 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, October 16, 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 |

Also in attendance: Susan Semione, Water Clerk & John Denmark, Water Treatment Plant Operator

ABSENT – Chris Vose

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

1. Code of Ordinances – Water Regulations

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

PROCLAMATION – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* September 18, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Miller

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 Chief Gilbo status of bodycams. Gilbo stated they were waiting on items that weren’t delivered. Now they have to set up system, cars, etc. Tasers will be delivered mid-November; training will need to be completed.
  + Spritzer asked about the relationship with School Resource Officer. Gilbo said everything is working out great.
* Treasurer
  + Parker stated sales tax is down for the month but still up over $60,000 from this time last year.
* DPW
  + Spritzer commented on the paving on S. William Street. Significant improvement as to what it looked like a month ago. He wants to speak to Vose about the debris on the side streets that has been left behind, be sure they will come back to clean up before weather turns. Also old asphalt has been left on properties on Pennsylvania Ave.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board
  + Sludge dryer; should hear by the next meeting as to the status of the grant application
  + experienced a power outage but has been repaired
  + Personnel: 2 resignations (1 operator, 1 operator trainee) but 3 new hires (1 attendant, 2 operator trainees)
  + Financials; up to date
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board – No Meeting in October
* Scott Miller, Assessor
  + All exemption applications which are filed with the Assessor’s Office are due March 1, 2024.
  + New homeowners need to register for the STAR Credit at [www.tax.ny.gov/star or call 518-457-2036](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star%20or%20call%20518-457-2036).
  + Contact the STAR Hotline at 518-457-2036 for any questions regarding STAR Credit checks.
  + The Assessor’s Office continues to work on the 2024 roll.

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 72. | Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Johnstown and Local Civil Service Empl0yee Association (CSEA) | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Hayner |  | Councilmember Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 73. | Advertise for Public Hearing to Adopt Local Law #2 to Increase the Maximum Income Eligibility Level for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Miller |  | Councilmember Hayner |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 74. | Advertise for Public Hearing; 2024 Budget | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Parker |  | Councilmember Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None |  |  |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 75. | Accept Proposal for the replacement of the existing boiler at Cork Center; 314 Co. Hwy. 115 | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember Spritzer |  | Councilmember Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: None | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

DISCUSSION

1. Mayor thanked everyone who worked to make the Harvest Festival a success: Lions Club, Rizzo Farm, CityBuzz, Stump City Brewing, Stewart’s, DPW, Fire, Police, Viscosi Law, St. John’s Church, Vendors, Chandra Casline, Jessica McClements, Luke Pavlus, Boy Scouts, Partner’s Pub.

Chili Cook-Off Winners: 1st Place Tom Herr, 2nd Place Scott Miller, 3rd Place, People’s Choice, Jolene DeFrancis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Trick or Treat – Tuesday, October 31st 6-8pm
2. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th ; Early voting begins October 28-November 5
3. Veterans’ Day Program – Saturday, November 11th @ 11:00 in the Park
4. City offices will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of Veterans’ Day. Garbage will be collected on Monday, November 13th
5. Curbside leaf pickup begins November 6th – November 24th Place leaves and brush on the terrace and not in the street.
6. City offices are closed November 23rd & 24th in observance of Thanksgiving. Thursday garbage will be collected on Friday.
7. Holiday Parade will be Friday, December 1st. Applications are available online or in City Hall for anyone wishing to participate.
8. Business Meeting – Monday, November 20th @ 6pm

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 Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* + No formal action was taken during executive session.
* Council Member Miller made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:49 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:49 p.m.

Motion to Approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk