 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, May 15, 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  Susan Conine, Human Resource Manager |

ABSENT – Scott Miller

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS – N/A

PROCLAMATION – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* April 17, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Miller)

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Miller)

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

* Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.
  + Spritzer questioned the work being done by National Grid on S. William Street, a recently paved street. He asked if they were going to repave over the parts that are dug up. Vose stated they told him they will come up to grade and pave a wide strip down the road. Vose said he has met with National Grid and they are willing to meet with us once or twice a year as to what their plans are so we can better coordinate work going forward. Spritzer commented on the great job they are doing, been respectful of property and streets. Vose said the Contractor that is working on the streets has been great to work with, receptive of anything that’s asked of them.
  + Parker thanked DPW for putting the guardrail up on S. East Avenue.
  + Parker asked about any feedback regarding the lead abatement program. Vose said he hasn’t personally. He knows some letters have been returned. Any questions should be directed to CT Male, the number is on the letter. Vose doesn’t foresee a lot of residents having lead.
  + Spritzer asked for an update on the water replacement in the south end. Vose said we’ve been pretty successful with responses. Final notices are going out to south end residents and initial letters going out to north end within the next week. Spritzer asked what happens if a resident doesn’t respond to having meter changed. Vose stated the city has the authority to shut off the water until such time the meter is scheduled to be replaced; this is a last resort and encourages everyone to schedule the replacement.

Fire:

* + Parker asked to go over the policy for people not mowing their lawn. Heberer stated letters have started going out. They will then have 48 hours to mow the property, if not DPW will and then bill property owner. Heberer stated the City of Johnstown does not follow “No Mow May” as some communities do.

Treasurer:

* + Parker confirmed that AUDs are 99% complete. Mayor clarified that this was for 2020, once 2020 is done it will be submitted to the state for approval and then they will start on 2021. 2021 will be less of an issue. Looking at midsummer as a completion date.
  + Parker sales taxes saw a slight decrease for 2nd month in a row but are better than the county and surrounding communities. Looking at budget projections we are still well ahead.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board – Minutes attached hereto

May 10th meeting: property has been mowed, no new hires, approved 5% increase, 1300 gallon leak has been repaired, Arcadis is moving forward with grant application for sludge dryer.

* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board
* N/A
* Scott Miller, Assessor
  + N/A

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 36. | Adopt Employee Handbook | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | | Seconded by Councilmember | | | Jeffers | |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | | |  | | |  | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  | | |  | |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | | |  | | |  | |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | |
| 37. | Rescind Resolution #24, 2023 – purchase of city-owned property at 115 N. Perry Street | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | Spritzer | |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | | |
|  |  | | |
| 38. | Execute Mutual Aid Agreement - Police | | | | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | | Parker | | | Seconded by Councilmember | | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if this was a renewal Agreement. Gilbo stated it was, and needed for accreditation for Gloversville and Johnstown. | | | | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | | | | |  | |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | | | |  | |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | | | | |  | |  |

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| 39. | Public Hearing; Barrel Drive | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

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| 40. | Public Hearing; Ordinance – Parade and Special Events | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if there had been issues. Clerk explained that language needed to be revised. For example currently only have to provide a 36 hour notice. City is changing to 30 days to allow sufficient time for Police, Fire and DPW to coordinate for staffing. | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | | |  |  |
|  |  | | |  |  |
| 41. | Public Hearing; Local Law - Insufficient funds | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | | Seconded by Councilmember | Parker |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | | |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | | |
|  |  | | |
| 42. | Public Hearing; Ordinance – One-way street on South Perry Street | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember | Parker |
|  | Discussion: None | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | | |  |  |

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| 43. | Authorize Collection of Taxes pursuant to RPL | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 44. | Accept offer; city-owned property – 115 N. Perry Street | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller)  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
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DISCUSSION

1. Mayor thanked the National Honor Society, Tom Herr, and Patrick for putting the flags in the cemeteries in remembrance of our veterans.
2. Parker reminded everyone of the school budget vote, tomorrow May 16th from 11am-8pm
3. Parker stated that the Board of the Fulton Railroad Properties will be meeting on Monday, May 22nd @5:30 pm at Gloversville City Hall.
4. Spritzer asked the Engineer if DPW was still doing curbside leaf pickup. Vose stated that has ended and notices will be going out to residents who have debris on the terrace or in roadway.
5. Spritzer asked Police Chief why the Resolution for the School Resource Officer was removed from the Agenda. Gilbo stated that he is still waiting on information from attorneys. He has given them until June meeting to respond, if not he is pulling the agreement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Wide Clean Up – Prindle Ave., behind the Senior Center, on May 18th 11-7, May 19th 11-7 & May 20th 7 – 1
2. Memorial Day Parade – Friday, May 26th @ 6:30pm
3. Vintage Café Car Show – Thursday, June 8th @ 6pm – 9pm
4. Juneteenth – Monday, June 19th City offices are closed
5. Toying Around Block Party – Saturday, June 24th 10am - 6pm
6. Business Meeting – Tuesday, June 20th @ 6pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:26 p.m.

* Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

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| Ayes: 4 |
| Noes: 0 |
| Absent: 1 (Miller) |
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Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk