 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, April 18, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

This meeting was broadcast using Facebook Live. The public was able to view the meeting from the official City of Johnstown Facebook page: City of Johnstown, New York

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the City Clerk; the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, therefore the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Amy Praught, Mayor

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [x] Amy Praught, Mayor | [x] Thomas Herr, City Treasurer |
| [x] Scott Jeffers, Council Member-at-Large  | [x] Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney  |
| [x] Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | [x] Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| [x] Scott Miller, Council Member Ward 2 | [x] Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| [x] Eric Parker, Council Member Ward 3 | [x] David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| [x] Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | [x] Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer[x] Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program |

ABSENT – N/A

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

No questions from the public.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Chandra Casline Cotter – Tourism

Tourism Committee was originally established in 2003. The most recent mayoral appointments to the Committee was done in 2015. Chandra would like the Council’s support in re-energizing the Committee. Within the next month she would like to 1. Call for new volunteers 2. Have the Committee come up with a mission statement and 3. Establish goals for the Committee to do within the next year. She is requesting that the City provide insurance for the Committee’s events on city property, use of employees (road closures, policing events) and officials’ presence at events. She’d like the Tourism Committee to be used as resource to coordinate events with school district, sports boosters, parade committees, etc.

* + Spritzer asked if she had any events in mind. Cotter said that the big one coming up August 20th with the 2 cities; Rail Trail event.
	+ Mayor thanked Chandra for all that she has done, both for Tourism and Planning Board. Mayor would like the school district involved; students and administration
	+ Spritzer asked if there was money in the budget for events. Jeffers stated in the past the Committee had $1000 in the budget but past Treasurer took that away. Mayor will address with Treasurer; will need to look in to how money can or will be disbursed.

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* March 21, 2022

Motion to approve – Council Member

Seconded – Council Member

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

* Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

Discussion:

* Spritzer asked Vose about the 30A project and if the contractors are coming back to finish what they started. Vose stated asphalt plants opened today but other than that hasn’t heard from the contractors of an exact date as of yet.
* Parker thanked Fire Department for pumping out basements from storm. Heberer stated they had 80 calls. Heberer thanked the police and DPW for their assistance as well. Heberer advised residents that putting a bathroom in a basement is never a good idea, especially in a flood prone area. A lot of the flooding issues come about from that area. The areas of S. Chase, E. Main typically see flooding and will continue to do so because of the Comrie Creek. Vose said that the age of the infrastructure is 80-100 years old and it has taken days for the water table to catch up. Vose is trying to come up with solutions for funding.
* Spritzer asked Gilbo if there have any further incidents at Knox since last meeting. Gilbo again said that he cannot patrol public property. He said issues all start with parents, parents need to be responsible for their children; there is no respect. He has been in contact with school district. The school district could shut it down but then it’s shut down for everyone. Mayor had an incident at Knox and had to call the police, she too feels this is a major issue. Mayor has a call in to superintendent to try and come up with solutions; the police cannot be at Knox 24/7. The kids know there is nothing police can do, due to Raise the Age Limit – juvenile judicial system has no reprimand procedures, so it’s difficult to have any enforcement. Chief will try and get some officers in to the schools to explain issues. Miller asked if the School District files charges. Gilbo said it has happened once. Miller says that the District needs to be the one to press charges.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Water Dept.
	+ Deposits total $303,905.00
	+ Board decided they don’t have to wait for Bond to start moving on some projects:
		- Approved $3562 to proceed with CT Male assessment of 30A project
		- $200,000 to start process of new Neptune water meters
		- Ordered new pickup trucks through state contract
		- Proceed with door and lighting project at both reservoirs to get them back in to compliance
		- Purchased 2 automatic flushing hydrants
	+ Covid restrictions lifted, can now shut off water for non-payment

Mayor thanked Chris Vose and John Denmark for meeting with Board to talk about necessary items that need to be taken care of. They had a good meeting, now coming to a place of getting projects done and working together.

* Bradley Hayner; Joint Sewer Board
	+ Presentation was done regarding proposed Sewer District #5 – 30 & 30A in to Northville and other small municipalities. Gloversville and Johnstown Councils will receive same presentation to discuss any benefits.
	+ Presentation of new sewer rates. Public Hearing is scheduled in Council Chambers, Thursday, April 21st @ 6:00 p.m.
	+ Go out to bid for solid holdings tank; bid opening May 4th
	+ Awarded sole respondent of potassium permanganate RFP to Carus Chemical
	+ Accepted bid for 2023 Chevy Express 2500 Cargo Van
	+ New provisional account clerk begins May 2nd
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board
	+ Approved Steet Toyota’s plan for a 2500 sq. ft. addition to existing building
* Scott Miller, Assessor
	+ 2022 Tentative Roll is complete and will be on file in the Clerk’s office on or before May 1st
	+ 2022 Tentative Roll will be available both on City’s website and County of Fulton
	+ Grievance Day is May 24th from 4-8pm

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

1. Planning Board – Reappoint Elizabeth Camarra & Terri Easterly to Planning Board; term to expire March 31, 2025.

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 41. | Accept offer from Euphrates Cheese to purchase city owned property on Enterprise Road. |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Hayner | Seconded by Councilmember  | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked where property is located, Vose stated it’s behind their main building. He said the City has no need for that property. If we ever wanted to extend the Rail Trail there is room further down to do so. Miller is that property takes the access road to sewer plant. Vose stated that the property is on the same side as WalMart. Will not encroach on any easements. |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 42. | Authorize to scrap surplus equipment; 2004 Ford F150 |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Miller | Seconded by Councilmember  | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion:  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 |  |  |
| 43. | Approve Agreement – Employee Assistance Program for 2022 |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember  | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Parker confirmed that this is a yearly contract we do. Mayor agreed. |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 |  |  |
| 44. | Approve Sewer Connection – Johnstown Town Hall |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember  | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if there were any cost involved in making connections. Vose said that there aren’t any costs to the City. The only thing we may have to do is enter in to an Intermunicipal Agreement with Gloversville.  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 |  |  |
| 45. | Approve contract for IT support services with PNJ Technology Partners |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember  | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Miller asked what the difference was between this company and TwinState. Mayor said that TwinState provides phone service, PNJ would be for computer support services. The company will also give us a quote on moving our servers from the basement to a better location in City Hall.  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

DISCUSSION

* New HR Manager, Sue VanHoesen started today. She will be working under the Treasurer’s Office, Tom Herr will be her supervisor.
* Mayor, Tom Herr and Eric Parker will be attending NYCOM Conference the beginning of May. NYCOM is a great resource. They are the ones who ultimately were able to assist us in getting in to the Financial Software System.
* Mayor thanked Scott Sweeney for the great work he has done painting City Hall. She appreciates all his hard work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Wide Garage Sale – May 13th – 15th
2. City Wide Clean Up – Prindle Ave., behind the Senior Center, on May 19th 11-7, May 20th 11-7 & May 21st 7 – 1
3. Memorial Day Parade – Friday, May 27th @ 6:30 p.m.
4. Business Meeting – Monday, May 16th @ 6:00 p.m.
5. Earth Day – Mayor read a statement celebrating Earth Day April 22nd
6. School Budget Vote – May 17th
7. City is working on revising Employee Handbook which hasn’t been done since 2005. Captain Eric Johnson spent 2 weeks to go through the Handbook and to recreate it. Each Dept. Head will review, after that time the Council will receive a copy to approve in May. She thanked all the employees for stepping up to help out in jobs that may not necessarily be theirs in order to get a job done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

* Council Member at Large Jeffers made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:42 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

No action was taken during executive session.

* Council Member Hayner made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:06 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:06 p.m.

* Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk