 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, July 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 – Scott Jeffers, Scott Miller, Diedrie Roemer

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS – N/A

PROCLAMATION – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* June 20, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

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

* DPW
  + Spritzer asked how the south end work is coming. Vose stating they are continuing tie-ins (reconnecting). Company will resurface with temporary concrete and then repave.
  + Parker talked about street lighting project. Looking into financing. Reviewing procurement documents. 6 months for public review. AUDs need to be completed. Looking in to possibly financing with Siemons.
  + Spritzer asked how the truck route will work during paving (W. Madison). Vose stated their likely wouldn’t be a detour but reduced to one lane traffic, but this is up to the contractor. Paving would only take a couple days.
  + Parker asked how Water Meter Replacement is going. Vose stated about 3500 installations have been complete and its moving along.
* Treasurer
  + Taxes up $67,000 from last year and budget is currently up over $400,000 from projections.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board
  + Interviewing for new Wastewater Engineer. Prospective individual is a recent RPI graduate. Tentative August start date. No one has been in position for several years.
  + BST completed audit of financial statements for 2022; in compliance
  + New hires: acct. clerk, maintenance mechanic
  + Met with Gloversville regarding sludge dryer for council approval. Grant to be submitted later this month. Need Amsterdam in order for it to be cost effective.
* Bruce Heberer, Planning Board
  + Seven Brew presented site plan to go into the old Pizza Hut location. This will be a prefab, drive-thru only beverage only restaurant. Go to Fulton County for review. Public Hearing August 1st
  + Heberer also reported that Popeye’s will be beginning construction within the next few weeks.

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 51. | Accept bid of Empire Paving for paving of certain city streets | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | | Seconded by Councilmember | | | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Vose stated amounts indicated in resolution are amended totals, additional work was added. Amount still less than second low bidder. | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 3 | | |  | | |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  | | |  |
|  | Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)  Abstain: 0 | | |  | | |  |
|  |  | | |  | | |  |
| 52. | Advertise for mafia blocks for use on Enterprise Road (no bids received 1st advertisement) | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker was is definition of mafia block. Vose stated they are also called interlocking blocks. They are 2x2x6 and weigh roughly 3500 lbs., they are used a lot for retaining wall build, highway use. Spritzer confirmed  with Vose that the road would essentially be narrowed so trucks cannot park alongside. This is most cost effective option without damaging road; guiderails would be expensive and permanent. | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 3 | | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |
|  | Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)  Abstain: 0 | | |
|  |  | | |
| 53. | Execute Memorandum of Agreement w/ all 3 Unions (PBA, Fire and CSEA) | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | | Parker | | | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 3 | | | | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | | | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)  Abstain: 0 | | | | |  |  |

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| 54. | Agreement with St. Mary’s Hospital to provide Employee Assistance Program | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Parker |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated this is the same price as last year. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 3 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

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| 55. | Execute Agreement for removal of Railroad Bridge over NYS Route 334 | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | Seconded by Councilmember | Parker |
|  | Discussion: Fulton Railroad Board from both cities met and spoke with representatives from the state (DOT). It was determined that it is in everyone’s best interest that the bridge be removed; there has been extensive damage over the years to be able to rehab the bridge. This removal is at no cost to either city. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 3 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
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DISCUSSION

* Mayor
* Asked for a moment of silence to remember former Mayor Bill Pollak, who was also a teacher, curator of the Johnstown Museum. He has left a forever mark on this community.
* Sent out letter to County on July 6th to set up a meeting regarding the Smart Waters Agreement, Sewer District and Tax Collection. Have not received a response to date.
* Meeting w/ Town of Johnstown on August 1st to discuss the Aspen Hills Agreement
* Toying Around was an amazing event and thanked the city departments for their assistance to get the city ready.
* Heberer
* Commented on a recent accident that occurred and the cooperation of the police department. Process is working
* EMS calls the first week of July they had 59 EMS calls, past weekend there were 21 calls

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Farmers Market – Senior Center parking lot on Tuesdays from 3-6pm through October 17th
2. Concerts in the Park:
   * Citizen’s Band – July 21st, 28th & August 11th, 18th
   * Midsummer Concert Series – July, 20th, 27th, August 3rd, 10th
3. Summer’s Best Car Show – Sunday, July 23rd 10am - 1pm
4. Partner’s Pub Annual Block Party on S. William St. – Friday, August 4th 7pm-11pm
5. St. John’s Twilight Market on Main St. – Thursday, August 10th & Thursday, September 14th 6pm-8pm
6. Business Meeting – Monday, August 21 @ 6pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:21 p.m.

Motion to Approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 3

Noes: 0

Absent: 2 (Miller, Jeffers)

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk