Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, February 19, 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

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT  
Bradley Hayner, Council Member

Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer

Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney

PRESENTATION

Mark Gentile, president of the Certified Ambulance Group presented their proposal to provide medical/insurance billing for the new Johnstown Ambulance Service. They specialize in municipal EMS billing, in business since 1989, 23 employees, 13 states, 172 clients. Taylor program to fit municipality needs to maximize revenues. They take care of getting provider numbers and completing paperwork. Fees are based on geographical area and comparable municipalities. Collections for uninsured are based on the municipality’s choice of how to proceed; ex: hardship, payment plan, collection agency.

Firefighter McCreedy, resident paramedic who is running the EMS program spoke on the new ambulance service. In 20 days since operation the ambulance has responded to 63 calls, and transported 54 patients, 9 of the calls did not need transportation once ambulance arrived on scene.

Mayor Jackson complimented Steve Santa Maria and EMS committee on the job they did coordinating ambulance coverage for Fulton County when Fulton County Ambulance announced they would no longer be in operation.

Chief Heberer thanked the Mayor for acting quickly and giving the immediate ok to get the ambulance up and running.

APPROVE MINUTES – January 22, 2019

Motion to approve – Council Member Martin

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

* General Fund A – unpaid; Abstract #4544 – $110,973.24
* General Fund A – paid; Abstract #02/2019A – $753,769.44
* Sewer Fund G – unpaid; Abstract #738 – $126,464.31
* Sewer Fund G – paid; Abstract #02/2019G – $1,061.05
* Voucher Fund VO – paid; Abstract #02/2019VO – $43,889.62

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Fire/Codes
  + - Fire: attended active shooter training. Responded to 102 calls for service; 3 structure fires, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 2 mutual structure fire to Gloversville, 12 hazardous conditions, 40 medical assistance and 35 service calls.
    - Codes: attended solid fuel heating device training. 31 permits issued, estimated cost of construction/renovation $205,220.00, fees collected $1,449.00. Conducted 720 inspections and complaint responses.
    - Heberer provided year end numbers: Responded to 804 responses, 33 structure fires, 104 motor vehicle accidents, 174 medical assistance calls, 227 hazardous condition calls, & 229 calls for service. Codes division issued 708 permits, $34,890 fees collected, estimated cost of construction $12, 098,199.00, 9,585 inspections. 6,525 man hours of training for Fire Dept. and 485 man hours of training for Codes, 425 for fire investigation, 195 hazardous material training & 360 hours for EMS training.
    - Fireman’s Ball will be on March 9th @ the Holiday Inn
* Police
  + - 698 calls for service; 80 criminal cases were generated, 50 arrests, 176 citations; 45 traffic & 131 parking, 36 traffic accidents investigated.
    - Attended active shooter and fentanyl training
    - Attempting to get equipment through county wide grant program
    - Will have grant application in future for medical side of active shooter
    - Interns from FMCC will be collecting community survey on thoughts of police department and submit report to Chief

Discussion:

- Iannotti commended police department on their response to the recent threat at the high school

- Mayor mentioned the increase in tickets being issued to truck drivers parking on the access roads to the industrial park

* DPW
* Projects have been quiet with the exception of keeping up with the weather
* Mentioned changes in the Department of Public Works due to employee retirements. Praised Mike Muzzi & Wade Hohenforst for their years of service.
* Senior Center
* Continues to do well
* Thanked Fire Department for quick response in getting ambulance when it was needed at Center
* 21st Open Mic Night 6-8 on Thursday
* 28th Soup & Sandwich Luncheon w/ Sheriff Giardino speaking
* Family Counseling Center will be speaking regarding Elder Abuse
* March 7th National Grid will be talking to seniors on how to save energy and services available
* March 14th Gary McCoy will be there to play bagpipes for St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon
* Treasurer
* No report; Gifford absent

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
* Nothing to report.
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
* Approved Palatine Dairy to open business at old Spray Nine bldg, on Comrie Avenue
* Gary Carstens brought plans before board to build a 60 unit apartment complex on North East Avenue; not Section 8 or assisted living, open to public.
* Helen Martin, Joint Sewer Board
* Annual report was distributed and will available on the Wastewater website.
* Water Board
* Nothing to report; Brad Hayner absent

RESOLUTIONS

* 23, 2019 presented by Council Member Iannotti to appoint Doris Cast as Commissioner of Deeds.

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 24, 2019 presented by Council Member Martin to authorize Mayor to sign 2019 Landfill Monitoring Agreement with Arcadis.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Mayor asked how long the city would have to monitor landfill. Engineer stated the site will probably never come off list only because there was found to be pollution at that site and because it is in a residential area. The City does provide water to those residents.

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 25, 2019 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize 2019 Budget Amendments

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Talarico was approached by Helen Thompson of Taylor Made regarding a national initiative for local employees to give back to their community by volunteering for various projects. He will be speaking with City Attorney to be sure there aren’t any liability issues if they were to do work in the city, they’ve already reached out to the library to volunteer there. Martin stated they want to help at the Historical Society as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Special Meeting, Monday, February 25, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
2. Business Meeting Tuesday, March 18, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – 6:33 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Martin

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk