

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on March 16, 2015 at 7:00p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Christopher Swatt ; Council Member-at-Large  
Frank Parker : City Assessor

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

ROLL CALL – four council members present.

APPROVE MINUTES – minutes of the Committee Meeting March 2, 2015 were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

1. General Audit – Council Member Iannotti read the totals for paid and unpaid bills and made a motion to pay the bills and place on file in the City Treasurer’s Office. Copy of abstract totals attached to these minutes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lakata. Motion carried.
2. Housing Audit – Council Member Iannotti read the total for paid vouchers. Copy of abstract total attached to these minutes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lakata. Motion carried. Queeney abstained.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – Jack Valachovic and Peter Raneri were reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Terms will expire on March 31, 2018.

Fredrick Franko was reappointed to the Johnstown Planning Board with a term to expire on March 31, 2018.

**LIAISON’S REPORTS**

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 581 calls that included 27 arrests, 70 parking tickets issued, 85 traffic tickets and 32 traffic accidents investigated.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received training in CPR and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid. They received 55 calls for service that included 4 structure fires, 1 mutual aid in Gloversville, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 13 hazardous conditions, 10 medical assistance, 3 vehicle fires, 3 carbon monoxide calls and 14 calls for service. The Code Office issued 23 permits with an estimated cost of construction in the amount of \$133,894.00 and fees of \$890.00 collected. The New York State Burn Ban goes into effect March 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the department has been busy with snow and ice removal. They are now busy with filling and repairing potholes. Residents are encouraged to report potholes to the Engineer’s Office. The area between Clinton St. and Prospect St. will be repaired by National Grid’s contractors. A temporary fix using concrete will be applied until spring time when the final repair will be made using asphalt. The incident was the result of a mismarked gas line that was hit by the Water Dept. crew and no fault of the water department.

The FJ&G Rail Trail Project has been approved by New York State to be advertised. Bids will be opened in the City Engineer’s Office on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m. CDs of bid documents are available to contractors in the City Clerk’s Office at a cost of \$25.

WATER DEPT. – Council Member Iannotti reported three of the cities reservoirs are full to capacity. State mandated emergency actions plans for Cork Center and Christman Dam have been completed and filed with all required agencies. They had 4 minor water breaks repaired, several frozen pipe calls and changed out new meter heads.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported the computer group meets at the center every second Wednesday at 7pm. Blue Shield will have a representative every second Monday of the month to answer insurance questions. March 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon and program to follow.

ASSESSOR – Council Member Martin reported as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, all disclosure notices have been mailed for the 2015 preliminary assessment. March 31, 2015 is the deadline for the review application to be mailed if a property owner did not attend an informal hearing. They should be mailed to the City Assessor's Office.

LIBRARY – Council Member Martin reported the library has received 50 baskets so far for the upcoming mini golf fundraiser which will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Programs are being planned for the upcoming school break. The next book discussion is March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30a.m.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member Martin gave a report on the odor problem that occurred last month and earlier this month. This was a direct result of the cast project. They had just started it up and encountered some problems. The system has been shut down temporarily until they can determine what caused the odor. They are looking into covers for the tanks.

RESOLUTION No. 14, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to appoint Michael C. Gifford to the Board of Assessment Review. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Swatt

RESOLUTION No. 15, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to execute a contract with Nathan Littauer Hospital to provide a local Health Officer. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Swatt

RESOLUTION No. 16, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize the City Treasurer to collect the tax levy per the 2015 Tax Warrant. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Swatt

RESOLUTION No. 17, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to enter into a lease agreement with GSS Infotech and Frontier Communications to upgrade the City's computer network and phone system. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Discussion: Council Member Martin said this is a good proposal and Mr. Gifford has endorsed it.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Swatt

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charter Review Commission Meeting – March 26, 2015 at 6:30p.m.

City Hall Offices will close at noon on April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday

Easter Egg Hunt and Hat Contest – April 4, 2015 at 10a.m. in the Main St. Park – this is a joint effort between the Council of Churches and the Johnstown Tourism Committee.

The Women's Symposium will be held at BOCES March 21<sup>st</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:22p.m., by Council Member Lakata and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne  
City Clerk