



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

15 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Call to Order: Vice President of Council, John Telencho

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

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

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**A Motion to approve** the Collective Bargaining Agreement (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025) between the City of Nanticoke and the Local 2655 of the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO-CLC.

**A Motion to authorize** the purchase of 1206-1210 S. Prospect Street from Edward Petroski for \$1.00, advertise for and award to the lowest bidder to demolish the structure on the property and authorize negotiations to abate outstanding taxes and liens.

#### **Administrative Updates-**

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin** has submitted the August 2020 Department Reports for Council's review.

Jennifer Polito will have them posted on the City's website for public review by Thursday, September 17, 2020.

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

-Donna updated Council and residents on the following:

- On Monday 9/21/2020 there will be a road closure on W. Main Street by Jerry's Market with a detour to follow; The detour will be posted on the City's Facebook page and website.
- M&J Construction will be back in town starting Monday 9/21/2020 to complete unfinished projects in town and to start Coal Street.
- The 2020 Census is due by September 30, 2020 and Donna stated that Luzerne County is at a 64.5% reporting rate, Nanticoke is at a 65.2% reporting rate and Pennsylvania is at a 68.6% reporting rate. Donna stated that it is very important that residents complete and return their 2020 Census forms; the Census affects our funding from the Federal and State governments.

**Rick Josefowicz, DPW Foreman**, gave an update on the soft dig done on East Main Street and East Spring Street. Rick stated the storm drain was broken and that is what is causing the constant sinking. The City's DPW crews fixed the broken drain pipe which cost the City \$4,900.00. Rick stated if a contractor was called in to fix the issue, it would have cost over \$11,000.00. Rick stated that the City was audited for the MS-4 Stormwater requirements and the City passed in all areas. Mr. Hank Marks replied that the City's DPW Department is doing a great job with a small crew. Rick also mentioned 3 of the 4 new Welcome Signs are installed.

**Police Chief Mike Roke** updated the Council and Residents on the additional speed control done on the opposite side of Hanover Street. He stated that out of 4900 vehicles the sign recorded 119 of the vehicles were over the speed limit. Dorothy Weolfolk stated the sign is helping and she sees a difference in the number of speeders. Dorothy thanked the City for addressing this issue. Mr. Lou Gianuzzi asked if the sign can be put on a poll and Mike said yes it can. Mr. Ron Knapp thanked Chief Roke for looking into his suggestion and purchasing a speed recording sign. Mr. Knapp asked Rick if the new backhoe that the City purchased has been helpful with fixing the stormwater issues in town and Rick replied yes. Mr. Knapp thanked the City for following up on his comments about the property on S. Prospect Street and demolishing the building. Mr. Marks stated he has noticed that City employees are being more cognizant of the resident's complaints and responding to the residents and he thanks them.

**Captain Mark Boncal** informed Council and Residents that On Wednesday 9/16, the FDNY Fire Riders, comprised of active and retired New York City Firefighters, made their annual trip to Nanticoke to visit the 9/11 Walk of Honor at LCCC PSTI and the 9/11 Memorial at Nanticoke City Fire Headquarters. **Rob Carlo**, retired FDNY, coordinates this trip to honor his brother, Michael Carlo, FDNY Engine 230, who perished at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Marcella to adjourn the work session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Mr. Gregory Tresesniowski** began to discuss his lack of parking issue on Main Street by the Armory since the new "No Parking" signs were installed. Vice President Telencho informed Gregory that this is not the time during the meeting to discuss this and we will get back to him later in the meeting.

### **Old Business**

**A Motion** to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025) between the City of Nanticoke and the Local 2655 of the International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO-CLC was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk. Motion carried 3-2 in favor of approving the Agreement. Mr. Marks asked for more information about the Agreement and Vice President Telencho stated we can not discuss the details until the Agreement is signed by all parties involved. Mr. Marks expressed his discontent with that answer.

**Discussion** regarding Dave Alberola's advertising benches led to all parties agreeing to give Mr. Alberola 15 more days to fix the benches or remove them and void the lease agreement. In 15 days if he does not comply, the City DPW Department will remove the benches and the lease will be voided by the City due to non-compliance by Mr. Alberola. This is it, no further requests will be made after the 15 days.

### **New Business**

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

Motion carried 4-1. President Brown abstained.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$229,253.43 (Payroll(s) \$107,702.91 and Payables \$121,550.52) was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to authorize** the purchase of 1206-1210 S. Prospect Street from Edward Petroski for \$1.00, advertise for and award to the lowest bidder to demolish the structure on the property and authorize negotiations to abate outstanding taxes and liens was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Mr. Gregory Tresesniowski** continued to discuss his lack of parking issue on Main Street by the Armory since the new "No Parking" signs were installed. He stated he has no place to park; the Armory does not allow people to park in their lot anymore and the Police Chief stated I have to park up pass the CVS on Kosciuszko Street replied Mr. Tresesniowski. Mr. Tresesniowski said he is disabled; I can't walk far and can't carry heavy items for long periods of time so parking far from my home is not an option. Mr. Tresesniowski submitted pictures to show that other areas on Main Street have people parking on the road or sidewalks. Mr. Tresesniowski stated he heard this is a political decision and asked for this issue to be resolved.

**Mr. Lou Gianuzzi** stated his questions regarding Dave Alberola and the benches have been previously addressed and answered.

**Mr. Ron Knapp** asked if the City puts out an RFP for a Towing Contact for auto accidents in town and Chief Mike Roke stated we do not have any contracts for towing services within the City. Mr. Knapp replied the City should because that requires that all debris from the accident must be cleaned up by the towing company. Chief Roke said the towing companies do cleanup and Mr. Knapp stated a bumper has been in the road for days. Chief Roke stated it may not be from an accident, it could have just fallen off of a vehicle. Chief Roke stated in all of his experience he has never seen an accident that was not cleaned up by the towing company. Mr. Knapp asked about the forming of the Blight Committee and Vice President Telencho stated that will be discussed under announcements. Mr. Knapp asked about the dissolving of the sign committee and Vice President Telencho stated that will be discussed under comments from Councilmembers.

**Mr. Hank Marks** opened by saying "We the People are holding a taxpayer meeting". Mr. Marks referred to the Firemen's Agreement and asked "What are they getting"? Vice President Telencho stated we can't disclose that information until it is signed by the Union and the City. Mr. Marks replied

the residents have a right to know this information and the Forum is going to have people run against the 3 open spots in the next election and he will be putting an ad in the paper for the residents to read. Vice President Telencho asked Mr. Marks not to get into politics at this time; that is not what the Council Meetings are here to discuss. Councilmember Pietrzyk commented by saying the Firemen's requests were fair and he feels the Agreement is fair. Councilmember Pietrzyk stated these people go out and risk their lives and they deserve a raise. Vice President Telencho stated once the agreement is signed, we can then discuss the details with the public.

**Correspondence-**

-None

**Announcements-**

The Mayor is forming a Blight Committee and is looking for volunteers to join this committee. If anyone is interested in being a member, please call the Mayor at (570) 735-2800 ext. 221 or email Kevin at [kcoughlin@nanticokecity.com](mailto:kcoughlin@nanticokecity.com).

**Councilmember Comments-**

Vice President Telencho informed the residents that the installation of the "Big" welcome sign is having issues with the installer that MOZIP hired. First they did a dig without a 811 call and hit a residents water line then they said they called 811 and did not so the installation was cancelled again and now we can not get them to come back and they are fully paid to do the job. Mr. Ron Knapp asked why the committee was dissolved; that more people with more minds could speed up this process and he feels this is taking too long. Vice President Telencho stated the City did not hire the installer; Mozip did. All other Council members were good and had no further comments.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, Oct 7, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.**

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