 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Amy Praught, Mayor | Thomas Herr, City Treasurer |
| Scott Jeffers, Council Member-at-Large | Michael M. Albanese, City Attorney |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Scott Miller, Council Member Ward 2 | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Eric Parker, 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 |

ABSENT – Max Spritzer, Tom Herr

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS – N/A

PROCLAMATION – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* July 17, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Spritzer)

Abstain: 1 (Miller)

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Spritzer)

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

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

* DPW
  + Parker asked about paving. Vose stated company will start middle of September and confident, weather depending, that they will finish by the middle of October
  + Parker asked about Linden Ave Project. Vose stated they are waiting on last shipment of pipe; should receive tomorrow. Once that goes in there is some pressure testing to be completed before hook-ups can begin. But expect to be finished within 2 weeks.
  + Miller asked about the tree status on W. Decker St. Vose stated that if it is just limbs the Fire Dept. has been helpful with use of their bucket truck to cut but if there seems to be a dangerous issue they will report to National Grid.
* Police
  + Parker asked about drug overdoses; are we seeing an increase. Gilbo stated they are seeing about the same number but fatalities have increased.
  + Parker asked about officer in school; does that fill the vacancy? Gilbo stated that there are 2 vacancies. There is no actual list to interview people from. Has to wait for a test to be given and for results to come back, few months.
* Senior Center
  + Parker took a moment to thank Dee (Roemer) and her staff for all the activities they hold for the seniors.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board
  + Cogen Engine was sent out for complete overhaul
  + Sludge Dryer grant has been submitted
  + There have been personnel resignations:
    - Senior Acct Clerk
    - Lead Operator – currently no 4A Operator; DEC granted a 6 month waiver so the 3A can get his 4A
  + Trainee Operator hired
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board
  + Approved Site Plan of Seven Brew Coffee. Fulton County Planning Board expressed concerns of traffic. Environmental report came back as satisfactory.
* Assessor
  + working on the 2024 roll
  + School tax bills due without penalty by September 30th
  + new STAR applications are processed directly with NYS
  + All exemptions need to be filed by March 1, 2024

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 57. | Authorize Engineer to solicit vendors for Mafia Blocks | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Miller |  | Councilmember Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 58. | Authorize contract with Joseph Mastiranni, Inc; Housing | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Parker |  | Councilmember Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 59. | Agreement w/ County for snow/ice removal |  |  |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Jeffers |  | Councilmember Parker |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 60. | Agreement w/ Systems East, Inc. ; tax collection software | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Jeffers |  | Councilmember Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated the contract is less than a 2% increase from last year | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 61. | Supplemental Agreement #1; construction support phase of Cork Center Valve Replacement Project | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Hayner |  | Councilmember Parker |
|  | Discussion: Miller asked what the additional money is for. Vose stated its basically coming from the fact that we rejected low bid and they had to alter contract documents. There needs to be another pre-bid site visit, assist with bid opening and re-evaluate the bids. Re-due steps already completed. Vose stated he had questions when he saw numbers and sat down with GPI to have them explain. | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 62. | Advertise for Public Hearing; Amend Chapter 20; Section 20-202 | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Miller |  | Councilmember Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated this street only has about 4 properties but it’s very narrow. | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 63. | Site Scheduled Maintenance Plan w/ Southworth-Milton; generators at filtration plants | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Parker |  | Councilmember Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 64. | Request for Proposals; 31 Crescendoe Rd |  |  |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Jeffers |  | Councilmember Parker |
|  | Discussion: Hayner asked if this is something DPW could do. Vose stated the structure is too big; 3 stories, brick and cinder block, some floors are collapsed. His employees are not experienced. Parker asked once the building is taken down, will that site be used to centralize DPW equipment. Vose stated this is his hope. Currently using a lot of old mill sites to occupy storage. Moving facilities to one location would allow City to put the properties they currently use out to bid for other uses and development. | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

DISCUSSION

* Mayor thanked the Johnstown Citizens Band and MidSummer Concert Series for Concerts in the Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Farmers Market; Senior Center parking lot – Tuesdays from 3-6pm through October 17th
2. Patriots Day/Cruise In Car Show; Briggs Street – Sunday, September 10th 12-4pm
3. St. John’s Twilight Market; Main Street – Thursday, September 14th 6pm-8pm
4. Artist Event; Main Street Park – Saturday, September 23rd
5. Johnstown Historical Society; Haunted History Walking Tour – Friday, October 13th 5-9pm
6. Harvest Festival; Main Street – Saturday, October 14th
7. Business Meeting – Monday, September 18th @ 6pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

* Council Member at Large Jeffers made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:22 p.m. for the following reasons:

1. will imperil public safety if disclosed; and
2. relate to public employee collective-bargaining negotiations

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Spritzer)

Abstain: 0

* + No formal action was taken during executive session.
* Council Member Miller made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion – None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Spritzer)

Abstain: 0

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 56. | Agreement with Brown & Brown; retiree billing |  |  |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Hayner |  | Councilmember Parker |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 65. | Authorize Police to enter in to Agreement w/ Axon Enterprise, Inc.; purchase of body cameras and tasers | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Jeffers |  | Councilmember Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Spritzer)  Abstain: 0 |  |  |

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:02 p.m.

Motion to Approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Miller

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Spritzer)

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk