



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

15 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Call to Order: President of Council, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

Jennifer asked for a moment of silence to remember Charles Miller, Sr., a City's retired firefighter. She then gave an invocation.

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

City Employees (Department Heads) present: Fire Chief Kevin Hazleton, and Police Chief Michael Roke.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**Ordinance #3 of 2020, (Second Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending Section 210-8A to provide for the collection of increased state taxes in connection with residential permit fees and Section 210-10 to provide for increased fees relative to zoning appeals. President Brown asked Donna to explain why Council needs to execute this ordinance and she replied it is to update our online ECODE. Donna stated originally the zoning fees were passed by an ordinance but when the City changed the fees in early 2019 it was executed by resolution which does not update ECODE. Therefore, residents were looking at the incorrect fees for Zoning online and paying the wrong amount for the Zoning fees.

**Ordinance #5 of 2020, (First Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Firemen's Pension Plan("Plan") Ordinance No. 15-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 9-2009.

**Ordinance #6 of 2020, (First Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Police Pension Plan("Plan") Ordinance No. 16-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 8-2009.

**Ordinance #7 of 2020, (First Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, accepting the dedication of Slope Street situate in the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

President Brown asked Donna to give a summary of the above ordinances for the residents who may not have participated in the previous telemeetings. Attorney William Finnegan asked President Brown if he could explain them, so he did give brief explanations on why the City is considering passing the above ordinances. No one had any questions about the above ordinances.

## Administrative Updates-

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

-Donna announced that the City has completed its reopening procedures to safely reopen City Hall and she asked that everyone please follow all the rules and regulations that are posted in the building like social distancing, wearing masks, using the hand sanitizer upon entering the building and not to come in if you are feeling ill. She informed everyone that the City is still recommending residents to call the City for assistance and use the black drop box in front of City Hall to make payments or drop off correspondence. She then thanked everyone for their cooperation during this pandemic.

-Donna informed Council of the status of the following road construction in town:

Hanover, Field and Market Streets are completed.

Bliss and W. Green Streets are being worked on now.

They will be moving onto State Street and Apollo Circle.

-Donna informed everyone that there was a water main break on the newly paved Hanover Street and the Water Company will be cutting the new pavement to fix the break. The Water Company will fix the street back to its newly paved condition. Mr. Ron Knapp asked Donna if she had any complaints from residents regarding the contractor leaving pieces of tar and asphalt throughout town. Mr. Knapp stated these Contractors need to clean off the back of their trucks before traveling through town. Donna said she has not had any complaints but she will speak with the contractor. Councilor Mike Marcella had a concern with W. Green Street's ADA Ramps and that if the pavement is installed too high, it will flood out the ADA Ramps.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded by Councilmember Marcella 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 20, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$ 711,126.34 (2 Payrolls \$193,527.95 and Payables \$517,598.39) was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance # 3 of 2020, (Second Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke amending Section 210-8A to provide for the collection of increased state taxes in connection with residential permit fees and Section 210-10 to provide for increased fees relative to zoning appeals was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance # 5 of 2020, (First Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Firemen's Pension Plan ("Plan") Ordinance No. 15-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 9-2009 was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance #6 of 2020, (First Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending the provisions of the paid Police Pension Plan (“Plan”) Ordinance No. 16-2007, previously amended via Ordinance No. 8-2009 was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve **Ordinance #7 of 2020, (First Reading)** an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, accepting the dedication of Slope Street situate in the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Ms. Julianna Zarzycki** noticed that signs for shipping and receiving at the Spree Tail Warehouse were installed on Kosciuszko Street and she thought truck traffic was not allowed on that street and they had to enter at the roundabout in Hanover Twp. She is seeing truck traffic at the Espy Street roundabout too. President Brown asked Donna to look into this issue and try to resolve it. Mr. Ron Knapp stated it would help if PennDOT would install signs on Interstate 29 directing the truckers on what roundabout to use for the warehouses. Councilor Telencho stated the truckers are still using Main Street too, not as much but they are still entering town using Main Street and they have a hard time making that turn onto Kosciuszko Street. Donna stated that PennDOT is not working at full capacity as of yet and President Brown asked Donna to contact the Senator to see if he could contact someone to get this issue resolved.

**Mr. Larry Beck** wanted to thank the City for cleaning up East Green Street and patching the enormous pot holes. He stated some were 2 feet deep.

**Mr. John Rentko is** aware that the City has a Fireworks ordinance and wanted to inform the City Officials that on his street (Park Street), there are people lighting them off in a residential neighborhood from 9:30 pm to 11:30 pm and asked if something can be done to stop it. Mr. Hank Marks replied that fireworks are not allowed in the residential neighborhoods. Mr. Rentko asked if we could publish in the Citizens Voice that the City has a Fireworks ordinance and President Brown said we will put a reminder on our Facebook page and Website but not in the paper because those ads cost the City money. Mr. Rentko asked about the area on Main Street by Shultz’s house that keeps sinking and what can be done to resolve it. Mr. Rentko stated that ex-foreman, Pavelitz said it is a City line causing the issues. Donna Wall replied it is not a City line it is a vault owned by Verizon that keeps sinking. Donna suggested doing a soft dig to see what is actually going on there.

**Mr. Hank Marks** commented on the fireworks and he said he had words with an owner on Loomis Street about the City having an ordinance against fireworks. He stated they were lighting off large aerial fireworks that could burn his house down. Mr. Marks stated that if he waited for the police, his home could have burned so he went out and told them they had to stop. Mr. Marks announced the GNA School District has passed a budget with no tax increase for 2021 and the 2020 graduates will have an outdoor graduation ceremony. Mr. Marks said now for the bad news, the City’s budget has doubled in the past 10 years and that last year’s tax increase in earned income tax equates to 11%. He asked why the increase in 2020 was approximately \$640,000 and after getting a response he wants to know what MMO’s of \$500,000 are and is that an annual amount. Donna Wall replied that the MMO stands for Minimum Municipal Obligation for the City’s pensions and the amounts vary from year to year. He compared the City’s budgets to Plymouth and Newport Township’s budgets and asked how they can operate their towns with budgets less that \$200,000. He said it costs Nanticoke City residents approximately \$600.00 per year but costs Plymouth and Newport Township residents approximately \$300.00 per year. Mr. Marks commented that the City’s health insurance costs rose over \$100,000 in 2020. Mr. Marks replied he heard the City is hiring police officer(s) and wanted to know how many. President Brown stated the City is unsure at this time of how many but one is needed to replace Captain Lehman. Mr. Marks stated he is good with one but no more than that because an officer costs

the City approximately \$130,000 per year. Mr. Marks stated the City of Nanticoke is statistically known to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst place in Pennsylvania to live in but have the best as far as salaries and benefits. President Brown disagreed with Hank's comment and feels the majority of residents love their town. Mr. Knapp also commented by saying to Mr. Marks that he does not approve of defunding the police and fire departments. Mr. Marks stated he does not want to defund them but cut backs are needed. Mr. Knapp asked President Brown for an answer on the property he brought up two meetings ago on S. Prospect and E. South Streets that needs to be demolished. Donna Wall commented the building has been abandoned by Mr. Ed Petroski. Donna stated he approached the City to give it to us and when we said we did not want it he walked away from it. Donna stated there is grant money available for blighted properties and that is one we want to demolish. The grant has just opened up to the municipalities and the City is going to apply for it.

#### **Correspondence-**

Jennifer Polito read a thank you note to Mayor, Council and the Administration from Dr. Dudrick's wife, Terry. She expressed her gratitude for all that honored her husband and he was proud to be a resident of Nanticoke.

#### **Announcements-**

None

#### **Councilmember Comments**

Vice President Telencho wanted to inform Council that he and Lou have been in touch with Moses from Mozip regarding the new signs for Nanticoke. As soon as pictures of the signs are ready, Mr. Telencho said they will be sent for approval. Mr. Telencho said they have been in touch with the property owners and all is good for Attorney Finnegan to draft up agreements. Mr. Telencho asked Council to make a motion to set an amount to charge Mr. Alberola for the use of placing his advertising benches on City property. Mr. Telencho stated it has been February 6, 2020 that this issue has been addressed. President Brown told Mr. Telencho that they will all discuss this matter for the next meeting and add it to the agenda. No motion is needed at this time, President Brown replied.

President Brown asked if any of the other Councilmembers had any comments and they said No, all is good. President Brown reminded everyone that the next meeting is two weeks from now, that the meeting dates were changed for June.

#### **Meeting Adjournment-**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, June 24, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.**

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