Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, December 16, 2019 @ 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.

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

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney at 6:30 p.m. |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Helen Martin, Council Member | David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| Scott Jeffers, Council Member | Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer  Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program  Darryl Purinton, Internal Control Officer |
|  | Dorie Cast, Deputy City Clerk |

ABSENT

Bruce Heberer

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – JCA (Johnstown Citizens in Action)

No one present to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2020 Budget

Opened at 6:01 p.m.

* No comments / discussion
* Mayor thanked Mike Gifford for all his work in preparing budget as to allow no increase in property taxes

Closed at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES – November 18, 2019

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: N/A

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 (Martin)

APPROVE MINUTES –November 20, 2019

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: N/A

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 (Martin)

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4727 | $ | 142,445.68 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 12/2019A | $ | 1,023,029.70 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 771 | $ | 100,617.23 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 12/2019G | $ | 799.56 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 12/2019VO | $ | 43,533.10 |

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Fire/Codes
  + - Fire: conducted in-service training on Cold Weather Operations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 187 | Calls for service |
|  | 2 | Structure fires |
|  | 10 | Motor vehicle accidents |
|  | 0 | Mutual aid |
|  | 28 | Hazardous conditions |
|  | 125 | Emergency Medical Service |
|  | 22 | Service Calls |

Codes: conducted training on installation and inspections of solid fuel heating devices.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 43 | Permits issued |
|  | $ | 360,694.00 | Estimated cost of construction |
|  | $ | 2,525.00 | Fees collected |
|  |  | 682 | Inspection and complaint responses |

* Police

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 639 | Calls for service |
|  | 75 | Criminal cases were generated |
|  | 34 | Arrests |
|  | 51 | Citations |
|  | 48 | Traffic |
|  | 3 | Parking |
|  | 32 | Traffic accidents investigated |

* Received complaints of commercial vehicles being parked in the industrial park. Patrols and DOT certified officers will be stepping up enforcement. Will be reaching out to State DOT to do full inspections in the coming month, month and a half.
* All night parking in effect. Will attempt to be lenient for the holidays, will issue a warning unless there is bad weather.
* Have started to comply with DA’s office regarding discovery issue changes that are to take effect in January. Council should be prepared for complaints because people are not going to be happy.
* DPW
* Brush drop off closed
* Thanked police for getting cars off streets, there have been few issues
* Thanked fire dept. for their help decorating the park for stroll and parade because his office was short staffed because of storm
* Issue with property owners keeping sidewalks maintained. Property owners on 30A have been sent letters. Trying to be lenient until after 1st of year.
* Garbage pickup on Thursday for Christmas and New Years
* Vose thanked his department for their hard work and the hours they’ve put in

Iannotti recognized all dept. for doing a great job with stroll and parade

* Senior Center
* 4th decorated the center
* Attended the Radio City Rockettes show
* 12th Christmas party, catered by Hot Dog Hut – Canajoharie School Chorus entertained
* 17th Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Bingo @ 1
* 28th New Year’s Party- covered dish
* Found a new Yoga Instructor, Yoga will begin again in January
* Internal Control Officer
  + Report on file
* Treasurer
* Property Auction was successful and interesting
* Has been trying to figure out how to borrow money for equipment. Primary need is for a garbage truck “which is on its last leg”. Looking at a local bank option for financing

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board – Meeting now
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office – No Report
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – No Report
* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board – Operations are running smoothly. There is a slight problem with the Ultraviolet Disinfectant Project; Contractor is not doing work – may be seeking legal action. Industrial compliance

RESOLUTIONS

* 87, 2019 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize James Biscotti to connect to the existing sanitary sewer system.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Vose stated that he is tying in to a county line and have plenty of capacity.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 88, 2019 presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize Clerk to advertise for Public Hearing for parking ordinance on West Madison Avenue.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Hayner thanked Chief Gilbo for addressing this issue.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 89, 2019 presented by Council Member Martin to authorize Mayor to execute documents relating to police department applying for grant to purchase Livescan fingerprint processing equipment.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 90, 2019 presented by Council Member Jeffers to adopt 2020 Budget.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 91, 2019 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize Mayor to execute new five (5) year employment contract with Johnstown PBA.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION –

* Mayor thanked Jeffers for efforts put in as councilmember with City.
* Helen Martin was presented with Citations for her service to the City of Johnstown from Assemblyman Smullen, Senator Tedisco and Mayor Jackson.

Helen thanked everyone. Honor and privilege to serve the city. She will miss it and all the friendships she has made and all the good work they have done.

* Talarico mentioned signage needed for directing individuals to available parking in the city. Vose stated that need to keep signage to historic history/character of city but it’s something that can be looked in to. Talarico feels that it adds some direction to individuals visiting the city. Martin stated that this has come up with historic district and the type of signage needs to be addressed,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* City Hall closed for Christmas – Tuesday, December 24th @ noon and all day Wednesday, December 25th
* City Hall closed for New Year’s Day – Wednesday, January 1st
* Holiday garbage collection:
* Christmas: Ward 2 will be collected on Thursday, December 26th
* New Year’s Day: Ward 2 will be collected on Thursday, January 2nd
* Organizational Meeting, Wednesday, January 1, 2020 @ noon
* Business Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member at Large Talarico made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss sale of real property.

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor excused dept. heads and members of the public.

Council discussed offers received from the recent property auction.

* 92, 2019 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to accept offers for city owned property received at public auction.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 93, 2019 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to sell properties, which did not receive bids at public auction, for private sale.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Council Member Martin made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:39 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Talarico

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:40 p.m.

Council Member – Martin

Seconded – Council Member Jeffers

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk