Johnstown Common Council

Organizational & Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 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 | 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 – December 21, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 5099 | $ | 551,459.73 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 01/2021A | $ | 952,996.70 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 823 | $ | 234,519.93 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 01/2021G | $ | 843.63 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 01/2021VO | $ | 42,987.50 |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MAYOR’S STATE OF THE CITY

* Attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes,

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board
* December 29, 2020 Special Meeting
  + - Passed a resolution to hire outside council to proceed with legal proceedings against the City of Johnstown to enforce the City Charter. This was done on their own, after permission from the Common Council was denied. A city department is now using tax payer dollars to fund legal action against the City.
* January 11, 2021
  + - Tabled appointing George DiMarco as a board member
    - Election of officers: Michael Capparello, President & Brandon Lyon, Vice President. Ralph Marotta and Mark Empie as board members.
    - Promoted Susan Miller from a typist position to the Water Board Clerk, made her an hourly employee rather than a salaried employee which makes her eligible for overtime. Mayor stated that if you do the math it still equals what her annual salary was going to be.
    - Discussed purchasing a portable turbid meters for Cork and Christman Reservoirs.

Discussion: Iannotti asked if they have a right to change the Clerk from a salaried to hourly employee. Mayor and Attorney both stated they can because she is now an employee of the Water Board.

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

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 1, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to adopt Rules and Regulations of the Common Council for the year 2021.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 2, 2021 presented by Council Member Praught to fix the starting time for meetings of the Common Council for 2021.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 3, 2021 presented by Council Member Spritzer to designate the Leader Herald as the official newspaper for the City of Johnstown for 2021.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 4, 2021 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to designate locations for voting in the City of Johnstown for 2021.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 5, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to designate banks for the deposit of funds for the year 2021.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1

1. 6, 2021 presented by Council Member Praught to appoint Commissioners of Deeds in the City of Johnstown.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 7, 2021 presented by Council Member Spritzer to execute agreement with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. to provide on-call engineering services for the City Engineer’s Office.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Spritzer asked if the dollar amount was the same as 2020; it was confirmed that the amount is unchanged. Praught asked if this contract was in addition to using CT Male. The Mayor advised that we don’t have a contract with CT Male.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 8, 2021 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to adopt Records Management Procedure Manual.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Mayor thanked the Clerk’s office, as RMO, for not only putting the Manual together but organizing the vault so that anyone could find what they are looking for by looking at an inventoried spreadsheet.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 9, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize the Mayor to retain outside council in the matter of Johnstown Water Board, and Michael Capparello, as President of the City of Johnstown Water Board against City of Johnstown; Vernon F. Jackson, as Mayor of the City of Johnstown and Michael C. Gifford, as Treasurer of the City of Johnstown.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 10, 2021 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize the City Treasurer to retain outside council in the matter of Johnstown Water Board, and Michael Capparello, as President of the City of Johnstown Water Board against City of Johnstown; Vernon F. Jackson, as Mayor of the City of Johnstown and Michael C. Gifford, as Treasurer of the City of Johnstown.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Mayor
* Thanked the Dept. of Public Works for keeping the streets of Johnstown clear of snow and ice. Streets are in great shape.
* Fulton County has suspended curbside recycling until at least January 29th. City residents can bring recycling to Crescendoe Road, near the DPW garage and dispose of recycling Monday – Friday from 8 until 2:30.
* Talarico
* Nice to see patched streets in the winter thanks to the new hotbox the Dept. of Public Works is using.
* If you notice a street light out, contact National Grid online and they will respond. The City does not maintain the street lights.
* Spritzer
* If residents can’t get to Crescendoe Road during the week they can bring recycling directly to Landfill on Mud Road on Saturday mornings; no permit is needed to dispose of recycling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* City Hall closed Presidents’ Day – Monday, February 15th
* Business Meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Praught made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:24 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 Hayner made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:14 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:15 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk