



CITY OF NANTICOKE

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Call to Order: President, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

The City of Nanticoke City Council Re-organizational meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Councilmember William Brown. District Judge Donald Whittaker administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials; Kenny James and Joseph Dougherty.

ROLL CALL:

The following were present: Council Members, William Brown, Joseph Nalepa, Joseph Dougherty, Kenny James, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

Re-organization of Councilmembers:

Councilmember Joseph Nalepa nominated to elect Councilmember William Brown as Council President and the nomination was second by Councilmember Joseph Dougherty.

Motion carried unanimously.

President William Brown nominated to elect Councilmember Joseph Nalepa as Council Vice President and the nomination was second by Councilmember Kenny James.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember Nalepa to adjourn the Re-organizational meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

President Brown stated it is an honor to welcome aboard Kenny James and Joseph Dougherty, former Mayor, to City Council and he congratulated both of them.

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL:

The following were present: Council Members, William Brown, Nalepa, Joseph Dougherty, Kenny James, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

WORK SESSION

A Motion to approve Resolution # 1 of 2024, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, declaring the Council Seat of Lesley Butczynski vacant pursuant to section 2.08 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 2 of 2024, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, to accept nominations for and fill the vacant Council Seat of Councilwomen Lesley Butczynski.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 3 of 2024, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, confirming the appointments and re-appointments of Mayor Kevin Coughlin to various Boards, Authorities and Commissions of the City of Nanticoke.

A motion to approve Ordinance #1 of 2024, (Second Reading), AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 13 OF 2001 AND NAMING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AS THE CITY OF NANTICOKE'S EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER AND CONFERRING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BILLING AND SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SAME AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR SAID SERVICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 12:01 A.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Mayor Kevin Coughlin executed the following Executive Orders:

Executive Order # 1 of 2024, re-appointing Kenneth Malia to the Nanticoke City Municipal Authority.

Executive Order # 2 of 2024 re-appointing Ed Janora to the Nanticoke City Zoning Board.

Executive Order # 3 of 2024, re-appointing William Davis to the Nanticoke City Planning Commission..

Executive Order # 4 of 2024, re-appointing James Litchkofski to the Nanticoke Police Civil Service Board.

Executive Order # 5 of 2024, re-appointing Charles Alles to the Nanticoke Fire Civil Service Board.

Executive Order # 6 of 2024, appointing Lesley Butczynski to the Nanticoke City Housing Authority.

City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council:

The City has received paper applications for Heating and Utility assistance through Luzerne County. For more information on this program, please stop by City Hall for an application.

A Motion was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Dougherty to adjourn the work session. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Larry Beck asked City Council why is the city going to use Hanover Township's ambulance Company versus Nanticoke's? President Brown stated no decision will be made at this meeting

to give the new Councilmembers time to review the proposed ordinance and this topic will be discussed at the January 17th meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the December 20, 2023 minutes was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Dougherty. Councilmember Kenny James abstained.

Motion carried 3-0.

Councilmember Dougherty was permitted to vote on the minutes since he attended the December 20, 2023 meeting.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$156,718.27, (Payrolls) \$119,212.43** and **(Accounts Payable) \$37,505.84**, was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Dougherty. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 1 of 2024, a Resolution of the City Council of of the City of Nanticoke, a Resolution of the City Council of of the City of Nanticoke, declaring the Council Seat of Lesley Butczynski vacant pursuant to section 2.08 of the City of Nanticoke Home Rule Charter was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember James.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 2 of 2024, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, to accept the nomination of Mark J. O'Connor, made by President Brown, to fill the vacant Council Seat of Councilwomen Lesley Butczynski was made by Councilmember Brown seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Motion carried unanimously.

District Judge Donald Whittaker swore in Mark J. O'Connor as Councilmember.

President Brown stated he feels Mr. O'Connor is a good pick since his wife Lesley Butczynski could not retain her seat due to the "Yes/No" question on the ballot not passing in her favor with only 700 votes. Mr Brown can't explain why the voters did not vote yes for terminating the term limits in the city's Home Rule Charter even though Ms. Butczynski was the "Top Vote-getter" in the election with over 1200 votes. Mr. Brown feels Mr. O'Connor is qualified since he was a GNA School District Board member and Mr. O'Connor stepped down to accept his nomination onto City Council.

A Motion to approve Resolution # 3 of 2024, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke, confirming the appointments and re-appointments of Mayor Kevin Coughlin to various Boards, Authorities and Commissions of the City of Nanticoke was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember James. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to Table Ordinance #1 of 2024, (Second Reading), AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NANTICOKE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 13 OF 2001 AND NAMING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AS THE CITY OF NANTICOKE'S EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER AND CONFERRING THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION WITH THE AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BILLING AND SEEK

REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SAME AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR SAID SERVICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 12:01 A.M., was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

None

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

Nanticoke City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Effective Jan 17, 2024, City Council Meetings will be held at 6:00 pm on the first and third Wednesdays of the month

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Nalepa welcomed the new Councilmembers.

Councilmember James stated it took 40 years to get this seat. In 1984 he won but declined the seat to be employed by the city in the DPW Department. Mr. James stated he worked for the city for 41 years, served 15 years on the Housing Authority and 27 years on the GNA School Board and he believes he will be an asset to the city and promises to do his best.

Councilmember Dougherty commented “I’m Back”.

Councilmember O’Connor thanked Council for his nomination to City Council. Mr. O’Connor stated he will do his best for the city and its residents.

President Brown congratulated the new Councilmembers and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting Adjournment-

Councilmember Dougherty made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Nalepa, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024.

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito