



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 2, 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, John Telencho, Lesley Butczynski, John Pietrzyk, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney Shannon Lapsansky filling in for Attorney Finnegan.

Excused from meeting: Council Member, William Brown.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin asked Council if he could say a few words before the meeting gets underway. Mayor Coughlin thanked all the surrounding Fire Departments for helping the City in their time of need during a major water main break. He stated it was nice to see the municipalities come together and help the City.

WORK SESSION-

Ordinance #9 of 2020 (Second Reading), An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing to amend it's Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law; agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities.

A motion to approve Resolution #13 of 2020, A Resolution of the **Unit of Local Government**, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program in the amount of \$193,732.00, as part of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act [P.L. 116-136], and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program.

A motion to approve Resolution #14 of 2020, a Resolution authorizing and directing the undersigned to execute and deliver certification and request for payment on behalf of the City of Nanticoke for approved costs and expenditures with Luzerne County COVID-19 Block Grant Program.

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.

Vice President Telencho recommended that Council table this motion since they just received it about an hour ago and did not have time to review the entire contract.

Administrative Updates-

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

-Donna updated Council and residents on the water main break. She stated a representative from PA American Water informed her that nine tests were done on the water and they are awaiting the results of the ninth test. One that test come back and passes, the boil advisory will be lifted within the next 48 hours.

Mr. Ron Knapp commented that PENNDOT has not installed the signage on the South Valley to stop the truckers from using Main Street to get to the Warehouse. Mr. Knapp asked if a letter should be sent to PENNDOT. Donna Wall replied let's give them some time because during COVID, PENNDOT was shut down and now most of the administration is working from home on compressed schedules.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Ron Knapp asked why the topic of the Speeding on Hanover Street and the purchase of a speed detecting machine was not addressed under "Old Business". Jennifer replied that this topic was settled at the last meeting by President Brown asking Chief Roke to do some speed enforcement on Hanover Street and he agreed that one of those machines would be beneficial to our Police Department. At the last meeting Chief Roke stated he would do the speed enforcement early in the next week and he will look into purchasing a speed recording machine. Jennifer stated with that being said, that issue was resolved and she mentioned that Chief Roke is present in the meeting if Mr. Knapp would like an update. Chief Roke gave an update on the speed control results over a two-day period and he also stated a speed recording machine is being purchased to help give him more accurate readings 24 hours per day.

Mr. Marks asked why the topic of the Alley was not addressed under "Old Business" and Jennifer stated it was resolved by Attorney Finnegan by meeting with the residents after the last meeting to discuss solutions to this matter. Attorney Finnegan stated at the last meeting that the Alley is not owned by the City and this is a civil issue which the City does not get involved civil issues. Attorney Lapsansky replied she pulled the deeds and Attorney Finnegan sent Mr. Oliver a letter asking him to show proof of his ownership. Mr. Oliver has not yet responded to the letter.

Mr. Knapp asked Vice President Telencho if he can address Jennifer at this time and then responded "Yeah, You" to Jennifer. He asked her why his comments are not in the minutes from the last meeting and does she not think his comments are important. Jennifer stated his comments are in the minutes and Mr. Knapp insisted they were not as he referred to the agenda he was holding in his hands. Jennifer stated you are looking at the agenda, not the minutes. Councilmember Marcella stated that Mr. Knapp is mentioned in the minutes; that he is looking right at them in his packet. Captain Boncal brought the minutes up on his phone from the City's website because Mr. Knapp insisted, they were not on the website. Jennifer stated the minutes are always on the back board the day of a meeting if you do not have a computer and Mr. Kapp replied, "I have a computer". Mr. Knapp asked Vice

President Telencho for a copy of the minutes and Vice President Telencho stated they are on the website.

Old Business

-None

New Business

A Motion to approve the August 19, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried 3-0. Councilmember Pietrzyk.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$470,812.29 (Payroll(s) \$93,945.70 and Payables \$376,866.59) was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Ordinance #9 of 2020 (First Reading)**, An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing to amend it's Non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law; agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve Resolution #13 of 2020, A Resolution of the **Unit of Local Government**, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program in the amount of \$193,732.00, as part of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act [P.L. 116-136], and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve Resolution #14 of 2020, a Resolution authorizing and directing the undersigned to execute and deliver certification and request for payment on behalf of the City of Nanticoke for approved costs and expenditures with Luzerne County COVID-19 Block Grant Program was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to table 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 Pietrzyk, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hank Marks requested when the contract is passed that Council read the important details to the residents like the amount of the salary increase.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Hank Marks opened by saying “We the People Respond” and went on in detail why he formed a forum back in 1992. He stated the forum saved the Nanticoke School District that was facing

bankruptcy. Mr. Marks stated the forum endorsed Mayor Bushko for the City of Nanticoke and he won. Mr. Marks stated in 2012 the City became Home Rule and that was the worst thing that could have happened for the City residents. Mr. Marks stated the Forum is looking for changes in the upcoming 2021 election for the City of Nanticoke.

Correspondence-

An email from City Resident, Jeffrey Barton, complimenting the City's DPW Department, specifically Rodney and Rick for their help while the contractors paved Pulaski Street. He also stated the contractors are doing an excellent job and the residents are happy to see the City doing things right versus a quick patch job which only cost the City more in the long run.

Announcements-

-TO ALL NANTICOKE PROPERTY OWNERS, THIS IS A FINAL REMINDER THAT THE 2020 REFUSE BILLS ARE IN DELINQUENCY. ALL DELINQUENT PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 OR YOUR ACCOUNTS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE FOR COLLECTION WITH ADDITIONAL FILING FEES AND FINES. ALSO, ANYONE THAT HAS A VACANT PROPERTY MUST REPORT IT TO ME AND FILL OUT A REFUSE EXEMPTION FORM. ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CALL PATTY AT 570-735-2800 EXT 101.

-The City of Nanticoke will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020 in observance of Labor Day.

Councilmember Comments-

Councilmember Mike Marcella wanted to thank Rick and Rob from the DPW Department for the great job on the installation of one of the new Welcome Signs for the City. Councilmember Mike Marcella also asked Chief Roke if there are any grants to possibly purchase a second speed recording sign. The Chief said he would look into it.

Vice President Telencho informed the residents that the "Big" welcome sign is beautiful but the City 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 if it is on Hanover's property or Nanticoke and Donna replied Nanticoke.

All 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 7:40 pm.
pm.**

Next Meeting, Wed, Sept 16, 2020 @ 7:00

**Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk**