



CITY OF NANTICOKE

WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 21, 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, Mark O'Connor, City Manager, Donna Wall, Finance Director/City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito, and Solicitor, Attorney William Finnegan.

Member of the LCTA gave a presentation on the new bus routes that are coming to Nanticoke, Newport Twp. and the Glen Lyon Area. After the presentation, members of the LCTA answered any questions that the residents and City Council had before closing their presentation. Members of the LCTA advised residents to check the LCTA website for future updates.

WORK SESSION: New Business: (action Items)

A Motion to approve or deny the Conditional Use Application of Susquehanna Solar, LLC, for the development of a solar energy generation facility on properties located in the City of Nanticoke bearing Parcel Identification Numbers 42-K7NE1-01A-VAR-000 and 42-K7S6-005-001-000.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

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

-City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council:

1. The downtown streetscape paving between Market and Walnut Streets will be done shortly. The curbing will be installed in the next two weeks. There has been a delay in the lighting to be installed.
2. Donna Wall asked Olivia Dougherty to announce the program Connecting Autism and Communities on August, 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm at City Hall since she will be one of the speakers. Olivia asked City Residents to come out and show their support as she and her dad, Joseph Dougherty will be speaking at the event. Donna Wall thanked State Representative, Alec Ryncavage, for organizing this event and Alec replied, Olivia did all the work.

A Motion was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Dougherty to adjourn the work session.
Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING Comments from the Public agenda items only.

Mr. Mike Marcella stated he encourages Council to do what is right for the residents of the city and vote against the solar farm project.

Old Business

None

New Business

A Motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 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 **\$483,092.73, (Payrolls) \$129,477.72 and (Accounts Payable) \$353,615.01** was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Nalepa.
Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion to deny the Conditional Use Application of Susquehanna Solar, LLC, for the development of a solar energy generation facility on properties located in the City of Nanticoke bearing Parcel Identification Numbers 42-K7NE1-01A-VAR-000 and 42-K7S6-005-001-000 was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Dougherty.
Motion carried unanimously.

At this time the residents clapped loudly at Council's decision and thanked Council for voting in the best interest of the city and the residents. President Brown stated amongst other reasons, we listened to the residents and voted "NO" because of their comments and concerns at the hearing.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –

A resident asked if Susquehanna Solar can appeal Council's decision and Attorney Finnegan stated yes. Another resident asked if the appeal will be with the Luzerne County Zoning Board and Attorney Finnegan stated no, at the Court of Common Pleas. Another resident asked if City Council is considering changing the current zoning ordinance to prohibit Solar Farms and Attorney Finnegan stated yes. Attorney Finnegan stated we are working on amending our current ordinance that would not prevent this activity 100% but there will be stricter rules like how far from a resident's property and so forth to protect homeowners.

Correspondence-

None

Announcements-

The 🍂 Fall 🍁 City Wide Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2024 (Rain Date is Sunday, September 8, 2024).

Anyone interested in being on the list of addresses participating in the yard sale provided by the City, please call 570-735-2800 ext. 101 by Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

The list will be available for pick up at City Hall on Friday, September 6, 2024 and posted on the City's Facebook page.

City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 in observance of Labor Day.

Councilmember Comments-

Vice President Nalepa had no further comments.

Councilmember Dougherty had no further comments.

Councilmember James stated he just had eye surgery and he can not see out of the one eye.

The doctors say a few weeks before the sight comes back so if you see me and I do not say hello, I am not ignoring you. I am having a hard time seeing with just one eye right now.

Councilmember O'Connor had no further comments.

President William Brown had no further comments.

Mayor Kevin Coughlin wanted to thank the Pastor at Faith Church for holding an event in Patriot Park for Kids. Mayor Coughlin stated it is nice to see people using the square.

Meeting Adjournment-

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Next Meeting:

Work Session/Council Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024
@ 6:00 pm.

City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito