Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, December 21, 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

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large (via phone) | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member Ward 2 (via phone) | 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.

PROCLAMATION / CITATION – N/A

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – November 16, 2020, December 7, 2020 & December 15, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

PUBLIC HEARING – Community Development Block Grant; Evolution Recycling

Opened at 6:03 p.m.

* No comments / discussion

Closed at 6:04 p.m.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 5080 | $ | 200,636.78 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 12/2020A | $ | 2,527,415.89 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 820 | $ | 174,075.30 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 12/2020G | $ | 900,650.85 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 12/2020VO | $ | 47,544.00 |

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
* Passed the following Motions to purchase a Booster Pump, Chlorine System, Actuator Motor, Flow Transmitter and Scada System.
* All Resolutions passed
* Went in to Executive Session to discuss information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense

Discussion: Praught asked Hayner if he had any information regarding the 7 new employees they plan on hiring. Hayner stated the Water Board told him that there aren’t any new positions; every position in the budget has been there. Hayner went on to say that by looking at their budget it does look like they have numerous new positions. They are scheduled to call Board Member DiMarco later in the meeting to go over the budget in more detail with him.

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
* N/A
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
* N/A
* Craig Talarico, Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
* Still in need of a sludge dryer; planning a tour with Congresswoman Stefanik, Senator Tedisco, and Assemblyman Smullen to attempt to secure grant funding.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 83, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to Authorize application for Community Development Block Grant – Evolution Recycling

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 84, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize an Agreement with FirstLight – Internet & Monitoring Services; Police Dept. cameras

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 85, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to authorize an Agreement w/ Systems East – Tax Collection Software

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Hayner asked if this is the same software we’ve always used. Mayor Jackson confirmed that was correct.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 86, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to Authorize overnight parking end of W. Montgomery Street

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: Spritzer asked who would be responsible for plowing the snow. The Mayor stated that because it is City property, DPW will clear snow.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 87, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to overturn the Mayor’s veto to Resolution #81, 2020 regarding a decrease to the City Clerk’s budget.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 1 (Talarico)

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 88, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to overturn the Mayor’s veto to Resolution #82, 2020 regarding a decrease to the City Treasurer’s budget.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 1 (Talarico)

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 89, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Assessor to grant exemption on the 2021 assessment roll pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.83 issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Christmas Eve, December 24th – city offices close at 11:30 a.m.
* Christmas Day, December 25th – city offices closed
* New Year’s Day; January 1st – city offices closed
* Martin Luther King Jr. Day; January 18th – city offices closed
* Organizational & Business Meeting; Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
* The Mayor announced that he will not be seeking re-election and read a brief statement to the Council and press.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Hayner made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

No action was taken during executive session.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:47 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

After coming out of Executive Session Praught attempted to call Water Board Member DiMarco to go over the Board’s budget but was unsuccessful in reaching him.

RESOLUTIONS

1. 90, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to amend the Mayor’s 2021 Tentative Budget related to the Water Board budget.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Hayner wanted to point out that the positions removed from the Water Department’s Budget aren’t currently filled. If the Water Department needs an additional Heavy Equipment Operator or Motor Equipment Operator the Department of Public Works has qualified individuals in place to assist them. As for the Superintendent. The Mayor had previously approached the Water Board and proposed that the Engineer and Deputy Engineer fulfill the duties of the water superintendent.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 91, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to adopt the 2021 Budget w/ amendments.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Spritzer
* Extended his praise to the Department of Public Works on an excellent job cleaning the streets after last week’s snow storm.
* Questioned why the FC Department of Solid Waste is not doing recyclable pick up until mid- January. Mayor stated that he received a letter stating same but no explanation was given. Iannotti indicated that she did receive confirmation that this is in fact Covid related.
* Asked when garbage collection would be for residents with normal garbage on Fridays. Mayor stated garbage will be collected for both holidays (Christmas & New Year’s) on the following Monday.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk