 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, November 20, 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 – N/A

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

* Mayor Praught opened the Public Hearing for the following at 6:01 p.m.:

1. 2024 Budget
2. Local Law #2; Senior Exemption

* No comments or discussion.
* Mayor Praught closed the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

PROCLAMATION – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* October 16, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

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

* Police
  + Parker asked Gilbo about one of the cruisers being in an accident. Gilbo stated that there were actually 2; one involving a deer and the other a collision. One vehicle looks like it may be totaled out.
* DPW
  + Spritzer asked how leaf pickup was going. Vose stated they are finishing up, will go around again if necessary but would like to get things wrapped up. Vose reminded everyone that you can’t keep putting them out once they’ve finished. Brush drop-off closes the same day as the holiday parade; get things put away for winter. If we get snow it will be shut down earlier
  + Parker asked when demolition would be complete on Crescendoe. Vose stated it should be anytime now.
  + Parker asked about the 2A Water License; is there more than one individual in the program? Vose stated that once he gets his license they will go back to having 2 open trainee positions. Wheels are in motion to have another civil service test.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board
  + There have been problems with odors inside the facility, affecting the administrative staff. They are looking to leasing temporary, onsite, structure and hire company to troubleshoot and identify the odor.
  + entering in to negotiations with FAGE and Euphrates for whey contracts
  + West Meadow Creamery is looking to dispose of whey at plant as well.
  + no change in personnel
  + Adopt 2024 Budget. $745,000 in capital improvements; a list of projects that need to be done. Sewer rates will be established in April
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board
  + Talks have begun about the City’s Comprehensive Plan; more talks will happen at meeting in January to adopt changes. Some of those being smaller amount of members on Planning Board, Ordinances
  + Discussion was had as to locations of possible future cannabis dispensaries. Recommendation is for Arterial Commercial
* Scott Miller, Assessor
  + Property Owners 65 years of age and older MAY be eligible for the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens on their primary residence. Total Household Income MUST be BELOW $29,999 for tax year 2022 to qualify. Contact the Assessor’s office at 518-736-4015 for an application.
  + Renewal applications for the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens will be mailed in December. Please submit income from the tax year 2022.
  + All Exemption applications which are filed with the Assessor’s Office are due March 1, 2024.

LOCAL LAW

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2. | Adopt Local Law #2; increase the maximum income eligibility level for the senior citizen property exemption |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Hayner Councilmember Jeffers | |
|  | Discussion: None |
|  | Ayes: 5 | |
|  | Noes: 0 | |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | |

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 76. | Adopt 2024 Budget | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Hayner |  | Councilmember Parker |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated there would be a 2% increase. Miller asked what Unallocated Expenditures were. Vose stated they were expenses not assigned to a particular line item. | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 77. | Execute a five (5) year renewal agreement for utilization of the Fulton County Transfer Station. | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Parker |  | Councilmember Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 78. | Authorize Mayor to execute Water Supply Agreement with the Town of Johnstown to supply water to the Aspen Hills Water District. | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Spritzer |  | Councilmember Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker wanted it to be known that we have been without an Agreement since 2017. We’re supplying water, no maintenance. Miller asked if there was a main meter. Vose stated there was. | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Curbside leaf pickup ends November 24th
2. Winter Parking Ban is in effect from December 1st – April 1st ; a limited number of Winter Parking Permits are available from the City Clerk’s Office
3. Thanksgiving, November 25th & November 26th – City offices closed
4. Garbage Collection:
   * + Thanksgiving Day: No garbage pick-up. Ward 1 & Ward 4 will both be collected on Friday
5. Small Business Saturday – November 25th
6. Holiday Parade will be Friday, December 1st. Applications are available online or in City Hall for anyone wishing to participate. Start time at 6:30pm
7. Business Meeting – Monday, December 18th @ 6pm

DISCUSSION

* Miller asked if the police department would be giving warnings for winter parking. Gilbo stated it depends on the weather but typically they do. Ban is from midnight to 6am
* Spritzer stated McLemon’s is doing their annual coat drive. Anyone can either leave a coat or take one if needed.
* Mayor asked Gilbo about no parking for the parade. Wanted to know if that was strict? If we put signage and someone parks there will they get ticketed or towed. Gilbo stated they don’t tow. We need to have signage specific to hours of the event. They’ll cone off empty lots as cars move. Mayor said that is something we will work on in the future.
* Heberer stated candy can be given out safely to spectators of parade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

* Council Member at Large Jeffers made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:24 p.m. for the following reasons:

1. Personnel matter

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* + No formal action was taken during executive session.
* Council Member Spritzer made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:03 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Miller

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:04 p.m.

Motion to Approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Miller

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk