

CITY OF NANTICOKE



WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Call to Order: President, William Brown

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito

ROLL CALL:

The following were present: Council Members, William Brown, Joseph Nalepa, Joseph Dougherty, Kenneth James via telephone, Mark O'Connor, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

WORK SESSION: New Business: (action Items)

A Motion to approve Ordinance #1 of 2025, First Reading, an Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance # 16 of 2007, Article III, Section 3.6 and Article IV Section 4.2 entitled City of Nanticoke Police Pension Plan.

A Motion to approve Resolution #17 of 2024, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the appointment of Donna Wall to the position of City Manager and approving the employment agreement for the City Manager and Salary of \$95,000.00.

A Motion to award the City of Nanticoke DPW Pole Building Project to Dutchman Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$605,507.00 (Lowest Bidder). See recommendation from the City's engineer.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Mayor Kevin Coughlin has submitted the November 2024 Department Reports for Council's review and Jennifer Polito has posted them on the City's website at www.nanticokecity.com.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin executed Executive Order # 14 of 2024, pursuant to Article III, Section 3.04, appointing Donna Wall to City Manager in accordance to terms set forth in the Employment Agreement.

City Manager, Donna Wall had the following updates for Council:

1. The sewer replacement project on College Street will be completed on Thursday December 19, 2024.
2. The City received numerous calls from residents on the West side of Ridge Street stating there is a smell of oil or diesel fuel coming from the sewer line. DPW Foreman Rick Josefowicz and Fire Chief Mark Boncal began going door to door knocking on doors to

find a rental property indeed had a furnace that leaked all its oil delivery onto the basement floor. DEP was called in and they have taken over with what the landlord needs to do to clean up the oil. The City's DPW foreman, Rick Josefowicz treated the sewer line with a cleaning solution to get rid of the smell. Rick followed up and the smell is gone from the sewer line.

3. The new light pole on Main Street was taken down by a hit and run driver. Cameras caught the person at fault and we are in the process of going after the driver.

A Motion was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember O'Connor to adjourn the work session.

Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. John Telencho asked which plan was approved for the DPW building. City Manager, Donna Wall stated there were two bids one for site work and one for the construction of the Pole Barn. Mr. Telencho asked which Pole Barn was decided on because there were two discussed. DPW Foreman stated the same plans with 7 bays. A resident, Frank Mizdil asked if the builder has insurance for the Pole Barn while in construction? City Manager Donna Wall stated insurance was not part of the bid but she will look into it with the builder or the city's insurance broker.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2024 Work Session/Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember O'Connor. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$371,837.42** [(Payrolls) **\$135,962.06** (Accounts Payable) **\$235,875.36**] was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember O'Connor.

Motion carried 4-0, Councilmember Dougherty abstained. A written memorandum for disclosing a conflict of interest is attached to these minutes.

A Motion to table Ordinance #1 of 2025, First Reading, an Ordinance of City Council of the City of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance # 16 of 2007, Article III, Section 3.6 and Article IV Section 4.2 entitled City of Nanticoke Police Pension Plan was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Dougherty.

Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to approve Resolution #17 of 2024, a Resolution of City Council of the City of Nanticoke approving the appointment of Donna Wall to the position of City Manager and

approving the employment agreement for the City Manager and Salary of \$95,000.00 was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Dougherty.
Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to award the City of Nanticoke DPW Pole Building Project to Dutchman Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$605,507.00 (Lowest Bidder). See recommendation from the City's engineer was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember O'Connor.
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

Ms. Brenda Heck of 509 E. Grove Street commented on behalf of herself and others in the Cherry Hill neighborhood with the noise and vibrations coming from the parked trucks idling at Spreetail. Ms. Heck stated these refrigeration trucks are idling 24/7 and the noise and vibrations are affecting the entire community. President Brown responded by stating that we are aware of the issue and Chief Roke was sent to Spreetail to speak with the manager. The manager stated this is just temporary for the holidays. Chief Roke asked the manager to move the trucks to a more isolated area and the manager stated it is not that easy due to the computer system. Ms. Heck asked if the city had a noise ordinance and Chief Roke stated no. Attorney Finnegan, the city's solicitor, stated we have a nuisance ordinance and noise is addressed in the ordinance so he will be discussing this issue with the city's code officer. Mayor Coughlin stated the city will look into adopting an ordinance to prevent this in the future. Mr. Len Golemb stated the vibrations are knocking things off his walls. Mr. Mike Zaremba stated the trucks run constantly interfering with his sleep. Mr. Zaremba also stated the police need to enforce the jake breaking. Chief Roke stated officers have been trained for over weight trucks and we have been issuing fines for both issues. Vice President Nalepa stated we will have an update at the January 8, 2028 Council meeting. President Brown thanked the residents of Cherry Hill for coming to the meeting and the stated the solicitor and the mayor will meet on this issue.

Mr. Larry Beck of 225 E. Green Street asked if Chief Roke is working on amending the handicap parking ordinance. Mr. Beck stated until the city changes the ordinance the resident will keep parking incorrectly in front of his handicap sign.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

The January 2025 Council Meetings will meet on the second and forth Wednesdays of the month for 2025. Council Meeting dates are January 8, 2025 and January 22, 2025.

Holiday Hours:

- Tuesday, December 24, 2024 Closed
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Closed
- Thursday, December 26, 2024 Closed
- Tuesday, December 31, 2024 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 Closed

We wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!!!

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Nalepa thanked everyone who attended the meeting, thanked Donna for all she does and her hard work, thank Rick and the Nanticoke Police for the issue with the pole being struck down.

Councilmember James apologized for not being at the meeting in person due to eye surgery. He hopes to have this noise issue straightened out soon. He thanked everyone who volunteered their time and efforts at the Christmas parade. He stated it is great to finally see the DPW building being built. He congratulated Donna. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Dougherty commented it is his first year back and it was nice to be back. He thanked everyone from Cherry Hill for coming to the meeting. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember O'Connor thanked everyone from Cherry Hill for coming to the meeting and stated they should not have to live with this noise. He commended Rick on a good job with the sewer issue. He congratulated Donna. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

President William Brown thanked everyone from Cherry Hill for coming to the meeting. He congratulated Donna. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Next Meeting:

Work Session/Council Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025
@ 6:00 pm.

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito