

Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, December 18, 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 – Diedrie Roemer

PUBLIC HEARING(S) – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* Business Meeting – November 20, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Jeffers

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* Special Meeting – December 7, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve – 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.

* Engineer’s Office
  + Parker asked if there had been issues with flooding due to rain. Vose stated he hadn’t seen areas with any significant flooding. Back yards are wet. The fire department will assist residents experiencing basement flooding.
  + Parker asked about updates on ongoing projects:
    - 30A & Abel Drive are both with the Health Dept. going through review process
    - Door replacement looking at late winter to early spring
  + Spritzer asked about boiler. Vose stated the boiler will be installed early next week at filtration plant and furnace has been replaced at the Senior Center
  + Vose stated roof has been started at the DPW garage
  + Vose stated waiting on National Grid to clear electric but 31 Crescendoe is ready to come down
  + Spritzer asked about water meter replacement project. 90% completion in north end, similar in south end. We’ve received above response rate than anticipated. Vose credited the water employees, Hydro Utilities and ladies working in front office. About 300 non-responders. Spritzer asked if there were Saturday hours for residents unable to be there during the week. Vose stated that was an option but there hasn’t been enough requests to warrant a Saturday appt., if a Saturday is needed to call the city offices. The Mayor wanted to clarify that water is a utility just like Time Warner and National Grid, this has to be done. The last thing the City wants to do is to shut water off. Miller asked if the meters are working properly. Vose stated they are, it is estimated the City lost upwards of 20% revenue with old meters.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Sewer Board, Eric Parker
  + Meeting held 12/13. Approved proposals from HRP Assoc. for comprehensive evaluation of ongoing odors, tabled temporary offices. 2024 discharge permits approved, held interviews for account clerk, looking to work with HFM Boces for internship program, 10 years contracts for FAGE & Euphrates approved, approved deal for water disposal w/ National Grid.
  + Miller asked what the gallon price is for the whey, Parker stated he didn’t have the prices in front of him but could share those with him.
* Planning Board, Scott Jeffers – N/A

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. Contract - Humane Society

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: Parker stated this is same price as last year

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Contract - Custodial Service

Motion to approve – Council Member Miller

Seconded – Council Member Jeffers

Discussion: Parker stated this is same price as last year

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Contract - Assessment Support Services

Motion to approve – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: Parker stated this is same price as last year

Ayes: 4

Noes: 1 (S. Miller)

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Lead Agency – Sale of Street Lighting Facilities

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Jeffers

Discussion: Parker asked the reason for the resolution. Vose stated this is required as part of the acquisition process. This is the last step before being sent to Public Safety Commission for approval.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Contract - Employee Assistance Program

Motion to approve – Council Member Jeffers

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Accept Donation – Elizabeth Cady Stanton Seated Statue

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Jeffers

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Adopt Access to Public Records Policy

Motion to approve – Council Member Miller

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Parker asked if we had a previous policy. Allen stated that we had not but this is required by law.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Contract – FOIL Software

Motion to approve – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Parker confirmed with clerk that this isn’t something we currently have but would make life easier. Clerk confirmed that it would make life easier for herself and all department heads. Parker asked how soon would be implemented. Clerk advised a matter of weeks.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Contract – Mass Communication Software

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Parker how this would work. Clerk stated the public would sign up online for notifications from City. City can limit who is notified depending on location. Company provided training. Spritzer asked what other local municipalities use CivicPlus, Clerk was unaware if any communities locally use mass notification but feel it to be important.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Approve purchase of Ambulance for Advanced Life Support First Response Service

Motion to approve – Council Member Jeffers

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Parker asked how old the ambulance was and where it is coming from. Heberer stated it is brand new and coming from North Carolina. Once the new ambulance is in service will market one of the older ones for sale. Ambulance is 99% outfitted, will use stretcher from other ambulance. Will need lettering, minimal cost. Will mount radio themselves. Mayor thanked Johnstown Hospital Foundation for their generation donation and Assemblyman Smullen for obtaining grant. Ambulance at no cost to taxpayers.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. Contract – Code Enforcement Software

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: Parker asked how this would all work. Heberer stated current software is antiquated and pay a significant amount of money each year to maintain. Provided continuity between officers in real time. Helps with permitting and recording. Received a significant decrease in cost due to software being purchased by Clerk’s Office. Communication between public and office will be smoother. Mayor thanked Heberer and Allen for working on this with company to get in place and be more efficient. Spritzer asked if this was complete, able to do Ward sweeps. Heberer stated it was a complete permitting and inspection program. There are more modules that can be added but went with the two most important ones for now.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* The Mayor congratulated Ryan Stegel on obtaining his IIA Operator License from the state. He is currently working with John Denmark, we will continue to build the department. Supervisor with D License, IIA License, and IA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Winter Parking Ban is in effect from December 1st – April 1st ; a limited number of Winter Parking Permits are available from the City Clerk’s Office
2. City offices closed:
   * Christmas Day; Monday, December 25th
   * New Years’ Day; Monday, January 1st
   * Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Monday, January 15th
3. Organizational Meeting – Monday, January 1st @ 12:00pm
4. Business Meeting – Tuesday, January 16th @ 6pm

ADJOURN – 6:27 pm

* Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0