

CITY OF NANTICOKE



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Via Conference Call, 1-800-201-3962 – Code # 349057

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, John Pietrzyk, Mike Marcella, Interim City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer Polito and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

City Residents present: Lou Gianuzzi, Ron Knapp, Tom Williams, Christine Josefowicz, and Walter Griffiths.

WORK SESSION-

Resolution # 7 of 2020, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke providing for the waiver of any penalty for 2020 City of Nanticoke taxes for the period June 18, 2020 through August 18, 2020.

Resolution # 8 of 2020, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke extending the time period to pay the City of Nanticoke 2nd quarter Sewer Maintenance Fees to June 30, 2020.

Lease Agreement with Stell Enterprises to lease the land on Lower Broadway from the City of Nanticoke contingent on them accepting the agreement and to pay the Stormwater Fee on the said property.

Administrative Updates-

Mayor Kevin Coughlin had a Proclamation for the “Bells Across Pennsylvania Day” on May 3, 2020.

Donna Wall updated Council and residents on the following:

-Donna informed Council that she and Jennifer have looked into paying some of the City’s fees such as Refuse bills, Code Department fees and Police department fees online. After speaking with Ryan McGowan at M&T Bank, they set us up with Govolution and we have accepted their proposal. Govolution will create the pages and work with our IT and JD to get the link on our website. Their processing fees are very reasonable and we will be using them for online payments and credit card payments at City Hall. There are no fees to the City except the City must purchase the card readers and Jennifer stated she estimated the City needs 4 card readers at \$75.00 each, Donna agreed.

-Donna stated Mohawk Construction has resumed working on the Sewer project on W. Main Street by Jerry’s Market. Donna stated she had to do a grant extension for this project and it was approved.

--Donna stated she and the City’s engineers walked Main Street to address the issues like the sunken man hole covers that the previous engineer did not take care of.

When Donna asked if anyone had any questions, Vice President, John Telencho asked when will they discuss the billboards and benches. Donna replied that the Billboards were discussed with him and that she will work with him and Lou Gianuzzi on resolving this issue. Donna stated as for the benches in town, Mr. Alberola dropped off an insurance certificate and the only issue with it was it expires soon but he said he will renew

the insurance. Mr. Alberola has fixed three of the broken benches in town and removed one. Mr. Telencho stated there is more than three, he has the photos of all of them. Donna asked that he forward them to her and she will address the issues with Mr. Alberola. Councilmember, Lesley Butczynski stated Mr. Alberola is working with us on this matter, we need to give him some time to fix all the issues with the benches. Mr. Telencho asked why Council is fighting him on this matter and we are still not getting any money for his advertising benches on the City's property and he does not want this issue to be forgotten about like in the past. Donna stated he is ordering new benches and the one by the hospital is not his. The City's DPW Department is going to remove it. Mr. Telencho asked if there will be an agreement drafted like we did with Stell Enterprises? Councilor, Lesley Butczynski stated we are not fighting with you, Mr. Alberola is working with us and we all need to work together at a slow pace and not rush this matter.

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

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Lou Gianuzzi wanted to comment on the conversation between John and Lesley and he said he agrees with John that we have given Mr. Alberola six months to comply with the issues of these benches. The benches are all old and look horrible in town. President Brown said we need to move on with the meeting and this time is for Agenda Items only.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the April 20, 2020 minutes was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded Councilmember Marcella.

Motion carried 4-1. Councilmember Pietrzyk abstained.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$502,853.45 (Payroll \$94,869.97 and Payables \$407,983.48) was made by Councilmember Marcella, seconded by Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Resolution # 7 of 2020**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke providing for the waiver of any penalty for 2020 City of Nanticoke taxes for the period June 18, 2020 through August 18, 2020 was made by Councilmember Pietrzyk, seconded Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve **Resolution # 8 of 2020**, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Nanticoke extending the time period to pay the City of Nanticoke 2nd quarter Sewer Maintenance Fees to June 30, 2020 was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded Councilmember Butczynski.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the **Lease Agreement with Stell Enterprises**, to lease the land on Lower Broadway from the City of Nanticoke contingent on them accepting the agreement and to pay the Stormwater Fee on the said property was made by Councilmember Telencho, seconded Councilmember Pietrzyk.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Mr. Ron Knapp wanted to thank the City for looking into online bill paying. Mr. Knapp referred to the comment Donna made last meeting about the employees working remotely and coming in to the building periodically as needed and Vice President Telencho brought up the point that when the building reopens, it will need to be sanitized properly according to the CDC guidelines. Mr. Knapp mention all the cleaning due to the virus can be reimbursed through a grant to save the City money. Donna Wall thanked him and she is already aware of the grant and has applied for the grant to cover the COVID-19 expenses. Mr. Knapp brought to Council's attention a brick building on the corner of E. South St. and S. Prospect St. that is already condemned but the roof has caved in. Mr. Knapp is worried the side walls may start coming down onto the sidewalk with all the rain. President Brown asked Donna to look into this issue with the Code Department. Mr. Knapp noticed activity on the South Valley and asked if PennDOT was working on the signage. Donna replied PennDOT has been shut down and it not sure what work is being done but she will look into it and have an answer for the next meeting.

Mr. Walter Griffith complimented Council on passing the Resolution # 7 of 2020 and mirroring with the County to be uniform. Mr. Griffith asked for an update on the Bowling Alley and Donna Wall replied that it was purchased by the Nanticoke Municipal Authority. Vice President Telencho replied he had asked for an update at one of the Municipal Authority's meetings on the old Villa and the Bowlarama. The Municipal Authority had no update on the Villa but they did say they have spoken to a few people interested in buying the Bowlarama property but nothing has come of it as of yet. Mr. Griffith asked if there is any way Council can put a time limit on selling it or demolishing it. Donna Wall replied No, The Municipal Authority is a branch of the City and they purchased it to help us and now we need to give it some time.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

None

Councilmember Comments

Vice President Telencho has three comments:

- Vice President Telencho was speaking with Mayor Kevin Coughlin about the new equipment the City purchased for the DPW department and the City only has one Class A CDL driver. Mr. Telencho is concerned that one may not be enough and why does the City not pay for the DPW workers to have a Class A CDL? Donna Wall replied it is very costly, over \$1,000.00. We do pay for the difference of the cost of the regular license versus a CDL license but not all the training and testing Donna replied. Donna stated it is not a requirement to have in order to be employed by the City and we have never paid for an employee to hold a Class A CDL before. Donna stated we have one worker with a Class A and two with a Class B license. President Brown asked that Donna and the Mayor get together and discuss this issue with the DPW Department.
- Vice President Telencho asked since we purchased all this equipment, who is fixing the catch basins in town? Us or WVSA? Donna Wall replied a combination of both because some are more than 5 feet deep and need shoring. Those, WVSA are doing, all others our DPW Department can fix replied Donna.
- Vice President Telencho asked since the Governor of Pa has extended his emergency declaration until May 25th, is our next meeting going to be another teleconference and does the Mayor need to extend his declaration? Attorney Finnegan stated he will have another ordinance prepared for the next meeting if needed and President Brown said he will speak with the Mayor and Council and they will make a decision about another teleconference or not.

Councilmember Butczynski asked if the DPW Foreman, Rick was on the teleconference to clear up the issue with the CDL license and the catch basins and his wife Christine said he is not because he is with his daughter but she will pass on the information to him. Councilmember Butczynski just has one last comment this evening on Mr. Alberola and these benches, she stated he is working with us, so let's give him a chance.

Councilmember Pietrzyk wanted to comment that City Officials need to work with the local businessmen in town since we need their businesses. We need to stop attacking people replied Mr. Pietrzyk and Mr. Pietrzyk stated he is fine with the benches in town as long as they are safe and insured.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Next Meeting, Wed, May 20, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.

Jennifer W. Polito
City Clerk