Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, September 21, 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 |

Assemblyman Robert Smullen was present to observe the meeting. He stated he wanted to learn how he could be of assistance and was available for any questions.

ABSENT

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting.

PROCLAMATION / CITATION – Constitution Week

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – August 17 & August 26, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member at Large Talarico

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4991 | $ | 210,461.13 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 09/2020A | $ | 854,990.95 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 809 | $ | 136,387.41 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 09/2020G | $ | 351.42 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 09/2020VO | $ | 56,254.40 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

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 to comment on the Internal Control Officer’s report regarding Corrective Action to oversight of payroll. Praught feels that the Council should get together and discuss ways to address payroll documentation for city employees; write in policy and procedures.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board
  + Appointed George DiMarco to Water Board
  + Appointed Mike Capparello as President and Brandon Lyon as Vice President of the Water Board
  + Approved generator purchase of $69,750
  + Rescinded Motion of September 12, 2019 meeting to proceed with GPI Option 2 of the Cork Spillway Rehabilitation Project
  + Passed a Resolution to go with Option 1 of Cork Spillway Rehabilitation Project
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office –
  + Continues to enter sales
  + Working on 2021 Roll
  + Remind homeowners to apply for Star Exemption online
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – N/A
* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board
  + Responded and reacted to 8 odor complaints.
  + Still researching sludge dryer.
  + No work related injuries for one (1) year.
  + In August the plant processed, per day, 4.9 million gallons of wastewater, 18 million gallons of wash water, and 2.5 million gallons of whey.
  + The plant hauled 1200 tons of sludge to the landfill and accepted .8 million gallons of leachate.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

LOCAL LAW – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 57, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to execute contract with Fulton County for snow and ice control on Maple Avenue.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 58, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti acknowledging the city’s commitment to provide an allocation of wastewater capacity at the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant for a proposed County Sewer District No. 4; Hales Mills.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 59, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to accept offer for 6 Spring Street.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Iannotti doesn’t feel that individual would be able to take on the amount of work that property needs. Spritzer spoke with Chief Heberer who stated that the $30,000 estimate given to rehab the property is very low. Code issues are much greater. Spritzer feels the offer of $1,000 is to allow and feels it’s going to take quite some time to get the building up to standards and doesn’t want to see it in 2,3, or 5 years from now a blight issue. Spritzer would like to have the city look in to demolishing building. Praught stated that if our own code officer sees issues moving forward why would we want this to be on our blight radar?

Ayes: 0

Noes: 5

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 60, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to reject offer for Chestnut Street.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Mayor stated property has a main sewer trunk line on the property and can’t be sold.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 61, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize the City Treasurer to issue payment to cover the application fee for Certificate of Need for Advanced Life Support First Response Service.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Resolution Tabled. Council would like the Mayor to contact Chief Heberer and ask that he provide specific financial figures as to what the ambulance service takes in and expenses within 7 days (Tuesday, September 29th). After such time the Council will determine if a special meeting is necessary to pass the Resolution.

1. 62, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to opt out of Payroll Tax Deferral.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: Mayor explained that the President ordered that employees can defer FICA taxes until 2021, but next year you’ll end up paying double. The city’s payroll company stated that none of their clients have opted in, would end up running 2 payrolls systems in order to accommodate this. City Treasurer recommends that City does not opt in.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Mayor
* County stated response rate for Census is 65.6%, a decline of 4.1% from last Census. He’s asking Councilmembers to reach out to public to stress importance of completing the Census.
* Thomas’s Hallmark will be closing on October 12th, 38 years to the day of opening. Wished Greg and Sheila his best wishes in their retirement.
* Mayor read an email from the Fire Department that a young man, Joshua Corley saved his mother and his own life. While driving his mother experienced a medical emergency. Joshua was able to take control of the vehicle until a bystander who works at Main Dodge was able to help stop and secure the vehicle. The Mayor commended Joshua for his actions.
* Praught
  + Toured the water facilities with Senior Water Plant Operator John Denmark and City Engineer Chris Vose. She gave Denmark high regards and finds it unfortunate that we have no one to back him up when he retires. She finds that it isn’t right that he currently takes vacation time in hours because there is no one else qualified to run the facility.
  + Met with citizens from the blight group. They are looking for answers. She suggests breaking down the questions and email to the department heads that can answer them.
  + Would like department heads brought back to meetings because she has a lot of questions.
* Spritzer
  + Questioned Mayor as to plans for Halloween. He hopes to have an answer by the 1st of October.
* Hayner
* Encourage residents to visit the city’s Facebook page and website to review the 21 issues sited by Senior Water Plant Operator John Denmark regarding the Water Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* City wide garage sale: October 9-11th
* City wide clean up: October 15-17th
* Business Meeting Monday, October 19, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:38 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