Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, July 20, 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

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Richard Handy, Ward 1 Supervisor for 22 years

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 | 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

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – June 15, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4909 | $ | 122,981.92 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 07/2020A | $ | 1,178,576.79 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 803 | $ | 305,830.15 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 07/2020G | $ | 574.86 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 07/2020VO | $ | 48,736.40 |
| Family Self Sufficiency | * Paid | Abstract # | 07/2020FSS | $ | 20,734.75 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: Spritzer questioned a $21,000 expense for the repair of a fire department vehicle. He questioned whether the Council should have been informed of this expense. Hayner and the Mayor stated it was part of their budget. The Mayor approved the expenditure because the funds were available from the budget.

Praught confirmed with the Mayor that if they (Council) have questions regarding the Abstract they should go to the Department Heads and not to Gifford.

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

July 2nd Special Meeting:

* + Have contracted w/ a company to create a Facebook and Website for the Water Department at a cost of $715.88. The City has a website and Facebook that is updated by the City Clerk. He believes that the only other department of the City with a Facebook page is the police department for public safety.
  + Made a Motion for Frontier Communications for $270.00 per month to provide a dedicated fiber optic internet circuit for the Fulton County Airport Water Tower, per DOH Regulations.
  + Made a Motion to approve TAP letters with associated fees, for residents for FCWD #1 (Smart Waters).
  + Motion authorizing the Clerk of the Water Board to not print any checks payable to the City of Johnstown to be endorsed by the Water Board President or Vice President with the exception being Sewer funds as dictated by the City of Johnstown Charter.
  + Motion clarifying duties of the Water Board Clerk and Typist. Both positions are not to be considered Superintendents, nor take on duties of a Superintendent. The Clerk or Typist are not to be giving any instructions to the work force, as it is not in their scope of work. The exemption being matters relating to meter reads and meter issues and related work orders.

July 13th Regular Monthly Meeting:

* + Resolution to appoint new board member Mark Empie
  + Grievance from Chad Nare CMN Housing Account 160200
  + Motion to accept Claims and Vouchers for payment for June 2020 (Audit Approval) 6/15/ 20- 7/15/2020
  + Motion to approve June 2020 Industrial Levy
  + Motion to approve May 2020 Residential Levy

Discussion: Praught questioned Hayner about the check signing, what that meant. Poulin stated that they aren’t sending any money over to the City Treasurer. Iannotti questioned what was going to happen when the State comes in and Audits the City. Mayor stated that Treasurer Gifford is working on that. Hayner stated that Gifford is the Chief Financial Officer and all money should be going through his office.

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office – N/A
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – N/A
* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board – 2 odor complaints that were received have been resolved, and the purchase of a sludge dryer is still being researched.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCE / LOCAL LAW – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 44, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to advertise going out to bid for 2020 Street Resurfacing.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer asked what happened to joining with the City of Gloversville and Amsterdam. Mayor stated that nothing happened after the initial meeting, no follow up calls.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 45, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise going out to bid for Surplus Millings.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Talarico asked if residents can bid on partial. Mayor stated that bidder must take all.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 46, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to advertise going out to bid for Surplus Equipment.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Linden Avenue - Mayor stated that the City will not be paying for the gas lines to the properties, this was not part of the bid. Spritzer asked if we should look in to using a local real estate agency to sell the remainder of the properties.
* Spritzer
  + Congratulated Class of 2020, would like City to consider donating the banner to the school district museum.
  + Encouraged people to vote on passing school budget, school district is the backbone of any community; property value and city will suffer without a school district.
  + Questioned when city hall would be open to the public. Mayor stated he hasn’t made a decision as of yet, waiting and following what Governor will dictate. Mayor does hope to have an open meeting in August with department heads and public.
  + Would like to allocate money to concerts, as we didn’t have a parade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Midsummer Concerts begin Thursday, July 23rd at 7:00. Social distancing and masks will be enforced. How things go on Thursday will determine if the remainder of the concerts will happen.

Discussion: Praught asked if the street could be blocked in order to help social distance. Iannotti stated this is a state highway and need approval from state.

* Gilbert Wendt will be celebrating his 104th birthday on Thursday. They are asking anyone interested to meet at the high school at 5 p.m. and drive by the Eagle’s Club, where Mr. Wendt will be.
* Business Meeting Monday, August 17, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:32 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