

A Committee Meeting of the Johnstown Common Council was held on April 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Cynthia Lakata : Council Member
Michelle Jones : Senior Center Director
Michael Gifford : City Treasurer

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

ROLL CALL – one council member absent.

PUBLIC SPEAKER – Nick Zabawski from Orion Management explained the energy efficiency programs that NYSERDA offers. There are two programs for existing commercial facility buildings. The Pre-Qualified Path is to replace pieces of equipment such as light fixtures, copiers, programmable thermostats, etc. NYSERDA has a list of these types of equipment and how much of a rebate you would get for replacing them. The maximum grant is \$30,000 for electric and \$30,000 for gas. The real benefit is the long term energy savings. There is also a Performance Based Path. A professional consultant would have to be hired and a plan developed for more efficient use of energy. The rebate would be based on how much you save. NYSERDA has a program called Flex Tech. This helps to share the cost of a consultant. NYSERDA would pay half the cost of a consultant to go through all of the buildings, do an energy assessment and come up with a schedule of everything needing to be replaced such as heating system, insulation, energy efficient lighting, etc. You would have to use a consultant from the list NYSERDA provides. Mr. Zabawski suggested the Council invite a few of the consultants to come to a meeting.

NY Main St. Grant Program – Mr. Zabawski gave an update on the Main St. Grant Program. Seven properties owners are participating. Six of the seven bids are in and two have gone through the Planning Board process.

TOURISM/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Council Member Martin presented the Mayor with the new events calendar. The calendar lists many community events taking place in the city in 2015. The calendar was designed by graphic artist Linda Hinkle. In celebration of Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s 200th birthday, sunflower seeds are available at Herbage. The seeds are free. City residents are asked to plant them and take pictures when they grow. The pictures will be sent to the person that donated the seeds to the city. The tourism committee is planning to join with the Johnstown Area Community Center during their annual fireworks display on June 27th. The tourism committee would like to have a Summerfest the afternoon prior to the fireworks. They will be meeting with JACC members on April 8th.

APPROVE MINUTES – Minutes of the March 16, 2015 Business Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member-at-Large Swatt and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Julius read a proclamation honoring the Federation of New York Insurance Professionals Week.

CITY OFFICIAL’S REPORTS

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported she has completed the required annual NY State report and the overall picture for the library is positive. The public area usage in the library has increased. Activities have been planned for school children this week, during their spring break, with a story Hour on Tuesday, a movie at 1pm on Wednesday and spring crafts on Thursday.

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported the Code Office will begin ward sweeps on April 15th. Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked what the right of way is from the Rail Trail to some ones yard. Chief Heberer said the width of the Rail Trail is 25 ft. As far as the city’s ownership it depends on how the rail trail goes because it varies from one location to another. City Engineer Vose added that

the citywide clean up this year is the first weekend of June. Normally, the landfill only has the clean up program in April and May. They are allowing it this year in June, but it won't be allowed in the future. They are doing CPR and first aid updates.

POLICE DEPT. – Chief Gifford reported two officers have just completed instructor developmental school.

DPW – City Engineer Vose reported a problem with the drain pipe at the Little League Ball Park. It was draining into the road and undermining the roadway. They tied it into the cities drainage structure. It is dry now but they will have to go back and repave. They were out on Grand St. and Byard St. repairing a sanitary sewer. They plan on doing a lot more repair and replacing of sanitary and storm sewers.

He is waiting for GPI to do the hydrologic and hydraulic study. The flow in the creeks is a little bit elevated now because of the snow melt. The Rail Trail Project was sent out to bid. Rivenburg was the high bidder and the bid was higher than anticipated so funds may have to be shifted. He is looking at the County to get more money. He will consult with City Treasurer Mike Gifford.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported the 50+ Club will host, on April 9th at 1:15pm, members of the 109th Air Lift Wing of the Air National Guard. They will tell their tales and the many travels they go on. April 11th is the Annual Spring Bazaar. On April 16th a representative from NBT Bank will be at the center to talk about identity theft.

RESOLUTION No. 18, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to advertise for a public hearing to amend City Code of Ordinance Chapter 20, Section 20-209, Streets where parking is limited. John Street – “No Parking Anytime” on the northeast side of John Street, at the intersection with Akin Street. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

DISCUSSION – Parking on Warren St. Chief Gifford said the school superintendent asked to have something done about the parking and congestion at Warren St. School. There is a 240' length at the school that has a problem with congestion. Cars are driving up into the parking lot, turning around and going both ways. Children are walking in and amongst the cars which is a potential hazard. They would like to make it no parking on both sides of the street. The school is planning to build a parking lot and that will alleviate it somewhat. Parents will have to park on Wells St. and walk the students up to the school. The students at Warren St. are older children. We will need to have a resolution at the next meeting to advertise for a public hearing.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk