Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, December 17, 2018 @ 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

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 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Helen Martin, Council Member | David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
|  | Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer |
|  | Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program |

ABSENT  
Bradley Hayner, Council Member

Timothy Cellary, Council Member

Erica Wing, Library Director

RECOGNITION

Assemblyman Marc W. Butler & Dottie MacVean

* Presentation by Mayor to present Assemblyman Butler with the key to the City.

Assemblyman Butler thanked the Mayor and the City and recognized Dottie MacVean for all she has done. Butler stated that his talent is recognizing talent in other people, Dottie has been a wonderful asset over the time she has served with him.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Richard Menconi, Roger Eaton, Bruce Menconi– East Avenue traffic issues

* Richard Menconi of 2 North East Avenue spoke regarding his and neighbors continued concerns over traffic issues. They’ve noticed a stronger police presence but would like the following to be considered:
* Community awareness; signage, number of speeding tickets issued posted in Leader Herald monthly & possibly on local radio station
* Enforcement and prosecution
* Truck route
* speed limit reduction in city to 25 mph; would like Common Council to consider
* Roger Eaton of 3 North East Avenue spoke regarding the truck braking; the “Jake” brakes and engine brakes are extremely loud and unnecessary. Would like to see a noise enforcement law for braking implemented.

Discussion: Mayor mentioned that he and Chief Gilbo spoke and will be sitting down and reviewing ways to come up with solutions.

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance to Designate Truck Route in City of Johnstown

Mayor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

- No comments or questions

Mayor Jackson closed the Public Hearing at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES – November 13th, 19th, December 3rd

Motion to approve – Council Member at Large Talarico

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

* General Fund A – unpaid; Abstract #4501 – $143,507.28
* General Fund A – paid; Abstract #12/2018A – $2,102,118.28
* Sewer Fund G – unpaid; Abstract #728 – $291,272.41
* Sewer Fund G – paid; Abstract #12/2018G – $801.43
* Voucher Fund VO – paid; Abstract #12/2018VO – $50,124.82

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Fire/Codes
  + - Fire: continued in-service training cold weather responses and safety. Responded to 56 calls for service; 2 structure fires, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 20 hazardous conditions, 18 medical assistance and 8 service calls.
    - Codes: conducted training on the city’s Code of Ordinances and its applications. 35 permits issued, estimated cost of construction/renovation $2,588,220.00 (approx. $2,000,000 was for sewer plant work), fees collected $1,233.00. Conducted 738 inspections and complaint responses.
* Police
  + - 516 calls for service; 59 criminal cases were generated, 30 arrests, 23 citations; 16 traffic & 7 parking, 37 traffic accidents investigated.
    - Three recruits passed three major topics at the academy and are doing their Field Training this month.
    - Three officers attended Legal Practices and Updates.
* DPW
* E. Main St. culvert repair is completed and road is back open.
* Siemens has been out with subcontractors for in-field lighting audit. Waiting on National Grid to supply their data in order to reconcile billing. They did several walk around of buildings to see what improvements can be made to be better efficient; heating and cooling. Will need to use the savings from street lighting to complete those projects. More information will be coming beginning after the 1st of the year.
* Leaf pickup has been completed until spring. The drop off site will remain open until we get significant snow.
* Senior Center
  + - 3000+ people came through in November
    - 11/29 luncheon & decorated center for holidays
    - Clear Captions Phone came and spoke at Center regarding free phones for people with hearing loss
    - 12/13 50+ Club Christmas Party
    - 12/27 New Year’s Eve Party
    - 2019 Membership is up to 225 people
    - Have 60 members over the age of 90

Discussion: Lions Club is collecting donations in order to provide flowers on Main Street in 2019

* + Library
* N/A
* Treasurer
* On 12/1 began collecting school taxes that are in arrears for the City of Johnstown
* Prepared and published the annual tax publication that lists everything outstanding for 2018
* Working with Erica Wing on the Library transition. Board of Regents had the Charter on their agenda last week.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
* All Enhanced Star and Senior Star renewals have been mailed. All exemptions are due March 1, 2019.
* All homeowners participating in Enhanced Star must complete 425-IVP automatic renewal form in order to keep for 2019. This is a NYS requirement. This is the last year the Assessor’s office will be accepting Enhanced Star renewals.
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
* Marbeck City Line Storage is looking to expand. Public Hearing is set for January 8, 2019
* Palatine Cheese, unable to attend the meeting but will be put back on the agenda for January 8, 2019.
* Helen Martin, Joint Sewer Board
* Nothing to report. Basic year end clean up reports.

RESOLUTIONS

* 108, 2018 presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize fund conversion.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 109, 2018 presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize agreement with Tina Dimitriadis for assessment support services for 2019.

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 110, 2018 presented by Council Member Martin to appoint Kathryn Cabrera to Board of Assessment Review Board.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 111, 2018 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to Rescind Resolution #81, 2018 for property at 102 Wells Street.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 112, 2018 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to award surplus wood to Rose Trippodo.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 113, 2018 presented by Council Member Iannotti to award surplus millings to Stephen M. Savage.

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 114, 2018 presented by Council Member Martin to authorize sale of Linden Avenue properties as no bids were received.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 115, 2018 presented by Council Member Iannotti authorize agreement with Systems East for tax collection software

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 116, 2018 presented by Council Member Martin to authorize change of date for Organizational Meeting

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

* 117, 2018 Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize agreement with Breezy’s Cleaning Services for cleaning of city hall.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Martin asked if this was a new company. Mayor responded that this company handles the cleaning services for County.

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Hall will close at noon on December 24th. City Hall will also be closed on December 25th; Christmas & January 1, 2019; New Years
2. Garbage collection:

Christmas Day – garbage in Ward 3 will be collected on Monday, December 24th

New Year’s Day – garbage in Ward 3 will be collected on Monday, December 31st

1. Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – 6:42 p.m.

Council Member Martin

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Hayner, Cellary)

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk