

## CITY OF NANTICOKE



### WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 15, 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 via telephone, Mike Marcella, Joseph Nalepa, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito and Solicitor, Attorney Finnegan.

#### **WORK SESSION-**

**A Motion** to approve Resolution # 17 of 2021, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving a Waiver, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnification Agreement with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority relative to the use of two (2) properties owned by the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority for Fire and Emergency training purposes.

**A Motion** to approve Resolution # 18 of 2021, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the appointment of James Litchkofski by Mayor Kevin Coughin to the Police Civil Service Board due to the resignation of Kevin Grevera.

**A Motion** to approve Resolution # 19 of 2021, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke authorizing and directing the proper Nanticoke City Officials to apply for a LSA Grant in the amount of \$550,200.00 to demolish the Ellis Building located at 102-198 E. Washington St., Nanticoke.

**A Motion** to approve Resolution # 20 of 2021, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke authorizing and directing the proper Nanticoke City Officials to apply for a LSA Grant in the amount of \$112,235.26 to purchase two (2) police vehicles.

**A Motion** to approve Resolution # 21 of 2021, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke authorizing and directing the proper Nanticoke City Officials to apply for a LSA Grant in the amount of \$1.6 M to purchase a Pierce 100-foot ascendent tower ladder fire truck.

**A Motion** to retain Innamoratti Appraisal Services to appraise the property located at 150 W. Church St. (PIN J7SW2006046-42) and authorize the proper City Officials to undertake steps to sell the property.

**A Motion** to appoint Donna Wall to the Lower South Valley Land Bank Steering Committee. The cost for participating on the Steering Committee is \$3,000.00. Participation on the Steering Committee does not obligate our municipality to become a Land Bank member.

**A motion** to approve the receipt of the funding requirements of the City's 2022 (MMO's) Minimal Municipal Obligation.

Police \$439,753, Fire \$193,590 and Non-Uniform \$77,132.

### **Administrative Updates-**

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

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin** executed Executive Order # 20 of 2021, appointing James Litchkofski to the Police Civil Service Board to fill the vacant seat left by Kevin Grevera for the remaining years of a 4-year term.

**Donna Wall** updated Council and residents on the following:

- PennDOT will be street sweeping to clean up the mess they left on the roads from dredging the creek.
- Puck Addiction/ Michalene's Mission will be promoting Overdose Awareness in our city on September 26, 2021, 11 am to 3 pm at Nanticoke square.
- City Council will be traveling to different locations for the October Council meetings. Oct 6<sup>th</sup> will be at Honey Pot Fire Department and the Oct 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Haover Fire Dept. The meeting times are the same, 7:00 pm.

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

### **REGULAR MEETING** Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Ron Knapp stated it is encouraging to see that the city is applying for LSA Grants. Mr. Knapp also commented on the formation of a Land Bank by stating he does not agree with forming a Land Bank and it is unfortunate that the city has so much Blight.

Mr. Larry Ace stated that the parking on E. Ridge Street is horrible due to the customers to the bakery and Eagles Club. He does not understand why they will not use the municipal parking lot versus taking up parking spots on the street. President Brown agreed with Chief Roke's comment that street parking is not reserved for the homeowners. President Brown informed Mr. Ace that this is not the part of the meeting for comments from the public and asked if he filled out a form to speak at the meeting. Mr. Ace stated he was unaware of the process in order to speak at the meeting so President Brown stated that they will talk to the businesses and see if they can post something in their businesses asking customers to use the municipal lot instead of taking up the street parking. President Brown thanked Mr. Ace for his comment and asked him to please fill out a form if he needs to address Council at a meeting in the future.

### **Old Business**

**None**

### **New Business**

**A Motion** to approve the Aug 18, 2021 minutes was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried 4-0, Councilmember Marcella abstained.

**A Motion** to approve the ratification of the bills (Aug 19, 2021 through September 1, 2021 in the amount of \$363,467.57, (Payroll(s) \$99,034.95 and Payables \$264,432.62) was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$196,228.69, (Payroll(s) \$109,714.78 and Payables \$86,513.91) was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to approve Resolution # 21 of 2021, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke authorizing and directing the proper Nanticoke City Officials to apply for a LSA Grant in the amount of \$1.6 M to purchase a Pierce 100-foot ascendent tower ladder fire truck was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Telencho.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to retain Innamoratti Appraisal Services to appraise the property located at 150 W. Church St. (PIN J7SW2006046-42) and authorize the proper City Officials to undertake steps to sell the property was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Marcella. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion** to appoint Donna Wall to the Lower South Valley Land Bank Steering Committee. The cost for participating on the Steering Committee is \$3,000.00. Participation on the Steering Committee does not obligate our municipality to become a Land Bank member was made by Councilmember Telencho seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.

Motion carried unanimously.

**A motion** to approve the receipt of the funding requirements of the City's 2022 (MMO's) Minimal Municipal Obligation, Police \$439,753, Fire \$193,590 and Non-Uniform \$77,132 was made by Councilmember Marcella seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Ms. Karen Metta** expressed her concern of the idea of defunding the Police and Fire departments that has been brought up to Council at past meetings. She stated that she pays over \$6,000 in taxes for her home and it is piece of mind and worth every penny to know that she has full time Police and Fire protection. Ms. Metta stated that she and other taxpayers do

not think it is advantageous to defund these departments and rely on part time or volunteers to protect the city. Ms. Metta stated that residents need to consider who they vote and what is at risk when they go to the polls this November.

**Mr. Larry Beck** asked Council to ignore the first comment about paving, his question was answered. Mr. Beck did comment on the Refuse collection and what a poor job they do when picking up the garbage. Mr. Beck stated they throw the garbage cans everywhere and leave garbage and or yard waste on the streets if it falls from the truck. President Brown stated he will call Mascaro personally regarding this issue.

**Mr. Ron Knapp** commented on Mr. Beck's complaint by stating that is what we get when the City only gets one Bid. Mr. Ron Knapp wanted to inform Council that DCED sent a letter to municipalities regarding loss income due to the closing of the jails and asked Council and Administration to look into recovering the loss revenue. President Brown replied that Donna and the Mayor have already addressed the issue of recovering lost revenue and if he has any further comments about this issue, Donna Wall will discuss it with him after the meeting. Mr. Knapp commented on the pot hole in front of the Mill Memorial library that took 3 1/2 weeks to resolve. President Brown stated that is wrong. There was a water main break and it took the some time to complete the process of filling the pot hole but not 3 ½ weeks. DPW Foreman, Rick Josefowicz stated they needed to give the ground some time to settle before the pot hole could be correctly filled and patched. The Water Company fixed it as fast as possible and it cost the city nothing. Donna Wall commented that the city has a contract for \$425,000 for the State closure properties and President Brown thanked the Mayor and Donna and knew the city was on top of this issue.

**Mr. Hank Marks** responded to Ms. Metta's comments earlier by stating he does not want to do away with any police or fire services, he asks that new hires start at less to save money. Mr. Marks began yelling at Ms. Metta so President Brown told Mr. Marks that Ms. Metta is just responding to what is recorded in prior minutes and that she has that right. Mr. Marks replied that it is a difference of opinion on why residents do not attend the Council meetings and that former Mayor Bushko stated that it is a waste of time because Council does not address resident's complaints. President Brown asked Mr. Marks to please get on with any further questions that he may have and stop using the meetings for political comments. Mr. Marks yelled out that he prepared that letter for Mr. Knapp and President Brown asked him to get his facts correct because he did not serve under Toole for 8 years, President Brown asked Mr. Marks to correct that comment to 4 years.

### **Correspondence-**

A letter submitted via email by Stephen Stashik, complimenting the City of Nanticoke and its Department of Public Works Department for the way the City's roads are maintained in both the Summer and Winter seasons. President Brown thanked DPW Foreman, Rick Josefowicz for a job well done.

### **Announcements-**

September is NICU Awareness Month and the City of Nanticoke along with other Municipalities would like to raise awareness of NICU Units and Babies by asking residents and businesses to "Light up their properties green" to acknowledge NICU Awareness Day on September 30, 2021.

The Luzerne County Recycling Department will be holding a **Used Tire Recycling Event** at the following dates and locations from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event is for residents only, **NOT** for business such as small garages/service stations, tire dealers or tire manufacturers.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please contact 1-800-821-7654 by September 24, 2021. There is a limit of 16 tires per resident.

Accepted tires are tires from a regular size car/pickup truck, ATV/UTV, SUV, motorcycle and farm tractor tires. Tires must be off rims and free of heavy dirt and mud.

This is a DROPP OFF Event only!!!

October 2, 2021

Drums Elementary School  
85 S. Old Turnpike Rd.

October 9, 2021

Hanover Area Jr. Sr. High School  
1600 Sans Souci Parkway, Hanover Twp.

**Councilmember Comments-**

Vice President Telencho had no further comments.

Councilmember Butczynski had no further comments.

Councilmember Marcella wanted to thank the Boy Scouts for helping hand out flyers at the Citywide Yard Sale.

Councilmember Nalepa stated Kudos to Rick and the DPW Department regarding the letter Council received from a resident complimenting the DPW Department.

President Brown had no further comments.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.**

**Next Meeting, Wed, Oct 6, 2021 @ 7:00 pm.**

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**