



NANTICOKE CITY

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2018

Nanticoke City Hall 7:00PM

Call to Order: President of Council William Brown
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer Polito

The following were present: Councilors, William Brown, John Pietrzyk, Kevin Coughlin, Nicole Mackiewicz, Lesley Butczynski, Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Interim City Manager, Donna Wall.

WORK SESSION-

A motion to accept the bid on 413 E. Washington Street.

A Motion to approve Resolution #6 of 2018, authorizing the appropriate City Officials to approve a Resolution declaring the unlawful distribution of prescription controlled substances has created a public nuisance and a serious public health & safety crisis for the citizens of the City of Nanticoke.

Administrative Updates

- Donna updated Council and residents that Bower Construction is coming out to fix the cracks in the new asphalt on Grand Street.
- Donna updated Council and residents on the opening of Kosciuszko St. roundabout and closing of Prospect Street.
- Donna updated Council and residents that UGI Electric is currently in the design and planning phase of the underground replacement of the electric cables on Market Street Square because of the cables age and she will be meeting with UGI shortly.
- Donna updated Council and residents that Verizon is coming out to fix underground lines on Hillcrest Street before the new road construction begins. The lines were not installed deep enough.
- Donna updated Council and residents that the City received the highway occupancy permit for the sewer project on W. Main Street. Popple Construction was awarded the bid and construction will be completed this summer.
- Donna updated Council and residents that she and Jenn are currently working on the Refuse RFP since it expires this year on 12/31/2018. Jenn stated the RFP will be completed by 5/31/2018.
- Donna updated Council and residents that the City's audit will begin this month and Jennifer has been very busy prepping for the auditors.
- Donna updated Council and residents that two judges are interested in hearing our blight property cases and try to get them settled in court in a timely manner. These judges tend to rule in favor of the municipalities since Blight properties have become such a nuisance.

A Motion was made by Ms. Butczynski, second by Mr. Coughlin to adjourn the work session. Work session adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Robert Spear asked Attorney Ferentino what his firm would do with the Opioid law suit monies if the City was awarded any money in a claim. He stated that his firm keeps 30% and the remaining 70% is run through the City's

General Fund. Attorney Ferentino also explained the benefits of council approving Resolution #6 to fight against this Opioid crisis that the municipalities of Luzerne County are currently dealing with.

Mr. Hank Marks commented that he is happy to see that the administration is addressing issues here in the City. He suggested we use a microphone because he has a hard time hearing women when they speak. President Brown thanked Hank and stated that we will bring a microphone to the next meetings.

Mr. John Telencho asked Council when are the businesses going to be notified downtown about the new developers coming and the City wanting to buy their properties. Mr. Brown said it is not the City buying the properties, it is the Municipal Authority.

Ms. Julianna Zarzycki stated she agrees with Hank Marks about the microphone and will there be one at the next meeting. Donna stated yes.

Mr. John Telencho wanted to let Jenn know that the minutes being approved on the agenda has the incorrect date. It should be April 18th not April 4th. President Brown thanked Mr. Telencho for letting us know and Jenn will correct this error. Mr. Gianuzzi asked Donna if they actually opened up the roundabout at Kosciuszko St. because when he was there earlier today it had not been opened to traffic.

Old Business

None

New Business

A **Motion** to approve the April 18, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Butczynski second by Mr. Coughlin Motion carried.

A **Motion** to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$436,389.02 was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Mrs. Mackiewicz. Payroll (\$84,481.44) Payables (\$351,907.58.) Motion carried.

A **Motion** to approve the bid of 4,000.00 made by Ronald Kamowski to purchase the property on 413 E. Washington Street was made by Ms. Butczynski second by Mr. Coughlin. Motion carried.

A **Motion** to approve Resolution #6 of 2018, authorizing the appropriate City Officials to approve a Resolution declaring the unlawful distribution of prescription controlled substances has created a public nuisance and a serious public health & safety crisis for the citizens of the City of Nanticoke was made by Mrs. Mackiewicz and second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Telencho inquired about when does the trash contract end? Donna stated that in her update to Council she said she and Jenn were currently working on it and Jenn stated it will be completed by 5/31/2018. Jenn said after that it will go out to bid. John stated that our tipping fees keep going up but since we switched to single stream recycling, we are putting out less trash so why are the fees going up and not down. Attorney Finnegan agrees with his statement and said that is the reason we send out new RFP's every few years. Mr. Joe John asked why Nanticoke City is prohibited to collect their own garbage versus hiring a hauler but Edwardsville can. Attorney Finnegan said Edwardsville is much smaller than Nanticoke and Nanticoke used to haul their own garbage but it got too costly. Donna stated besides the constant repairs to the trucks, the workers comp insurance for garbage haulers is extremely high. Mr. Telencho suggested the COG get together and form their own garbage collection that would benefit all members of the COG. Donna said that can be discussed at a future meeting.

Rob Spears and Kathy Murphy want to make the city aware that Weis Markets came a collected their carts off of Coffee's property but no one else in the alley has cleaned up their trash. There is tires, debris, broken furniture and other garbage on these properties that is causing an infestation of bugs, feral cats and rodents. They have pictures showing everyone's property that needs to be cleaned up. President Brown thanked Mr. Spears but asked that he bring these issues to the Mayor and Donna since they are the ones that handle these issues. Council is only there to approve bills, ordinances and resolutions since they went Home Rule. President Brown stated that Donna and the Mayor are very flexible with hours, if they work during the City's business hours.

Mr. Hank Marks commented that there were two nice days and nothing is being done downtown. He questions when is the work to improve the downtown going to begin. President Brown stated that we have done some work but we are

waiting for all the Utility Companies to complete their work so we can proceed with ours. Mr. Marks feels we are not being strict enough with the Utilities and we must start putting our foot down and tell them the work must get completed now or if we complete our work and they cut into our new pavement, they are responsible fixing the entire road, not just a patch. He stated other municipalities do not accept the Utilities excuses so why should we. This will get them to move faster Mr. Marks replied. President Brown stated the city is not the only ones involved in the revitalization of the downtown, the Municipal Authority is also involved. They must purchase the properties before we can start demolition.

Mr. Telencho asked Council "Who does the Municipal Authority answer to?" because not one of them will give a straight answer at their meetings on whether or not they are involved in the streetscape. He stated they have no idea what they are doing. President Brown said they report to the Mayor, they are the Mayor's appointments.

Ms. Julianna Zarzycki asked Council "Who bought the Villa?" and President Brown responded the Municipal Authority bought it.

Correspondence –

A motion is needed to approve a resident's request. Linda Gullotto is requesting permission to plant a Weeping Willow Tree in Patriot Park near the book stand in the memory of her son. Council tabled this due to the negative comments regarding a Weeping Willow and suggested a Pine Tree. Council asked Donna to speak to Linda regarding this issue.

Announcements-

Luzerne County Community College is holding its 20th Annual Flea Market & Collectables Show on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Meeting Adjournment

Ms. Butczynski made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Coughlin, roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Next Meeting, Wednesday May 16, 2018 at 7:00PM

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk