



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Work Session/Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Call to Order: President of Council, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

The following were present: Council Members, William Brown, John Telencho, Lesley Butczynski, Joseph Nalepa, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito and Solicitor, Attorney Finnegan.

The following were excused: Mike Marcella.

WORK SESSION-

A Motion to approve Resolution #16 of 2021, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke authorizing the filing of an application for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A Motion to exercise the two (2) one-year extension options for Refuse Collection with Solid Waste Services, Inc. d/b/a J.P. Mascaro & Sons for years 2022 and 2023 per contract in the amount of \$1,028,496 and \$1,069,632 respectively.

Administrative Updates-

Mayor Kevin Coughlin has submitted the July 2021 Department Reports for Council's review and Jennifer Polito has posted them on the City's website.

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

- The Villa has been demolished and the contractor, TSE, is the same contractor that the City used on W. Main Street. TSE will be back in town fixing the area by Burger King.
- Donna attended the Judicial sale to acquire 2 blight properties and had no luck winning the bids.
- The Mayor and Donna had a meeting with WWSA concerning the issues with their street cleaning schedules. The WWSA will work with the City to better coordinate the next street sweeping. Donna mentioned that the WWSA does the street sweeping at no cost to the City.

Vice President Telencho addressed Mr. Knapp in regards to his comment at the last meeting that he is getting a lot of people complaining to him and asked Mr. Knapp to be more specific about the complaints. Mr. Knapp stated in regards to the street sweeping complaint it was that the no parking postings were incorrect. Mr. Knapp referred to a letter from a resident complaining about the people not paying their Refuse bills. President Brown asked to see this letter and he and Attorney Finnegan began reading the letter. Attorney Finnegan stated that he and Council have already read this letter and addressed it with Mr. Knapp at a prior meeting.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Ron Knapp asked if the City, besides a new microphone, could they get a podium for the top of the chambers. Mr. Knapp wanted to comment on the letter he presented and asked where the City was on collecting past due Refuse Bills. Vice President Telencho stated the total past due accounts was approx. \$71,000 and Patty reported as of July 31, 2021 she has collected \$61,184.19 in past due Refuse fees

Old Business

A Motion to approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford F-550 Dump Truck from Rottet Motors Inc./Kovatch in the amount of \$82,852.46, fully upfitted paid from the Highway Aid account. COSTARS Pricing was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A Motion to approve the Aug 4, 2021 minutes was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$378,781.24 (Payroll(s) \$113,231.41 and Payables \$265,549.83) was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution #16 of 2021, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke authorizing the filing of an application for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was made by Councilmember Butczynski seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to exercise the two (2) one-year extension options for Refuse Collection with Solid Waste Services, Inc. d/b/a J.P. Mascaro & Sons for years 2022 and 2023 per contract in the amount of \$1,028,496 and \$1,069,632 respectively was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Ms. Jackie Deutsch asked Council to consider her TNR program to catch and release feral cats to spay and neuter the cats and give them the shots they need to keep them well. Ms. Deutsch stated that she spoke to Jenn or Donna about the program and that she is able to get a grant for the city to execute this program. Ms. Deutsch stated she is a volunteer for many organizations and the city could call Mayor Brown in Wilkes-Barre to ask about the success of the program in his city. President Brown thanked Ms. Deutsch and asked her to contact the City Manager, Donna Wall, to discuss the program further. Ms. Deutsch stated that she has a resident in the meeting who had over 7-8 cats in her yard that were taken to the SPCA and they were sick with distemper. This program would vaccinate the cats for rabies and distemper.

Mr. Ron Knapp commented that the feral cat program is a good idea for the city. Mr. Knapp expressed his negative opinion on Councilmember Joseph Nalepa's comment at the last meeting about eliminating the 3rd shift in the police department and use the State police to

save the City residents money was absurd and ridiculous. Councilmember Nalepa said he does feel that way because of many years of experience as a State policeman and he does not agree with taking away public safety to save a buck. Vice President Telencho stated that under Act 67, it mandates that all 1st, 2nd, and 2A class cities must have three shift full-time Police protection. While it is not mandated for 3rd class cities, it is strongly recommended due to the number of residents. Gov Wolf's \$25 fee for all Commonwealth residents received backlash and a new House Bill proposes part-time coverage fees for PSP based on residents. Elimination of 3rd shift and replacing with PSP would not result in savings and would eventually cost more than having our full-time force. Vice President Telencho informed everyone at the meeting that our full time police response time is 3-5 minutes and the State police will not be that fast and the State police cannot respond to every call.

Mr. Hank Marks topic was KARMA. Mr. Marks stated the City Officials possess bad Karma and they do not consider the over 10,000 residents in town when raising taxes. President Brown responded that with over 10,000 residents in town a few come to the meetings to stay caught up with what is going on in town and then there is the same few that come to downgrade and bash the City and the Officials. President Brown stated the meetings are not filled with thousands of people to complain about the city.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

The Faith Church on 220 Middle Road is holding a Backpack Bash on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 1 – 4 pm. There will be food, fun and free backpacks to children ages 4 to 12. Anyone interested **MUST** call (570) 459-2410 to register.

The City of Nanticoke will be holding their **City-Wide Yard Sale** on Saturday, September 11, 2021 and the rain Date is Sunday, September 12, 2021. Any resident who would like to participate and have your address on the list prepared by the City, please call 570-735-2800 Ext. 101 by Wednesday, September 8, 2021. The list will be posted on the City's website or a copy can be picked up at City Hall on Friday, September 10, 2021.

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Telencho stated that Council is transparent with the residents and if residents have questions, they can make an appointment for a discussion.

Councilmember Butczynski had no further comments.

Councilmember Nalepa wanted to address Mr. Knapp by stating the 3rd shift is the shift that has the most violent crimes, DWI's and domestic violence calls.

President Brown wanted to make it very clear that Mr. Mark's statement earlier that City employees and officials get a tax break is **FALSE**, we pay the same rate as regular citizens.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, Sept 1, 2021 @ 7:00 pm.

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito