 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday October 17, 2022 @ 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 J. Poulin, 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

George DiMarco Johnstown spoke in regard to federal money that came to City. He stated it was the Water Board’s understanding that the money that came in through federal Covid for water and sewer would be split between 2 departments, wanted Treasurer to advise as to when they would see that money be put in to their budget. Mayor didn’t believe the Treasurer was able to address his concerns; did not have specifics for guidelines on hand. The Mayor stated that some of the money was used for emergency issues and purchasing due to inability to get bonding right away. Invited him to meet with both herself and Treasurer in the morning to discuss. Mayor explained that the money does not need to be used strictly for water and or sewer issues. The Mayor addressed to Mr. DiMarco that she feels that the Water Board could use the money they have not spent but put in a savings account.

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* September 19, 2022

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

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.
  + Parker asked if it was still expected that paving would be done by the end of October. Vose was confident that work would be completed within the next couple of weeks. Miller asked how the process would work. Vose stated he hoped to get a milling crew out in front. Police and DPW are working to together to possibly close at least Main Street because of its size and the utilization of larger trucks. Spritzer asked if Clerk could post the schedule on Facebook; Clerk and Engineer will work on getting information posted.
  + Heberer spoke on Fire Prevention Month. Spritzer asked if there were any programs if residents were in need of smoke detectors. Heberer said they keep some in stock and will advise residents where they go in the home. Not a service for landlords.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Water Dept. – No Report; unable to attend meeting
* Chris Vose; Joint Sewer Board
  + Finalized solids holding tank refurbishment project
  + Beginning budget process
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board
  + 75 Briggs St. expansion proposed by DMR Engineering. Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, November 1st @ 4pm. Will be used for retail space.
* Scott Miller, Assessor
  + Renewal applications for partial tax exemption for seniors will be mailed in November, due March 1, 2023
  + New homeowners need to register for STAR credit online [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star)

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 72. | Overtime – Exempt Employees | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | Seconded by Councilmember Spritzer | |  |
|  | Discussion: | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | |  | |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  | |  |
|  | Absent: 0 | |  | |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  | |  |
| 73. | Approve increase of build price for dump truck | | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Miller | | Seconded by Councilmember Hayner |  |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if the truck has already been ordered. Vose stated that it has been. This covers cost of steel increase for just the dump body. Parker asked if this was part of Bond, Vose believes it was ordered prior and will be replenishing with Bond money. | | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | |
|  | Noes: 0 | |
|  | Absent: 0 | |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 74. | Budget Transfer for Engineer – cover cost for electric in city parks | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if the work has been completed. Vose stated that there is more work to be done at Partner’s Park. The electric wasn’t previously budgeted for. Hoping to also put cameras in the parks. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 75. | Advertise for Public Hearing – 2023 Budget | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Mayor stated this brings a 5% increase, brings the City’s rate to $14.07. Based on a home’s assessment of $100,000; increase equates to $70 per year or $5.83/mo. Increase to gas, heating, electric, construction materials, employee benefits. Mayor, Treasurer, Councilman Parker sat down with dept. heads to go over the budget. Evaluated each departments budgets and made cuts until they felt comfortable. Have not cut any essential services. EMS is not part of taxpayer funds, sustains itself with help of County. Copies are available to public to review. Asked Council members to review and reach out to dept. heads with questions.  Miller asked when looking at 2021 & 2022, are they actual numbers. Herr stated they are budgeted numbers but can give him actual numbers. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 5 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

DISCUSSION – N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Harvest Fest was a success. Thanked all the volunteers and employees.
* Mayor recognized awareness of the following:
  + Breast Cancer, Domestic Violence & Down Syndrome

1. **Trick or Treat – Monday, October 31st 6-8pm**
2. **Election Day – Tuesday, November 8th**
3. **Veterans’ Day – Friday, November 11th; City Offices Closed**
4. **Veterans’ Day Garbage Collection – Ward 1 (Friday collection day) will be collected on Monday the 14th**
5. **Holiday Parade – Friday, December 2nd. Anyone interested in participating can pick up a form in the Clerk’s Office or on our website.**
6. Business Meeting – Monday, November 21st @ 6pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:40 p.m.

* Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk