



## CITY OF NANTICOKE

### WORK SESSION and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 7, 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.

**Attorney William Finnegan** announced an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss two matters; the proposed Solar Farm in which a decision by Council will be made at the August 21, 2024 Council meeting and a discussion regarding Union Contract negotiations.

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin** swore in **Charles Witzak and Keith Eichler** as Full-Time Police Officers and pictures were taken with their family.

#### **WORK SESSION: New Business: (action Items)**

**A Motion to accept** the Resignation Letter from Police Officer, John Bryan, effective July 12, 2024.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:**

**Mayor Kevin Coughlin executed Executive Order #13 of 2024**, the hiring of Charles Witzak and Keith Eichler, as a full-time Nanticoke City Police Officers under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 36, City of Nanticoke Police Officer's Association, effective Wednesday August 7, 2024.

#### **-City Manager, Donna Wall has updates for Council:**

1. The City's Safety Committee was audited by the Commonwealth of Pa for compliance and it passed. The Safety Committee saves the city 5% on their annual worker's compensation premiums each year.
2. The detour on Main Street is in effect until Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 and weather permitting will be paved on Monday, Aug. 12, 2024.

**A Motion** was made by Councilmember Dougherty seconded by Councilmember Nalepa to adjourn the work session.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**A Motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2024 Work Session/Regular Council Meeting** was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Dougherty. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to approve** the payment of the bills in the total amount of **\$483,223.72, (Payrolls) \$129,134.43 and (Accounts Payable) \$354,089.29** was made by Councilmember O'Connor seconded by Councilmember Nalepa. Motion carried unanimously.

**A Motion to accept** the Resignation Letter from Police Officer, John Bryan, effective July 12, 2024 was made by Councilmember Nalepa seconded by Councilmember Dougherty. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC –**

**Ms. Delphine Starr of 265 Honey Pot Street** asked Council what is going on behind Weis Markets and the City Manager, Donna Wall stated that area was part of the UGI/PHEMA Remediation Project and it is being turned into a parking lot for the city. Donna Wall stated that is the only use for that property because it is in a flood zone. Ms. Starr asked when the water line that is 4 inches and should be 8 inches is going to be replaced in Honey Pot? City Manager, Donna Wall stated that project is over a year old and still has not been completed and Ms. Starr replied no. Donna Wall asked DPW Foreman, Rick Josefowicz, if he knew why the project never got completed and Rick replied it was stopped by a resident. Donna Wall stated she will look into this and have an answer at the next meeting. Ms. Starr replied the same resident stopped large garbage trucks from going down her street and wanted to know why she has so much power of what goes on in Honey Pot.

**Fire Chief Mark Boncal** informed Council and Residents the pump testing on the apparatus has been completed and everything passed. Chief Boncal also stated he will be going to Wisconsin next month for a pre-construction meeting on the new ladder truck and the new engine is in production. President Brown stated the city has purchased 2 new Fire Trucks to update the old 20 year plus apparatus which cost approximately 2.4 million dollars in order to keep the city safe.

**Mr. Jim Kaszowicz of 1572 Hanover Street** asked what happens if the Solar Farm decision is a Yes or a No. The City's Solicitor, Attorney Finnegan, replied if Susquehanna Solar Farm does not like the decision made by Council, they will be able to appeal the decision with the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Kaszowicz stated he hopes Council votes no. Mr. Kaszowicz asked Council

if any of them walked the property and President Brown Stated yes; the Mayor, Councilmember Dougherty and DPW Foreman walked the property. Mr. Kaszowicz stated Susquehanna Solar Farm were not correct on some aspects of this project and he hopes Council does what is right for the residents.

**Correspondence-**

The Resignation Letter from Police Officer, John Bryan was read by President Brown.

**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.

**Councilmember Comments-**

**Vice President Nalepa** congratulated the new Police Officers and wished them a long healthy career with the city.

**Councilmember Dougherty** congratulated the new Police Officers and wished them a long healthy career with the city.

**Councilmember James** congratulated the new Police Officers and hopes they do a good job protecting the city.

**Councilmember O'Connor** congratulated the new Police Officers, wished them a long healthy career with the city and to be safe while protecting the city.

**President William Brown** congratulated the new Police Officers and wished them a long healthy career with the city. President Brown thanked the Mayor for the hiring of the Police Officers. The Mayor replied it is a joint effort.

**Meeting Adjournment-**

Councilmember Dougherty made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember O'Connor, roll call.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.**

**Next Meeting:**

Work Session/Council Meeting Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024  
@ 6:00 pm.

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**City Clerk, Jennifer W. Polito**