The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on January 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Vernon F. Jackson : Mayor

Timothy M. Cellary : Council Member

Kathi Iannotti : “ “

Bradley Hayner : “ “

Helen Martin : “ “

Michael Poulin : City Attorney

Bruce Heberer : Fire Chief

David Gilbo : Police Lt.

Christopher Vose : City Engineer

Michelle Jones : Senior Center Director

Erica Wing : Library Director

Michael Gifford : City Treasurer

Cathy A. VanAlstyne : City Clerk

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order and led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

MAYOR’S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – copy attached

APPROVE MINUTES – the minutes of the January 2, 2017 Organizational Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Hayner. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – Council Member Iannotti motioned to pay the bills and place on file in the City Treasurer’s Office as follows: General Fund (A) unpaid $369,764.06; General Fund (A) paid $1,147,684.46; Sewer Fund (G) unpaid $1,234.88; Sewer Fund (G) paid $401,219.57; and Voucher Fund (VO) paid $45,339.10. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin.

CITY OFFICIAL’S/LIAISON’S REPORTS

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported the department received training during the month of December. They responded to 54 calls for service that included 3 structure fires, 7 motor vehicle accidents, 20 hazardous condition calls, 12 medical assistance calls, 4 carbon monoxide calls and 8 service calls. The Code Office issued 38 permits with an estimated cost of repairs and construction of $182,059.00 and permit fees of $1645.00. They also conducted 665 code inspections and complaint responses.

POLICE DEPT. – Lt. Gilbo reported the department received 487 calls that generated 60 active case investigations leading to 22 arrests. They issued 222 traffic and parking tickets and handled 43 traffic accidents. Year to date they had 7,199 calls for service, 995 active cases, 345 arrests and 912 citations. They hired one new officer as of the 1st of January. They are looking at candidates to possibly hire another officer in the near future. One supervisor is retiring the end of January and another in February. They will be looking at making two promotions to fill those spots. The department purchased $10,000 in equipment last month with a grant they received from Senator Hugh Farley. The equipment has been tested and it is an appreciated upgrade for the department to assist in drug and violent crime investigations.

DPW – City Engineer Vose reported the sewer plant, during rounds last month, discovered red dye coming from the old Carville Leather building. The EPA was contacted. Access was gained to the building. There are no chemicals left in the building. It was discovered that there was dye on the loading dock floor and with the heavy rains we have had it washed out through the gap in the loading dock door and onto the snow in back of the building. This is non-hazardous red dye and no concern for public safety. EPA will return and try to come up with a solution to soak up the dye from the floor.

The City has applied last summer for funding from the new Bridge New York Program and we have been awarded just over a half million dollars to redo the deck on W. State St. The money for the Miller St. Bridge is there, we just have the last of the paperwork to file. He is confident we will be able to do that this year.

Quotes for Hi-way Oil from C.T. Male are back. The price is fairly reasonable. There will be more costs for the actual construction. He is hoping that the asbestos survey comes back clean then we can knock that building down in house. If not we would have to do an abatement.

Mr. Vose reminded residents that the City does not police the sidewalks for snow and ice. If anyone notices a sidewalk not cleared they should let the Engineer’s Office know so that the homeowners can be notified. Also, do not throw or shovel ice or snow in the roadway. They try to keep the sand barrels filled but if any are seen to be empty, let the department know.

SENIOR CENTER – Director Michelle Jones reported the AARP Defensive Driving Class will resume March 15th. Tax consultants will be in the building for appointments to assist with filing income tax the 2nd week in February.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported the library has tax forms available. Any form they do not have they can assist in downloading. February 4th is Take Your Child to the Library Day from 10am-1pm.

CITY TREASURER – Mr. Gifford reported they have been working with the City’s consultant on the Federal grant for the Johnstown Renewables project. There is much paper work to be done for this. Some of the documents have to be re-signed because we have a new mayor and Mayor Lakata signed them. This month we spent nearly $2,000 on the consultant for some of the other grants we have been working on. The grants are nice to have but they create a lot of work.

January is very busy with collection of the county tax. Lots to do with payroll for this year and preparing for 2016 audit.

PLANNING BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported the Board approved plans for an ice cream store on Briggs St. and Jumbo Lot 2 used car lot on 30A.

ASSESSOR – Council Member Iannotti reported all exemptions must be filed by March 1, 2017. This includes the senior STAR, enhanced STAR and all non-profit organizations.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member Martin reported the Board took care of some routine matters with the election of the officers for this year; Helen Martin Chair, Wrandy Siarkowski Vice Chair, and John Rizzo Secretary. Plant Manager Arnold reported that they are working on remedies, in house, on the CAST project.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Cellary reported the Board held their election of officers. Nick Cannizzo was elected President and George DiMarco, Vice President. Greenman Pederson presented the construction documents for the dam project, which the Board will now review. They will be talking to the Council and Mike Gifford about funding. The project to remove oil tanks at the reservoirs is complete. The Hillside Park water line project is complete. Final payment will be made in the spring. The Board was advised by the city attorney not to approve any timber contracts until they speak to the Council and Mayor.

Mayor Jackson said he and Mr. Gifford had met with Nick Cannizzo and Board Member John Pradelski. The subject of timber came up and the Mayor told them there is a statute that states any sale of timber, the money goes to the City. If they delay anything with the dam project ENCON will be on us about it. He advised the Board to go ahead and sell the timber but not to spend the money until they can clarify who gets the money.

RESOLUTION No. 7, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to rescind Ordinance #4, 2016 – Pleasant Ave. No Parking Any Time on the east side of the roadway between Matthew St. and Elmwood Ave. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Discussion: Council decided to table the resolution until the February 21st meeting. The signs will be removed at that time. There will also be two other Ordinances, after the public hearing, to be voted on for parking issues in that area.

A motion to table was made by Council Member Iannotti and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION No. 8, 2017 was presented by Council Member Cellary to report standard work days to the retirement system. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Abstain: 1 Hayner

RESOLUTION No. 9, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to reject an offer from Tim Cheney of $250 for the City’s Chevy S10 truck. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 10, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to accept an offer for the Chevy S10 truck from Tim Cheney in the amount of $500. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 11, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to enter an agreement with the Johnstown Senior Center. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 12, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner to enter into the Stipulation of Settlement for James F. Senzio. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 13, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to advertise in the Leader and Daily Gazette that the City is seeking a consultant to assist in administering the grant for Johnstown Renewables. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 14, 2017 was presented by Council Member Cellary to enter an agreement with GAR Associates. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 15, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to enter an agreement with C.T. Male Associates for engineering services relating to the permanent closure of underground storage tanks at 237 N. Perry St. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 16, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to rescind Resolution #38, 2015. St. John’s Church is no longer interested in pursuing the grant. Seconded by Council Member Cellary.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 17, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner to rescind Resolution No. 51, 2016. St. John’s Church is no longer interested in pursuing the grant. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 18, 2017 was presented by Council Member Cellary to enter an agreement with Tina K. Dimitriadis for assessment support services. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 19, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner to advertise for a public hearing. Common Council intends to amend ordinance for no parking on Pleasant Ave. during school hours and no parking on Linden Ave. during school hours. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 20, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for a public hearing. Common Council intends to amend ordinance for no parking on Walnut Ave. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

DISCUSSION

Lt. Dave Gilbo introduced the two new hires in the police department; Blaine Walker and Jase Kollar.

Mayor Jackson thanked Chris Vose, Joel Wilson and Scott Sweeney for the repair of the city hall boiler. The boiler went out on Friday. It was a holiday weekend but Scott Sweeney got the boiler working and came in throughout the weekend to check on it and made sure that it was running.

Mayor Jackson also thanked the Johnstown Police Dept. for shutting down another heroine operation here in the City.

Mayor Jackson said the Council Member-at-Large position is once again vacant. He will be taking the necessary steps to appoint someone to complete the unexpired term of Chris Swatt. The term expires December 31, 2017.

There are also two other vacancies; one on the Zoning Board of Appeals and one on the Board of Assessment Review. If anyone is interested please forward a letter to the Mayor no later than January 31th. The mayor will then meet with the council and arrange for interviews. He would like to have the Council Member-at-Large seat filled by the February meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne

City Clerk