

NANTICOKE CITY



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 2018

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00 PM

Call to Order: President of Council William Brown
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer Polito

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

WORK SESSION-

A Motion to approve Resolution # 9 approving the transfer of \$2,500,000 from the general fund operating account to the new general fund money market account to be opened on 7/19/2018 to yield a higher interest rate at M&T Bank. President Brown asked the Finance Director, Jennifer Polito to explain this to the residents and she stated that she and Donna met with Ryan McGowan from M&T Bank and he suggested moving some of the liquid cash from the general fund to a money market to earn a better interest rate. Currently the general fund earns .70 percent and the money market accounts are earning 1.71 - 1.75 percent.

A Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Blue Collar, Non – Professional Employees between the City of Nanticoke and the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 401. (DPW Department)

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall- updated the council and residents that the COG will be tentatively starting to pave the 3 streets that the Mayor chose on July 30, 2018, They will begin on Field Street, then W. Grove St. from Prospect to Market St. then ending with Hay Street. Donna had an update on the recycling bins that are arriving next week and the City is tentatively scheduled to start handing them out the weekend of Aug 10th and 11th. Donna had an update on the Water Company's project on Main Street, That work is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 23, 2018.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the July 5, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Coughlin second by Mrs. Mackiewicz. Motion carried.

A Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$505,728.80 was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz, second by Mr. Coughlin. Payroll (\$101,971.11) Payables (\$403,757.69.) Motion carried.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 9 approving the transfer of \$2,500,000 from the general fund operating account to the new general fund money market account to be opened on 7/19/2018 to yield a higher interest rate at M&T Bank was made by Mr. Coughlin second by Ms. Butczynski. Motion carried.

A Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Blue Collar, Non – Professional Employees between the City of Nanticoke and the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 401 (DPW Department) was made by Mr. Pietrzyk and second by Ms. Butczynski. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Lou Gianuzzi commented that four of the benches that were destroyed by the storm have not been replaced and asked if the City has any intentions of fixing them. Donna stated yes but she and the Mayor are also discussing some other changes to the park and they want to make all the improvements at one time. They will be fixed but not immediately. Lou also notices people barbequing in the park and wanted to know if anyone who is a resident of Nanticoke is allowed to use the park and barbeque. Donna stated that is NE Counseling using the park but she cannot see why not other residents cannot barbeque in the park.

Theresa Sowa asked the officials if they are considering looking into a fireworks ordinance now that the state has made them legal for residential use. She stated that other surrounding towns like Wilkes Barre have passed ordinances and she thinks Nanticoke should do the same. She thinks this will cut down on issues with residents. She said a neighbor on her street was setting them off too close to homes and they were very loud. She had an argument with the neighbor over the fireworks this year. Attorney Finnegan stated he and Donna will look into it and Donna stated that Chief Hazleton has already started looking into it and has asked other municipalities to forward him their ordinances so we can start on one for Nanticoke. Donna said we are ahead of the game on this issue.

Larry Beck asked council if he could get the holes in his alley filled and blacktopped. He is at the 200 block of Green and Church Streets. President Brown told him that Donna will talk to the DPW department about fixing the alley.

Hank Marks commented on an article that stated how other municipalities were able to exit ACT 47, specifically West Hazleton. He said they hated to do it but they cut the police and fire departments in order to recover from the financial crisis they were in. He stated reason on why they were in a financial crisis and the only thing they could do to avoid raising taxes and fees was to eliminate some of the fire and police. On the other hand Nanticoke raised earned income taxes, real estate taxes, and raised the sewer fee. He stated we are taking from people who are not doing well and giving to those that are doing well. Hank compared the Borough's 1.9 million dollar budget to Nanticoke 5.5 million dollar budget and that almost 75 percent of Nanticoke's budget is Fire and Police. He stated due to the declining population in Nanticoke, Nanticoke should be considered a Borough and not a City. President Brown asked Hank to wrap it up because his five minutes are up and Hanks stated he had one more thing to discuss, President Brown told him to go ahead and speak, Hank chose not to. Hank stated he has nothing else to say.

Correspondence –

None

Announcements-

None

Meeting Adjournment

Mr. Pietrzyk made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Coughlin, roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed August 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk