Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, August 17, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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.

Due to Covid-19 this meeting was closed to the public but 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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

The Mayor took a moment to express sympathies to the family of John DiSpirito due to his recent passing. John served an Alderman for the City of Johnstown for 22 years.

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member Ward 2 | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Amy Praught, Council Member Ward 3 | David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer  Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program  Darryl Purinton, Internal Control Officer |

ABSENT

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – July 20, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4949 | $ | 128,974.90 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 08/2020A | $ | 1,789,875.36 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 806 | $ | 117,711.16 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 08/2020G | $ | 457.40 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 08/2020VO | $ | 47,341.20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

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

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board
  + Motion to accept the resignation of John Swierzowski., as Water Board Member / President.
  + Approved minutes from July meetings: July 2nd, 13th, and 29th
  + Motions to purchase a Honeywell Chart & Data Recorder and Backhoe tires
  + Motion to preform services for the Portable Sand Washer
  + Motion to accept Claims and Vouchers for payment
  + Motion to approve July 2020 Industrial Levy
  + Water Board meeting will be September 13, 2020
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office – 2020 Final Roll filed w/ City Clerk and available on the website. Working on the 2021 roll.
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – N/A
* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board
  + Reminded everyone that the plant generates most of its power. For the month of June, they generated 87,210 kW hours and sold back to National Grid $1,982.
  + West Meadow Creamery was granted an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit.
  + Kenneth Adamczyk from Center for Regional Growth will be interviewing Wallace Arnold for their magazine that will be coming out in October.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

LOCAL LAW

1. 47, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to introduce Local Law #1, 2020 to abolish the Water Board and transfer its powers and duties to the Common Council.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Iannotti stated she wants to avoid a negative campaign, and just get truth out. No one is going to lose their jobs. Will not cost residents anything, if anything it will save them money.

Mayor has arranged appointments to meet with the media to get information out.

Praught asked if this will be put on ballot. Mayor stated have to pass the Local Law first and then forward to Board of Elections.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

RESOLUTIONS

1. 48, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to accept the bid of Empire Paving in the amount of $106,922.75 for the resurfacing of certain city streets.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Praught has concerns over the paving of streets, she feels the streets look horrendous. She knows that National Grid is to blame. The streets being chosen to be paved are not in her ward. She is hoping that we have an agenda through DPW to fix the streets; either by bond or hold National Grid responsible for the street damage they have done. The Mayor has stated that Chris has been in contact with National Grid and it does reflect on them next year when they come to apply for permits if we agree to let them do the work. Spritzer asked attorney what next step was, Poulin responded that a lawsuit can be filed.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 49, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize the purchase of equipment with the remaining funds from CHIPS, PAVE NY, and Extreme Winter Recovery.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Mayor stated that with the equipment DPW will then be able to pave the parking lots. Spritzer wanted to make clear that residents are not responsible for this money, this is from grant money and does not need to be paid back.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 50, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to authorize the surplus millings for private sale.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Mayor stated private sale went quickly last year.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 51, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize Mayor to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 1 regarding Townsend Avenue/Cayadutta Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 52, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to appoint Jared Goderie to Ward 1 County Supervisor.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Praught voiced her concerns as to the Council not being a part of the interview process and then having to vote not knowing anything about who was interviewed.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 1 (Spritzer)

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 53, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to adopt LGS-1; Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 54, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to advertise surplus / obsolete vehicles for bid.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Spritzer congratulated Officer Ken Luft on his retirement from the Johnstown Police Department. Mayor sent a letter to Officer Luft acknowledging his retirement and thanking him for his service.
* Congratulated John Marshall, probationary fire fighter. Samuel Caruso going through training.
* Spritzer questioned Friendly’s reopening. Mayor received a letter stating they would be opening by the end of August.
* Congratulated Mid-Summer Concert Series in the park run by Bill Ackerbauer.
* Need to begin answering the questions of the Johnstown Citizens in Action regarding blight in the city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Public Hearing Wednesday, August 26, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.
* Business Meeting Monday, September 21, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:35 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk