 Johnstown Common Council

Business / Organizational Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, January 17, 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:

|  |  |
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| 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 – Christopher J. Vose

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* December 19, 2022

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Miller

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve, upon review – 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.

Spritzer:

* Asked if the DPW crews will be around to finish patching the streets from the gas line work. The Mayor stated that this is something that National Grid will be doing, not DPW staffing, and they’re supposed to be back in the spring.
* Asked about new Pumper. Bruce stated that it would be delivered on Thursday morning.
* Still having issues with staffing at hospitals. Better but still problems. Encouraged residents to use they primary care physician and the urgent care facilities.

Parker:

* Asked Treasurer if there is a time frame as to when AUDs will be complete. Herr looking to go out for bonding the end of February
* Commented that sales tax continues to go up.
* Asked how long bidders had to pay for properties sold at auction. Allen stated that they had until December 30th and that all properties were sold and all bidders have paid for the properties.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board
* Reappointed officers
* Awarded bids for Sodium Hypochlorite
* Plant Manager still looking to hire for positions
* Bruce Heberer, Planning Board – N/A
* Scott Miller, Assessor
* Tax exemptions were mailed; due on March 1st.
* New homeowners register for STAR credit online
* Working on the 2023 Roll

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | TABLED – Adopt Rules and Regulations of the Common Council for 2023 | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | | Seconded by Councilmember | | | | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | |  | | | |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  | | | |  |
|  | Absent: 0 | | |  | | | |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | | |  | | | |  |
| 2. | Fix starting time for Business Meetings of the Common Council as 6:00 pm. | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Miller | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |
|  | Absent: 0 | | |
|  | Abstain: 0 | | |
| 3. | Designate Leader Herald as Official Newspaper for 2023 | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | | Parker | | | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers | |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | | | |  |  | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | | | |  |  | |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | | | | |  |  | |

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| 4. | Designate locations for voting for 2023 | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

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| 5. | Designate banks for deposit for 2023 | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | | Seconded by Councilmember | | | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked why we have 7 different banks. Herr stated that we don’t currently use them all but it covers us an option to use the bank in the future. | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | |  | | |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  | | |  |
|  | Absent: 0 | | |  | | |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | | |  | | |  |
| 6. | Set the cost of Landfill Permits for 2023 | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | Miller |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |
|  | Absent: 0 | | |
|  | Abstain: 0 | | |
| 7. | Appoint Commissioners of Deeds | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | | Miller | | | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | | | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | | | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | | | | |  |  |

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| 8. | Execute Memorandum of Agreement w/ Johnstown Firefighters Association Local 779 | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | | Seconded by Councilmember | | | Spritzer | |
|  | Discussion: Miller wanted to confirm that we were only adding one employee. The Clerk stated that 3 medics were already budgeted for and will be hiring 1 additional for a total of 4 medics. Miller also questioned the benefit package of the medics. The Treasurer and Chief did not have the exact figure but estimated that it was around $250,000 for all 4 positions. | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | |  | | |  | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  | | |  | |
|  | Absent: 0 | | |  | | |  | |
|  | Abstain: 0 | | |  | | |  | |
| 9. | Amend the City of Johnstown Budget – Fiscal Year 2023 | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | Parker | |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated that due to a calculation error tax rate went from a 5% increase to 3.8% | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |
|  | Absent: 0 | | |
|  | Abstain: 0 | | |
| 10. | TABLED – Accept offer for 237 N. Perry Street | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | | Jeffers | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Mayor stated new City Attorney would like to research any environmental issues regarding the property prior to moving forward. | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | | | | |  | |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | | | |  | |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | | | | |  | |  |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Offices closed February 20th; Presidents’ Day
2. Business Meeting – Tuesday, February 21st @ 6pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

* Council Member at Large Jeffers made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:18 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

No action was taken during executive session.

* Council Member Spritzer made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:50 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Jeffers

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Miller asked that the Rules and Regulations of the Common Council be reviewed. The Mayor stated that a committee would be put together to review.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:52 p.m.

* Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

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| Ayes: 5 |
| Noes: 0 |
| Absent: 0 |
| Abstain: 0 |

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk