Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, March 16, 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.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [x] Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | [x] Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| [x] Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | [x] Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney  |
| [x] Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | [x] Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| [x] Kathi Iannotti, Council Member Ward 2 | [ ] Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| [x] Amy Praught, Council Member Ward 3 | [x] David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| [x] Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | [x] Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer[ ] Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program[ ] Darryl Purinton, Internal Control Officer |

ABSENT

Diedrie Roemer

Darryl Purinton

Bruce Heberer

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance; Chapter 18

Opened at 6:01 p.m.

* No comments / discussion

Closed at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES – February 18, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 (Hayner)

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 4781 | $ | 145,888.46 |
| General Fund A  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 03/2020A | $  | 816,300.17 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 780 | $ | 154,663.13 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 03/2020G | $ | 821.64 |
| Voucher Fund VO  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 03/2020VO | $ | 41,687.40 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 0

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

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

LIAISONS’ REPORTS – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

1. Planning Board – Peter Smith
2. Zoning Board – Pamela Hammer

ORDINANCE / LOCAL LAW

* 2, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to adopt amendment to Chapter 18; Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

RESOLUTIONS

* 20, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to advertise for a used lowboy trailer for Department of Public Works.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Being city buildings are closed to the public they will not have access to pick up bid specs. Resolution needs to be changed as to how specs can be picked up. Clerk will revise resolution to state that specs can be accessed on the city’s website.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 21, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to authorize Mayor to sign Right of Way Easement for 3 Union Ave. Ext.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 22, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize the transfer of the parking lot at the library to the Greater Johnstown School District.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Hayner asked if the city will be maintaining the lot. Mayor advised that they will be responsible and also for issuing winter parking permits.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 23, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize City Treasurer to execute Refunding Bond.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Gifford stated that refunding is another name for refinancing. Rates are down and we can save some money with this.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 24, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for a new roof for Senior Center.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: Being city buildings are closed to the public they will not have access to pick up bid specs. Resolution needs to be changed as to how specs can be picked up. Clerk will revise resolution to state that specs can be accessed on the city’s website. Spritzer asked Vose what timeline would be to get the project completed. Vose stated it depended on contractors schedule is, but he anticipates it should be completed within a month but you never know what you can find.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 25, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Mayor to execute agreement with Greenman - Pedersen for culvert services at 107 E. Main Street.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Spritzer asked if this project falls under the on-call engineering contract we have with them. Vose stated that this project is reimbursable and therefore felt we needed to do a separate resolution for this item.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 26, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to authorize budget transfer for Police Dept. to purchase new LiveScan equipment.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer asked Gilbo if this is the same equipment that the Sheriff’s Dept. has. Gilbo stated that it’s the same equipment they have but its 10 years old, this is an upgrade.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 27, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize City Treasurer to execute 2020 Tax Warrant.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 28, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize budget transfer for Water Dept. for a Water Dept. Superintendent.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 0

Noes: 5

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Iannotti asked how things went with State of Emergency. Mayor said that he met with Department Heads in the morning and established a plan. All non-essential personnel have been sent home. Essential personnel include: police, fire, ambulance, DPW for sanitation. Vose stated his guys are available at any time for anything that needs to be handled in the course of their normal work day.
* Spritzer brought up the issue with the light at Townsend Avenue & N. Perry; feels it’s taking too long. Gilbo stated he’s spoken with Chief Heberer and in the meantime they are going to disconnect turn lane from Perry to Townsend; they believe that is where the short is, underground.

* Gilbo stated that the police dept. is changing the way they handle calls. They will be using more caution at traffic stops, screening calls, keeping distance. The courts are closed, they are holding all cases under investigation unless it’s an immediate threat. Limiting access to the police dept. They have a verbal agreement between three agencies, should they lose manpower due to self-quarantine, and they will converge to handle calls in the county.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* April 1st – Parking Ban will be lifted. It is suspended for now.
* April 10th – City offices close at noon; Good Friday.
* Business Meeting Monday, April 20, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.
* There will be a brief meeting on Wednesday morning to accept bids for new/used garbage trucks
* GJJWTF will be cleaning out a 600,000 gallon tank from March 18th – 27th. Odors will be released to off sight areas. They are asking for the public’s patience during this process. Vose state the odors should be limited to during the day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member at Large Talarico made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor excused dept. heads and members of the public.

No action was taken during executive session.

Council Member Spritzer made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:37 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:38 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk