



**NANTICOKE CITY**  
**WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY HALL 7:00PM**

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Call to Order: President, William Brown  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Invocation: Finance Director, Jennifer Polito

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

**WORK SESSION**

**Discussion of Council Meeting Action Items**

a. Proposed (Ordinance #8, 2017) authorizing entry into a Municipal Cooperation Agreement between the City and the County Drug Task Force, DA's office and all participating County municipalities relative to a Cooperative Drug Task Force Program setting forth liability, termination of the agreement, overtime provisions, asset forfeiture provisions, financial funding and all other actions deemed necessary to address the scope of services. (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

**Administrative Updates for Council**

Donna Wall stated she and the Mayor have none and asked Mrs. Mackiewicz if she wanted to say something about the Big Bang. Mrs. Mackiewicz stated the Big Bang was a great success again as it was in the past and next year it will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year so they will have to do something special to commemorate the event. She thanked all that attended and all that helped out with the event.

A motion to adjourn the Work Session was made by Nicole Mackeiewicz and seconded by Lesly Butczynski.

**REGULAR MEETING**    Comments from the Public (agenda items only)

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion to approve the June 21, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Coughlin, second by Mr. Pietrzyk, motion carried. Council President William Brown abstained. He was excused from the June 21st meeting.

Mrs. Mackiewicz made a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$392,058.18 (Payables \$297,326.08) (Payroll \$94,732.10) second by, Mr. Coughlin, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Pietrzyk, second by Ms. Butczynski to adopt Ordinance #8 of 2017 on the second reading, authorizing the entry into a Municipal Cooperation Agreement between the City and County Drug Task Force. Motion carried.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Gianuzzi requested to ask 3 follow-up questions on behalf of John Telencho who was unable to attend the meeting. First he asked how much were the original grant amounts to do the streetscape and how much is left. Donna Wall replied we have 5.6 million available, we physically do not have that amount sitting in a bank account. It is a drawdown grant she replied. Secondly, has there been any progress made on the streetscape and Donna Wall replied we are in the design phase and we are awaiting PENNDOT approval. Thirdly, the question was for Atty. Finnegan and he wanted to know if Atty. Finnegan Spoke to the Assistant DA concerning drug raids in rental units and can the City seize the properties from the Landlords. Atty. Finnegan said he did talk to the Assistant DA and unless you can prove the Landlord knew of the drug interactions and ignored it, you would need that proof. If you do not have proof than the answer is No, the City cannot lawfully seize the property.

Mary Jane Wido was questioning Council about handling the issues brought to their attention months ago on Loomis Street. Ms. Wido stated the property on 23 Loomis St. is still loaded with garbage and junk and now she has snakes in her yard due to the tall grass and weeds. She asked if we had an ordinance concerning tall grass/weeds and junk in people's yards. Council President Brown replied yes we do and the City Manager will talk to the Code Officer and have him address this issue. Ms. Wido also said the trees need to be trimmed around the power lines an can we call someone to come out to trim the branches. Donna Wall replied she will see if the power company's contractor will come out but she is not sure if they will. Ms. Wido stated she is not doing it and is not paying someone to do it. Councilwoman Mackiewicz was question by Council President Brown about Loomis Street and she said that the parking issues have definitely gotten better. Mr. Brown stated Wally was supposed to put up signs to help with the parking issues.

Hank Marks expressed his anger about having to get another survey done to complete the streetscape. He states it has been over 12 years that this project has been delayed for many reasons and he wants to go to Senator Toomey about the state and try to get some answers. Mr. Brown agreed with Mr. Marx that the streetscape has taken way too long to complete but the Mayor and Council are doing their best to move it along. Donna Wall replied that we are in the design phase and asked him who told him another

survey needed to be done and he replied she did at the last meeting. Mr. Marks also stated he believes the original Federal Grant was for 7 million dollars and the state should not be messing with federal funds. He asks, is that 5.6 million that is left worth the same as it was worth 12 years ago. Will the monies go as far? Probably not he replied. Mrs. Mackiewicz agreed with Mr. Marks and replied she thinks this administration is doing a good job moving the streetscape forward compared to past administrations. Mr. Marks stated that he is not saying that this administration is not doing a good job but he is reaching out to Senator Toomey regarding how slow PENNDOT is moving. Mr. Brown wished him luck and replied to let us know if he gets any answers. Mr. Marks also asked why are we still ripping up Main Street and when is the paving going to be complete? Donna Wall replied the City Sewers and Verizon had to fix their issues and now the water company needs to do their repairs before paving can be complete. Mr. Marks stated that PENNDOT is the worst state for roads and street projects.

### **Announcements**

Council President Brown announced that the July 19, 2017 City Council Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm at Luzerne County Community College Educational Conference Center location (off the Prospect side).

The next Council meeting is Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Mrs. Mackiewicz made the motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Pietrzyk. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

---

**Jennifer W. Polito, Finance Director**

---

**Mary Beth Cheshinski, City Clerk**