Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, November 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.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Judge Thomas Walsh. Former City Court Judge for 30+ years

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [x] Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | [ ] Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| [x] Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | [ ] 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 | [ ] David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| [x] Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | [ ] Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer[ ] Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program[ ] Darryl Purinton, Internal Control Officer |

ABSENT

Michael J. Poulin

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting.

PROCLAMATION / CITATION – N/A

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – October 19, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Praught

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance; Chapter 20

Opened at 6:02 p.m.

* No comments / discussion

Closed at 6:06 p.m.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 5054 | $ | 429,003.47 |
| General Fund A  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 11/2020A | $  | 777,304.94 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 816 | $ | 132,671.72 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 11/2020G | $ | 521.47 |
| Voucher Fund VO  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 11/2020VO | $ | 46,070.60 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

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

Discussion: Praught asked if the Mayor’s memo to Dept. Heads and Vendors addressed the Internal Control Officer alert risk for the Procurement Policy. The Mayor said that it partially does.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board
* Meeting rescheduled to Monday, November 23, 2020
* Mayor stated still waiting on Board of Elections to counting ballots to decide Referendum.
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
* Continue to enter sales and working on 2021 Roll.
* New enhanced STAR applications for individuals turning 65 are due by March 1, 2021.
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
* Expansion at Benjamin Moore was approved.
* Craig Talarico, Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
* Everything is going smoothly. 16 members took a course in confined space. Heating and Ventilation rehab was completed.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

1. 3, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to amend Chapter 20; No Parking Here to Corner on Yost Street.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

RESOLUTIONS

1. 71, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to execute a Renewal Agreement with Unified Court System for Court Cleaning and Minor Repairs.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: Iannotti questioned as to why the State is always late sending us the agreements, seems like we’re always a year behind.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 72, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to execute a Right of Way Agreement with Benjamin Moore for purpose of developing and constructing on land that abuts City property.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 73, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to establish Standard Work Day for Elected Officials.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer asked Mayor to explain. Mayor stated when we changed Standard Work Day, Brad Hayner was left off. Need to adopt resolution in order to keep him in retirement system.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 74, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to advertise for a Public Hearing to adopt 2021 Budget.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer asked, with City Hall being shut down, how will public be able to comment at Hearing. Mayor stated that comments come across Facebook and public can also address comments directly to Mayor prior to meeting.

Talarico asked if the Council would like to change the date of Public Hearing from 12/21 to 12/7 and amend Resolution. Council agreed. Talarico and either Spritzer or Praught will meet to go over budget and report back to rest of Council.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 75, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to accept offer for Charles Street.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Mayor
* Budget is looking at a 2% increase for next year, will not exceed tax cap. Retirement payments went up drastically; could reach a million dollars next year. Health insurance stayed basically the same. Tax revenue did not hit as bad as we thought because of pandemic; thanked the downtown businesses for all they’ve done. Anticipating a 20% cut in state aid for next year.
* There won’t be a Holiday Parade or the Colonial Stroll this year.
* Downtown merchants have indicated that they will be open late on Friday, December 4th for residents to come downtown and independently look at the lights in the park and shop downtown.
* Spritzer
* Asked about the high school doing something in the park. Talarico stated there have been talks about doing a socially distancing greeting with Santa on December 5th. Although the application has not been turned over to Clerk’s office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* City offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday – Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th, 2020
* Special Meeting; Public Hearing – Monday, December 7, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.
* Business Meeting – Monday, December 21, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:23 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