

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on May 18, 2015 at 7:00p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

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

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

ROLL CALL – one council member absent.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – Richard Handy, residing at 116 Pleasant Ave. and Ward 1 Supervisor, was present to speak in support of the residents of Trackside Homes. They would like to see the bus service restored to the City of Johnstown. To take a taxi is costly.

Mayor Julius explained that he met with Bill Walrath from the Gloversville Transit Authority on October 2, 2014. The cost for the bus run at the time, he was told, was \$99,000. The Council did not approve. He spoke with Mr. Walrath again on November 26, 2014 and was informed that for some limited runs they could maybe do it for \$35,000. On April 15, 2015 he attended a meeting at FMCC with Dr. Swanger, people from the county, City of Gloversville and D.O.T., as well as a representative of the Amsterdam Bus Service. They were looking at going with CDTA. It is something that Fulton and Montgomery Counties would have to enroll in together. It would cost 25 cents per thousand of the mortgage recording tax. The two counties could either raise the mortgage recording tax or they could absorb the cost themselves. They will be required to conduct a needs assessment. D.O.T. thinks this should be a regional approach with surrounding counties. The other option would be a private operator such as Brown’s Bus. Amsterdam needs \$155,000 a year to continue business.

Back in November 2010, the bus run in the City of Johnstown ended. There was a problem with negotiating with Gloversville and lack of ridership.

Mr. Handy said he understands the capital district bus service because it went through the Board of Supervisors. You are looking at 2 to 3 years down the road. They need bus service now. Reduced service for the \$35,000 is the way to go.

Claudia Burton residing at Trackside Apt. said it is not just senior citizens that need the bus system. She has 81 signatures on a petition from Trackside. They have also submitted editorials in the newspaper. They can't wait any longer. They need a bus service now. Quality of life is an issue. Many are house bound. To take a taxi to and from Price Chopper is \$14. They are on fixed incomes and can't afford that. If the Council could bring back the bus service with limited runs for \$35,000 they would be extremely grateful.

Betty Davis residing at Trackside Apt. claimed that the Mayor, when he was campaigning, told residents of Trackside Homes that he would put the cost to bring the bus back on the first budget. How can Gloversville have all those buses and we don't have it in Johnstown. Mayor Julius told her he did not say that. We are not the primary bus system. We will still discuss it.

APPROVE MINUTES – a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 Committee Meeting was made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – Council Member Iannotti gave the audit report and made a motion to pay the claims and place on file in the City Treasurer's Office. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills for the housing audit and place on file in the City Treasurer's office. Motion was seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried. Council Member Queeney abstained.

LIAISON'S REPORTS

WATER BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported FNW Forestry made a recommendation to the Board that they issue no lumber contracts until prices improve. Chad Kortz from C.T. Male gave a report on the results and recommendations for the water supply study. He identified options for obtaining water from Gloversville Water Dept. to help supply water to Johnstown for economic development. Another option will help to supply adequate water pressure and fire service to the Bloomingdale neighborhood.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the department has been doing routine maintenance and repairing potholes. Curbside pick-up of leaves and brush has ended. Residents can take their lawn debris to the drop off site on W. Main St. Storm sewer

replacement at the north end of Robin Circle is complete. Work continues on the replacement of the storm sewer at the south end of Robin Circle. GPI has completed the field portion of the hydrologic and hydraulic study. The results of the study will be provided to the City in the near future. The crew has been cleaning the parks and preparing for the Memorial Day Parade.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Martin reported the department received 48 calls for service in the month of April that included 5 structure fires, 1 mutual aid call, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 8 hazardous condition calls, 8 medical assists, 4 vehicles fires, 2 wild fires, 4 carbon monoxide alarm calls and 10 calls for service. Code Enforcement issued 69 permits with an estimate construction cost of \$232,002. Permit fees totaled \$2,326. Inspection and complaints totaled 562. The statewide burn ban has been extended to May 22, 2015.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported that on May 21, 2015 at 1pm the 50+ Club will host National Health Care Decisions Day. A local attorney will give a presentation on health care proxy, power of attorney, wills, probates, DNR etc. On May 28, 2015 at 5pm will be the Candlelight Covered Dish Dinner and Prayer Service. Tap and line dancing classes will begin on Tuesday, June 2nd.

LIBRARY – Council Member Queeney reported the library is preparing for the Summer Reading Program which will begin on June 29th. The library will be closed from May 23rd – May 25th for the Memorial holiday. Summer hours will begin. The library will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the department received 725 calls in the month of April that included 31 arrests, 15 parking tickets issued, 59 traffic tickets, 26 motor vehicle accidents and 6 vehicle fires.

CRG – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported on the MV500, which Dr. Swanger is one of the leads in getting funding from the State for our area. Ron Peters has been busy visiting each business in the area. Twenty-eight people attended a micro enterprise grant program seminar to help people who are interested in opening a new business. They are working to keep Robison & Smith in the area. Estee Commons has been handed off to a management group.

RESOLUTION No. 25, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for RFPs for consulting services for the assessment of City owned facilities to reduce energy consumption. The deadline is June 1, 2015 at 4pm. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

DISCUSSION: Council Member-at-Large Swatt addressed the people from Trackside. He was unaware of the option to restore the limited bus service for \$35,000. It would be

important to come up with that money to get things started. Mayor Julius said the problem with that offer was it occurred in late November and was too late for our budget. The RFP for the CDTA bus service is at least two years. That is a long way out. If we could do something we should.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Julius read the list of announcements (attached).

Council Member Martin announced the City will sponsor Summer Fest June 27, 2015 to be held at Knox Field from 3pm-6pm, before the JACC fireworks. There will be games for children and prizes. Volunteers are needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30p.m., Council Member Iannotti made a motion to enter into executive session for litigation of real property. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

A motion to come out of executive session was made at 7:55p.m., by Council Member Iannotti and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION No. 26, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize the City Treasurer to issue a refund to Stag Johnstown 4 c/o Univar USA, Inc. in the amount of \$2,706.89 as settlement for refund of taxes. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 3

Noes: 1 Swatt

Absent: 1 Lakata

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member-at-Large Swatt at 7:59p.m. Seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk