



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 5, 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 via telephone, John Pietrzyk, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney Shannon Crake Lapsansky filling in for Attorney William Finnegan.

Excused from meeting: Council Member, William Brown.

Vice President Telencho announced that they held a brief executive session on a personnel matter prior to the meeting.

WORK SESSION-

Ordinance #8 of 2020 (Second Reading), An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the agreement and participation of the Police Department of the City of Nanticoke with the Luzerne County Driving Under The Influence (DUI) Task Force and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

Administrative Updates-

- **Mayor Kevin Coughlin** executed Executive Order #10 of 2020, the hiring of Michael Bohan as a part time employee to assist the Code Officer in the City's Code Department in the amount of \$13.00/ hr according to Article III, Section 3.04 of the City of Nanticoke's Home Rule Charter.

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

- Donna announced that the Mayor received a notice that the City is receiving \$162,050.00 from the County from the CARES ACT to offset COVID-19 expenses that the City has incurred.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Marks asked how many hours a week was the new employee for the Code Department going to work, does Andy Kratz still work for the City part time, and why does the City need another employee to help the Code Officer. Mr. Marks stated his Father-in-law handled that office as one full time employee and now there will be 3 part time employees. Jennifer replied that Mike is going to work 3 days/20 hours a week, Andy is employed as the Zoning Officer and the Code Officer is busier than ever. She stated that Jack could use an extra person to tag houses that are in violation of the code ordinances and help complete paperwork in the office. Mr. Ron Knapp asked if the Police Officers help reporting violators when they are out driving through town. Detective Gydosh responded by agreeing with Jennifer when she said Jack is very busy these days and the

Officers do not look for exterior violations. Mr. Knapp said the Police should help out the Code Officer and Mayor Coughlin replied that the Police do help out Jack and back him up if they are called. Mr. Lou Gianuzzi stated that in the past he and John Telencho offered to tag houses to help Jack and no one has asked them to help. Jennifer replied that there is more to just tagging houses, there is paperwork that needs to be completed and Mike Bohan knows the City. The Mayor replied Mike is trained for this and he is a good fit for the Code Office

Old Business

The property owner of 29 Loomis Street came in on Friday, July 31, 2020 and signed the authorization to demolish her home. The City has given her three weeks (until August 21, 2020) to clear out her belongings. After that date the City will board up all entrances and get ready for demolition.

New Business

A Motion to approve the July 22, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried 3-0. Councilmember Butczynski abstained.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$1,024,896.89 (Payroll(s) \$95,835.26 and Payables \$929,061.63) was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Ordinance #8 of 2020 (Second Reading), An Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the agreement and participation of the Police Department of the City of Nanticoke with the Luzerne County Driving Under The Influence (DUI) Task Force and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to authorize the Labor Council to issue a Memorandum of Understanding to increase the Foreman's hourly rate of pay from \$23.12/hr. to \$25.00/hr. was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Marcella. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to authorize the Labor Council to issue a Memorandum of Understanding to assign an Assistant Foreman for when the Foreman is off duty at the Foreman's rate of \$25.00/hr. was made by Councilmember Butczynski, seconded by Councilmember Pietrzyk. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. John Barno of 215 Center Street informed Council of a situation with a neighbor, Shawn Oliver. Mr. Oliver purchased property that borders a rear alley and he is claiming that he owns the entire Alley behind Center Street. Mr. Barno passed out a map of the area that he is referencing. Jennifer will enclose a copy of the map with the minutes. Many neighbors attended the meeting claiming he is nasty and has made threats if they are caught using the Alley. Mr. Oliver has blocked the entrances, put up private driveway signs and told the neighbors to keep out, it is his property and they are trespassing on private property. The residents on Center Street have been using that Alley for many years, Mr. Barno stated and they all maintain the area behind their homes. The residents are asking that the City please look into this matter and see if Mr. Oliver is correct or not. Mr. Barno asked Council to issue Mr. Oliver a letter if he is in the wrong and also issue a letter stating he is wrong and that they are able to access the rear of their homes by using the Alley. Attorney Shannon Lapsansky asked Donna to get everyone's name and addresses and she will pull the deeds to review. Vice President Telencho said the City will look into this matter and have answers for the residents at the next meeting under Old Business.

Mr. Ronald Knapp asked for confirmation of how much money did the City receive from the Cares Act and the CDBG-CV. Donna Wall stated the Cares Act gave us \$162,050.00 to cover COVID expenses and the CDBG-CV gave the City \$193,000.00 and we have not decided how to use those funds as of yet. Mr. Knapp suggested that the Administration should write a letter to Washington to thank them individually for the funds that we have received due to COVID-19. Vice President Telencho said he will talk it over with the Mayor and Council to consider his request.

Mr. Lou Gianuzzi asked for an update on the benches and Mr. Alberola. Mr. Gianuzzi also stated we passed a resolution and Mr. Alberola has not been in compliance so how much more time are we going to give him to comply. Mr. Alberola told Donna Wall that he can not get pressure treated wood to fix the benches. Mr. Alberola told Donna he had twelve benches and removed four, so he paid the City for eight. Vice President Telencho suggested that our Solicitor prepare a letter giving Mr. Alberola 30 days to fix the benches or the agreement is void and he is to remove all benches within City limits. Attorney Shannon Lapsansky stated she would pass that request onto Attorney William Finnegan.

Mr. Hank Marks commented Election 2021 is going to be an important election for the City because the Mayor and two members of Council are up for re-election. Mr. Marks stated he is very hopeful to have a forum so there are candidates to run against the current members. Vice President Telencho thanked Mr. Marks for his comments.

Correspondence-

Letter from a City Resident, Joseph and Sylvia Brodowicz thanking DPW Foreman Rick Josefowicz for his help with their sewer issues. Rick went above and beyond to help them because their sewer insurance was giving them a difficult time in paying for the repairs. Rick contacted the appropriate people and got all the issues resolved in a timely manner. Letter is attached behind the minutes.

Vice President Telencho commented that the DPW department is working very well and fixing catch basins to save the City money.

Announcements-

None

Councilmember Comments-

All Council members were good and had no further comments.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, Aug. 19, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk

Q. 759d

NO 7085 3915

EC WIDEMAN

Одлучае

1

OAK ST.

15/17/40

57.

0.27/c 1-260

135

151

Alley behind Center Street

MAP

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Correspondance

Hi Donna This is Joseph Brodowicz, How are you doing. Well I pray. I'm writing you to commend you and your main staff. Especially Rick Josefowicz, who went above and beyond his call of duty to help my family with a big problem with a sewer line break in my yard in which I had insurance for since it was offered to me. When water works was dispatched to my home to repair the break they ran into problems the sewer line where the break was, was incased with concrete, they stoped work and the boss called me stating that I or someone would have to remove the concrete before they would fix the line, I contacted my insurance company they told me the same thing. I said why do I have insurance then, I then contacted Rick Josefowicz. And he went to work going through all the paper channels, that this job was to be covered by insurance, he stayed in contact with me and stoped by my house quite often keeping me updated on the progress. on a daily basis. Donna this man cared for us knowing that was a big problem with sewage backing up into my home almost on a daily basis for better than 2 weeks. Rick did his job and didn't stop until the work in my yard was complete he went above and beyond. Donna I

SERVED 10 YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.
PROUDLY. MEN LIKE THIS IN THE SERVICE
WOULD ~~WOULD~~ HAVE RECEIVED A PROMOTION,
OF COMENDATION FOR STEPPING FORWARD NOT
BACK AND HANDLING THE TASK AHEAD OF
HIM PICK UP THAT. AND I LEARNED ON
HIM KNOWING I COULDN'T GET THIS JOB
DONE ALONE.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!
JOSEPH + SYLVIA BRODOWICZ.