Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, October 19, 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

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member Ward 2 | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Amy Praught, 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  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

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – September 21, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member at Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE MINUTES – October 5, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE MINUTES – October 14, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 5031 | $ | 323,479.00 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 10/2020A | $ | 758,235.67 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 813 | $ | 266,006.29 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 10/2020G | $ | 116,806.52 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 10/2020VO | $ | 49,837.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

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:

Spritzer

* + Asked C. Vose about Montgomery Street paving. C. Vose stated it should be completed this week.

Praught

* + Addressed risk assessments. She feels that they should be addressed as soon as possible. She stated that she would like the City to implement a city wide employee time clock system to track time worked, overtime, duties, etc. V. Vose and D. Gilbo stated their departments are unique as to how employees work, they don’t always work a typical shift. Factors for call outs, emergencies, titles would need to be factored in and this could be difficult to coordinate.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board
  + Accepted resignation of Water Board Clerk Barbara Koehler
  + Discussed 3 water bill grievances. Tabled one, denied one, and accepted one.
  + Motion to purchase a water line locator; not to exceed $3,000

Discussion: Praught asked if they discussed the letter from the state regarding violations. Hayner stated, they did not. Mayor stated he met with G. Dimarco and J. Denmark to go over the violations. The Mayor is in the process of drafting a response to the state. Praught also asked if there would be fines imposed, and the Mayor said it is a possibility.

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office – N/A
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
  + Benjamin Moore submitted an application to add an additional 117,000 sq. ft. to their existing building. This will add 50 jobs to the area. Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, November 3rd @ 4:00p.m.
* Craig Talarico – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

LOCAL LAW – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 64, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to execute contract with Brezzy’s Cleaning Services from January 1-December 31, 2021

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer questioned if we needed to keep the company on board daily being city hall has been closed to the public. The Mayor stated that they disinfect the building daily, which is important during this time. D. Gilbo also mentioned that even though the building is technically closed to the public, the public still visits the offices by appointment, court and the police department. Iannotti stated that the city is saving a significant amount of money by hiring the cleaning service. Prior years a DPW employee was in city hall full time, paying them salary and benefits.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 65, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to accept bids for surplus vehicles/equipment

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Vose is happy with the amount of money the city has collected since we began using Auctions International for surplus vehicles and equipment.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 66, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to advertise for a public hearing to amend Code of Ordinances- Chapter 20; Section 20-209

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Chief Gilbo stated this is necessary as the turn on to Yost St. is difficult for emergency vehicles.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 67, 2020 presented by Council Member Sprtizer to accept offer for 6 Spring Street.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: Spritzer feels this offer is better than the last one presented to the council. Although the offer isn’t significantly more, the individual will be using for commercial and not personal use and will be investing a significant amount of money in the building to bring to code. He spoke with Chief Heberer who stated because this will be used for commercial purposes, bringing the building to code will be easier and less expensive.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 68, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarcio to authorize a contract with James A. Brennan Humane Society for 2021

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Chief Gilbo stated that he is in discussions with Gloversville, they are preparing a contract for shared services for an animal control officer for both cities.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 69, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize budget transfer for Emergency Medical Service activity to an Enterprise Fund.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 70, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize the City Treasurer to facilitate an interfund loan between the General Fund(a) and the Emergency Medical Services Enterprise Fund.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Mayor
* Requested input from the council on the proposed PILOT proposal regarding Trackside Homes. As Attorney Poulin was not available to answer any questions, he advised members of the council to contact Poulin directly. A. Praught felt a real estate attorney should be involved in discussions as she and other members of the council have several questions. Mayor stated that Atty. Vincellete, who provided us with the draft proposal, is our real property attorney and he will ask if he could make himself available to answer questions.
* Gilbo
* Winter parking ban goes in to effect December 1st, unless we receive inclement weather prior to. Warnings will be given out if this were to happen but he is asking that everyone please remove vehicles from streets so that emergency vehicles can access the roads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Downtown businesses trick or treat – Halloween 10-2p.m.
* Trick or Treat – Halloween, 6-8 p.m.
* Election Day – Tuesday, November 3, 2020
* City offices closed for Veterans’ Day – Wednesday, November 11, 2020
* Business Meeting Monday, November 16, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:45 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk