmember Butczynski stated attendees are given five minutes to speak at each meeting. Ms. Zarzycki asked if there is a mandatory meeting attendance policy and how many meetings are the Councilmembers allowed to miss? City Manager, Donna Wall stated the rules for attendance changed during COVID, allowing Councilmembers to call into a meeting if something came up and they were not able attend in person. Councilmember Butczynski explained that things in life come up where you may not be able to attend in person and she gave an example to Julianna on why she missed a meeting in person last month but called in. Councilmember Butczynski stated if she does not attend a meeting, she has a good reason. City Manager, Donna Wall stated that if a Councilmember cannot be at the meeting in person but calls in on the phone; that counts as attending the meeting. Vice President Telencho thinks that the Home Rule Charter was changed to document this issue. President Brown asked Donna to review the charter for the next meeting.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

The **City of Nanticoke's Annual Big Bang Celebration** is scheduled for Saturday, July 1, 2023 (Rain Date is Sunday, July 2, 2023). Come out to celebrate the 4th of July at this great community event. The event will be held in the LCCC parking lot on Prospect Street and it will be held from 4 pm to 9 pm. There will be Food and Craft vendors, Live Music, and a Fireworks display at dusk.

President Brown added that he thinks the City's Fireworks display is the best around.

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Telencho had no further comments.

Councilmember Butczynski had no further comments.

Councilmember Marcella wanted to put on record that the comments going around town stating he and Vice President Telencho are anti-police are not true. Chief Roke commented that he agrees that the comments are false because Vice President Telencho and Councilmember Marcella have always supported him and the Police Department.

Councilmember Nalepa thanked Chief Boncal and the Fire Department for their great efforts in battling and controlling the wild fires during the continuous dry weather.

President Brown wanted to further comment on the Mayor Coughlin's comments about the hiring of the additional police officers. President Brown stated that it is absolutely necessary to increase the number of police officers on the force. It is a plus to have two now and three in July of 2023. This was the reason for the 1 mil tax increase which is for the City's safety.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, June 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito