



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

### **WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Via Teleconference 1-800-201-3962 Code 349057

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 via telephone: Council Members, William Brown, John Telencho, John Pietrzyk, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney Finnegan.

Excused: Council Member Lesley Butczynski.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**Resolution #23 of 2020** - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE APPROVING UPDATES TO THE CITY OF NANTICOKE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 1.3 COVERING USE OF FORCE AND SPECIAL ORDER 1.3.1 COVERING TASER (ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE) ECD-POLICY AND APPROVING SPECIAL ORDER 1.3.2 GOVERNING OFFICERS DUTIES TO INTERVENE.

To approve the **Collective Bargaining Agreement** (Effective January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2025) for the White Collar, Non – Professional Employees between the City of Nanticoke and the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 401.

#### **Administrative Updates-**

The Mayor has submitted the November 2020 Departmental Reports for Council's review. Jennifer will have the Department reports posted on the City's website by Thursday, December 17, 2020.

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

- The Mayor declared a "State of Emergency" and a travel ban for the City of Nanticoke effective 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 until further notice due to the snow storm.
- JP Mascaro will be collecting garbage on Thursday, December 17, 2020 once the roads are cleared, approx. late morning and they advise not to put out your trash until Thursday morning.
- The issues of the sidewalks in town brought to our attention by Mr. Knapp at the Dec. 2, 2020 Council meeting, specifically the ones in front of the GNA High School and Main Street by Hanover Street has been looked into by the Mayor, DPW Foreman Rick Josefowicz and herself and it is not economically possible for the City to fix all the lifted or broken sidewalks in town. The City has an ordinance stating that the tree lawns and sidewalks are the homeowner's

responsibility. The School District will address the issue on Kosciuszko Street and repairs will be made this Spring.

- The Audit on the Fire and Police Pensions has been completed and there were no findings.

**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.

Mr. Knapp commented on Donna Wall's update regarding the sidewalks in town and not only did he mention the issue for safety reasons, he stated he is concerned that the City is not in compliance with handicap accessibility regulations. He asked who planted the trees, the City? He also stated he is glad to hear that the School District will fix their issue for the safety of the children. President Brown stated the City will look into the issue on Main Street again to see if they can do something to fix the lifted sidewalk. Vice President Telencho stated he walks the City daily and notices a lot of sidewalks in need of repair but the financial burden cannot be placed on the City. He also stated as far as who planted the trees, it was done a long time ago and the sidewalks are over 100 years old. President Brown stated the City will look into this matter in the Spring. President Brown asked Attorney Finnegan to look into this issue. Donna Wall commented the homeowner does not own the sidewalks, the City does but the homeowners are responsible for the up keep of the sidewalks and tree lawns in front of their homes. Attorney Finnegan stated the sidewalks are a right of way within the City and Donna is correct in saying they are the homeowner's responsibility to maintain and repair. Donna Wall stated the City got an estimate of over three thousand dollars to remove the trees on Main Street. She stated the bigger issue is the roots are so deep that if we start removing the trees, we could disrupt the water and sewer line and if they are damaged the City would have to repair them at their cost. Councilmember Marcella suggested to Rick, maybe leave the trees and just grind down the lifted sidewalk. Vice President Telencho stated possibly installing a ramp to fix the lifted sidewalks. President Brown stated these are good ideas and we will talk more about a solution in the Spring.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**A Motion** to approve the December 2, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$355,235.82 (Payroll(s) \$99,235.82 and Payables \$255,580.19) was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to approve Resolution #23 of 2020** - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE APPROVING UPDATES TO THE CITY OF NANTICOKE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 1.3 COVERING USE OF FORCE AND SPECIAL ORDER 1.3.1 COVERING TASER (ELECTRONIC CONTROL

DEVICE) ECD-POLICY AND APPROVING SPECIAL ORDER 1.3.2 GOVERNING OFFICERS DUTIES TO INTERVENE was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement** (Effective January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2025) for the White Collar, Non – Professional Employees between the City of Nanticoke and the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 401 was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Telencho. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Mr. Ron Knapp** thanked President Brown and Council for their attentiveness in looking into the issues with the sidewalks. Mr. Knapp feels it is important that the public be more involved with issues within their community. Mr. Knapp wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### **Correspondence-**

-None

#### **Announcements-**

The City of Nanticoke will be closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, ½ day on December 31, 2020 closing at noon and closed January 1, 2021 in observance of the Christmas & New Year's holiday. The Mayor and City Council wants to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holidays!!!

On December 24, 2020 from 12 pm to 3 pm, the Primitive Methodist Church of Nanticoke will be hosting a Free Pasta Christmas Eve Dinner that is available for pick up only. The dinner includes Ziti with sauce, side of grated cheese, meatballs, dinner roll, 2 cookies, and bottled water. Please call (570) 735-2726 to reserve your dinner, Dinners are to be picked up at the side door on the Prospect Street side of the building.

#### **Councilmember Comments-**

Vice President Telencho asked Attorney Finnegan for an update on the tax abatement on the property on S. Prospect St. and E. South St. Attorney Finnegan stated he is waiting to take it to the Luzerne County Court until the School District gives their decision on the abatement. Attorney Finnegan stated it is better to have both decisions when submitting the request to the County. Vice President Telencho stated he had a very enjoyable first year on Council and enjoyed working with everyone and looks forward to working with everyone next year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Marcella wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Pietrzyk wished everyone Happy Holidays.

President Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Coughlin wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

President Brown asked if the free dinner event that the City is involved with is still on for Friday, December 18, 2020 and Donna Wall replied yes, we have over 590 dinners to pass out and volunteers should be at the school by 3:00 pm.

Jennifer Polito informed Council that the Mayor decided to keep the Council meetings virtual for the month of January 2021 and asked if when she places the ad in the paper if it could state the Council meeting will be virtual through March 31, 2021 to save money on additional ads if needed. She stated this decision can be changed by Mayor and Council at any time. All Council members were good with her suggestion. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, Jan. 6, 2021 @ 7:00 pm.**

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