

CITY OF NANTICOKE



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 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 – Liam McGovern – Grade 6 @ GNA School District

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-

- a) A **motion** to approve **Resolution #3 of 2020**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke confirming the appointments of Mayor Kevin Coughlin to the City of Nanticoke Housing Authority.
- b) A **motion** to approve **Resolution #4 of 2020**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke re-appointing Jennifer W. Polito as the City's Fair Housing Officer.

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall announced the following:

The 2020 Census is underway and it is very important that all residents respond for the accuracy of the City's information.

The City is looking for people to form the City's Events Committee. Anyone interest please contact us.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin has executed **Executive Order #3 of 2020**, appointing and reappointing members to the City's Housing Authority.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin is looking for volunteers to form an **Event Committee** to help out with the City's upcoming events. Anyone who is interested, please contact Jennifer Polito at (570)735-2800, ext. 107 or email her at jpolito@nanticokecity.com.

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.

Mr. Stachowiak asked for a clarification on the \$250,000 grant the City received to redo sidewalks on Main Street. Donna Wall answered his questions.

Old Business

Jennifer Polito has given Mr. Hank Marks the information regarding his questions about the increase in the 2020 General Fund Budget. A copy of her response is on the back board and included in Council's packets. If

anyone has any questions regarding this matter, please call Jennifer at (570)735-2800, ext. 107 or stop in to see her.

Mr. Stachowiak asked at the last meeting if the surveying was completed on Lower Broadway. Stell Enterprises got back to the City and said the results of the survey shows that their equipment is on City property and Stell Enterprises wants to lease a portion of the property from the City and they will insure that property. Mayor and Council will be in touch with the City's Solicitor to get a lease agreement drawn up once they meet with Stell Enterprises.

Mr. Walter Pavelitz questioned the work done on Church Street in front of the Dollar General this past summer. Donna Wall explained the details on who and how the sewer line was repaired and has photos of the repairs. Mr. Pavelitz was satisfied with Donna's explanations.

Mr. Walter Pavelitz questioned the work being done by Waterworks on Spur Street. Donna Wall and Rick Josefowicz explained the details on who and how the sewer line was repaired and has photos of the repairs. Mr. Pavelitz disagreed and stated the work performed did not fix the issues properly. President Brown said Donna and Rick said it was fixed properly and they have pictures showing the work that was done to repair Spur Street. Mr. Pavelitz began to argue with President Brown and stated the Street Department is not installing the Stop signs properly either. President Brown told him this all has to stop. President Brown understands that Mr. Pavelitz is upset about how he exited his employment with the City but he is not to go around harrasing the Street Department while they are working. Mr. Pavelitz insisted he is no harrasing them and got out of order with his response to President Brown. President Brown warned Mr. Pavelitz that if he had another outburst like that, he would be removed from the meeting.

DPW Foreman, Rick Josefowicz has been in contact with Mrs. Gullotto regarding picking out a tree to plant in the park in remembrance of her son. She picked out and paid for a Purple Plum Tree and once the weather gets warmer she and Rick will pick a spot in the Patriot Park to plant the tree. She has also signed an agreement with the City.

The Vehicles that Mr. Marks brought to Council's attention on Loomis & Division Streets have been towed away. President Brown asked Mr. Marks if it looks better by his house and he responded yes but he has one issue he will speak about on his sheet.

Donna Wall Spoke to Dave Alberola and an agreement was never executed because he was letting the DPW department use his bucket truck in exchange for advertising on the benches within the City. Donna Wall has contacted Attorney Finnegan about charging people for all forms of advertising within the City. The request for signage from Mr. Knapp has been place by Donna Wall with PennDot to direct all truck traffic on 29 to use the South Valley Parkway. Signage has not been completed by PennDot as of yet because the South Valley Parkway is not officially open to traffic.

The New Sign(s) for Nanticoke are on hold because the Company that Nicole was dealing with will not provide North Point with the requested W-9 form that they need to release the funds. Jennifer Polito called the company to find out why and to speak to the owner. The owner was out until Wenesday 2/5/2020 and she was told he would call her back. If Jennifer does not get a call back, Jennifer and the Mayor will look into a new company. Mayor Kevin Coughlin commented that he would like to form a committee for this too. He wants residents to be able to participate in picking out the new sign for the City. He said whoever is interested to please contact Jennifer Polito.

New Business

A Motion to approve the January 15, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried 4-1, Councilmember Mike Marcella abstained.

A Motion to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$396,236.57 (Payroll \$205,716.43 and Payables \$190,520.14) was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Resolution #3 of 2020**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke confirming the appointments of Mayor Kevin Coughlin to the City of Nanticoke Housing Authority was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Resolution #4 of 2020**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke re-appointing Jennifer W. Polito as the City's Fair Housing Officer was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mrs. Julianna Zarzycki stated we already addressed the questions regarding the new sign for Nanticoke. She asked if once the weather warms up will the DPW department be out cleaning up the streets in town. President Brown replied the WVSA will be out in the Spring to sweep the streets. He would like Chief Roke to possibly have a no parking ban when they do the streets to really get all the cinders swept up. Mrs. Zarzycki thanked Council for all the updates in old business.

Mr. Hank Marks agreed with Julianna about all the updates under old business. Mr. Marks thank the Police for getting rid of all the "Junk" cars on his streets that were out of inspection or not working. However, Mr. Marks asked Council how it is possible that a vehicle is towed on Monday morning for no inspection and is back on the streets that same day. He stated the cream-colored pick-up truck is now parked on the other side of the street facing the opposite direction to hide that it is out of inspection. He wanted to know why. Chief Roke said the owner paid the impound fee and by law we must release his vehicle to him. Chief Roke also stated now that it is on the other side of the road, that is Hanover Township. Their police must have it removed. Mr. Marks questioned whose police department is responsible for that side of the road, he was sure it was Nanticoke's property. Chief Roke said for as long as he has been a policeman for Nanticoke, he was always told that half of the road over is Hanover Twp. Chief Roke said it would have to be surveyed to confirm who is responsible for patrolling it. Mr. Marks replied the owner drives it back and forth to New Jersey illegally. Chief Roke stated if we see him driving it, we will ticket him.

Mr. Walter Pavelitz was told by President Brown he is to stop harassing the Street Department and was asked if he had any further comments for Council and Mr. Pavelitz replied no.

Mr. Ronald Knapp questioned the "Rain Tax" and stated he is working with the County on eliminating it. He also thanked Council for the updates under old business. Mr. Knapp stated he is happy to see the City finally going after the blighted properties in town. Mr. Knapp voiced his opinion that the City raising taxes and fees is causing the blighted properties. He said people just can't afford to maintain their homes because of taxes and fees rising. Mr. Knapp asked who authorized the contract, how long is it for and is there a cap on the fees or is the sky the limit. Attorney Finnegan said Council approved it, it is for 5 years but can be renewed as needed and the fees can be on whatever is needed to stop the pollution of the water. Mr. Knapp asked if President Trumps decisions will impact eliminating the fee and Attorney Finnegan stated no. Mr. Knapp asked who is making sure the WVSA is doing their jobs right and President Brown said that would be public record at the WVSA. Councilmember John Pietrzyk explained to Mr. Knapp how the Rain Tax works and it was cheaper to

join with other municipalities versus doing this on our own. Mr. Marks questioned why a friend who lives Dallas petitioned his rain tax and got a full refund. Councilmember Pietrzyk said they are not part of WVSA, they are DAMA, you would have to ask them.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

City Hall will be closed on Monday February 17, 2020 in observance of **President's Day**.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Next Meeting, Wed, Feb 19, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk