

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on January 20, 2015 at 7:00p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Michael B. Julius : Mayor
Christopher Swatt : Council Member-at-Large
Cynthia Lakata : Council Member
Kathi Iannotti : “ “
Helen Martin : “ “
Edwin Queeney : “ “
Brett Preston : City Attorney
Bruce Heberer : Fire Chief
Mark Gifford : Police Chief
Christopher Vose : City Engineer
Erica Wing : Library Director
Michelle Jones : Senior Center Director
Michael Gifford : City Treasurer
Cathy A. VanAlstyne : City Clerk

ABSENT:

Frank Parker : City Assessor

Mayor Julius called the meeting to order and led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

PUBLIC SPEAKER – Kevin Birmingham residing on E. Madison Ave., would like the council to consider adopting a Noise Ordinance. He distributed copies of the City of Gloversville’s Noise Ordinance. At the January 5th meeting he told the Council that he has one neighbor that continually calls the police when he plays his drums during the day. He has received tickets for disorderly conduct and will be appearing in City Court to answer the charges. He has collected two pages of signatures on a Petition from neighbors. He has insulated the room in his home where he practices his drums. He has had no other complaints from neighbors but the one neighbor who calls the police. If there was a Noise Ordinance with a time that he couldn’t play his drums past he would abide by it. He doesn’t play past 7:30 or 8pm. He feels he isn’t doing anything wrong and the ordinance would help.

APPROVE MINUTES – the minutes of the January 5, 2015 Organizational Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

1. GENERAL AUDIT – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills and place on file in the City Treasurer’s Office. Seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.
2. HOUSING AUDIT – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills and place on file in the City Treasurer’s Office. Seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried. Council Member Queeney abstained.

LIAISON’S REPORTS

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 62 calls in the month of December that included 6 structure fires, 1 mutual aid fire in Gloversville, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 25 hazardous condition calls, 8 medical assistance, 2 vehicle fires, 4 carbon monoxide calls, and 8 calls for service. The Code Office issued 19 permits with an estimated cost of \$246,956 for construction and \$860 in permit fees. Inspection and complaints totaled 469.

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the total calls for 2014 totaled 9,311 resulting in 367 arrests, 458 parking tickets issued, 705 traffic tickets and 293 accidents investigated.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the department has removed the holiday lights from the light poles on Main St. National Grid has discovered the wiring was bad in the line to three street lights from City Hall to the Johnstown Hotel building. They are working on finding the problem. Residents are asked to report any sand barrels needing to be filled or sidewalks that aren’t cleared.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported the Board appointed Scott Jeffers to fill a vacancy on the Board. Nick Cannizzo was appointed President and George DeMarco, Vice President. The Board contracted with Phil Beckett, CPA for an amount not to exceed \$6,250 and C.T. Male for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported AARP will have a defensive driving course on February 24th from 8:30am-3pm. AARP will begin their tax prep program in February, March and April. Both programs are held at the senior center.

LIBRARY – Council Member Queeney reported the State and Federal tax forms have not arrived yet. Instruction booklets will no longer be provided but the forms should be at the library soon. Baskets are coming in for the library’s fundraiser, April 25th.

ASSESSOR – Council Member Queeney reported all exemptions must be filed by March 1, 2015.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the Board thanked Dick Handy and Dave Thum for their years of service on the Board. The Board recently received another NYSERDA Grant for \$200,000.

EDC – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported that at the turn of the calendar EDC became a public entity.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING TOURISM – Helen Martin, Leslie Foss, Noel Levee, Scott Jeffers, Wade Wells, Bernadette Weaver, Cathy A. VanAlstyne, Chandra Cotter, Linda Hinkle and James Dempsey, Jr.

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN PARADE COMMITTEE – Michael Gifford, Bruce Heberer, Joseph Salamack, Peter O’Lucci and Cathy VanAlstyne.

RESOLUTION No. 8, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to enter into an agreement with St. Mary’s Hospital for the Employee Assistance Program (E.A.P.). Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 9, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to enter into an agreement with the Johnstown Senior Citizens Service Center, Inc. for the period commencing on January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 at a yearly cost of \$102,500.00. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Johnstown Library annual fundraiser will be held on April 25th.

The Johnstown Senior Center will hold their annual bazaar on April 11th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council Member Iannotti made a motion at 7:15p.m., to enter into executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations. Seconded by Council Member Lakata. Motion carried.

Council Member Iannotti withdrew the motion and motioned to enter into executive session for the discussion of lease and sale of real property. Council Member Lakata seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion by Council Member Martin at 7:40pm was made to come out of executive session. Motion was seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

Council Member Martin made a motion at 7:42p.m., to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk