

The Johnstown Common Council held their Organizational Meeting on January 5, 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
Mark Gifford	: Police Chief
Bruce Heberer	: Fire Chief
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Erika 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 SPEAKERS** – Grant Preston from Frontier Communications Solutions explained to the Council the city’s current phone system and a proposal for a new phone system that would better serve the city departments and save money on monthly bills.

Bruce Pettit, an independent consultant, and Sandy Kohn from GSS who currently is the City’s IT company, are working together with Frontier to upgrade the phones and computer system. The new system will have one entry point and serve all departments, including the police and fire.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt questioned the presenters. The council was not informed in advance of this presentation and was confused about what Mr. Pettit was talking about. Mayor Julius explained that they have been working on this for over a year and the computers and phones are an old system and have many problems. Every department will have the same phones and computers.

Kevin Birmingham of E. Madison Ave., is a musician and practices his drums in his home most afternoons. A neighbor has complained to the police and he is to answer charges for disorderly conduct in City Court. He would like the Council to consider a noise ordinance. Chief Gifford said that is not necessary. Disorderly Conduct is a violation under the NYS Penal Law and is not a crime, it’s a violation. When a civilian has a complaint they have the right to sign that complaint, then it is up to the court to determine.

**MAYOR’S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS** – Mayor Julius read his State of the City Address which is on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

**APPROVE MINUTES** – The minutes of the December 15, 2014 Business Meeting were approved by a motion from Council Member-at-Large Swatt and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

**CITY OFFICIAL’S REPORTS**

**FIRE DEPT.** – Chief Heberer reported FAGE has been issued their certificate of occupancy. Work on the interior of the fire house is ongoing.

**POLICE DEPT.** – Chief Gifford reported the department has received and been fitted with their new vests. The vests were made possible by a grant. The City’s portion was \$600. They are required to replace the vests every five years.

**DPW** – City Engineer Vose reported 104 Hoosac St. and 126 W. Fulton St. have been condemned. He has applied to the Fulton County Demolition Team for their assistance in razing the buildings. An offer was received for the purchase of 8 Hoosac St. The original offer including the DPW cleaning out the building of furniture, etc. but it was determined that DPW couldn’t afford the time to do this. The offer was rescinded and resubmitted at a lower price with the request for removal of the contents eliminated. Mr. Vose told the Council he recommends they accept the offer and it is a very good one. Chief Heberer agreed.

SENIOR CENTER – Director Michelle Jones reported the 50+ Club will host the Senior Council Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The AARP Tax Program will start on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Appointments can be made by calling the senior center.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported the usage of their community rooms has increased. They are getting ready for their spring fundraiser.

CITY TREASURER – City Treasurer Michael Gifford reported the 2013 Audit Report has been completed. Year end resolutions will need to be done.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – Mayor Julius made the following appointments to the Charter Review Commission: Vernon Jackson, Chairman; Fredrick Franko, Co-Chairman; Cathy VanAlstyne, Secretary; Bruce Pettit, Gary Locatelli, Henry Torres, Bill Ackerbauer, Kurt Ackerknecht, Robert Subik, Martha Engelman, Francis Caraco, Karol Gifford, Larry Preston, Allan Rose and Cathy Levee.

RESOLUTION No. 1, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to set the start time for the Common Council Meetings for 2015. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 2, 2015 was presented by Council Member Queeney to adopt the Rules and Regulations of the Common Council for 2015. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 3, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to designate the official banks for the city. Seconded by Council Member Queeney.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 4, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to designate the Leader Herald the official newspaper for the city. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 5, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to appoint Commissioners of Deeds for a two year term to expire on January 14, 2017. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 6, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to designate polling places for 2015 elections. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 7, 2015 was presented by Council Member Queeney to accept the offer from Helmut Phillip for property at 8 Hoosac St. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Hall is closed January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Common Council's Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

A motion to adjourn at 8:26p.m., was made by Council Member Iannotti and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne  
City Clerk