

The Johnstown Common Council held their Committee Meeting on May 4, 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 III : “ “
David Gilbo : Police Lieutenant
Michael Heberer : Asst. Fire Chief
Michelle Jones : Senior Center Director
Erica Wing : Library Director
Christopher Vose : City Engineer
Brett Preston : City Attorney
Cathy A. VanAlstyne : City Clerk

ABSENT:

Michael Gifford : City Treasurer

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

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – Dave Henderson from Fulton County Community Heritage came to the Council about a year ago asking for support of an application to the Affordable Housing Corporation for home repair and rehab. They did not get a good response when they advertised. An application was put in January of 2014 for a program that would provide assistance to about eight households in the City of Johnstown. They are starting this program now and will be doing some home repair and housing rehab. They will be doing roofs, furnaces, some siding and windows. The income limit is moderate income but there is one glitch; if they have assets over \$15,000 they won't qualify.

Vernon Jackson, Chairman of the Charter Review Commission spoke to the Council about getting in their comments and suggestions for the Charter revisions. They should be sent to the City Clerk by May 6th.

PRESENTATION – ST. JOHN'S CHURCH – Jeremy Silverman representing St. John's Church, explained to the Council the church's projects and funding they plan to apply for. They would like to submit two Consolidated Funding Applications for two rehabilitation projects. The first is the old YMCA building. They plan to cover the swimming pool to be used for the soup kitchen eating area. The old locker room will be converted into the kitchen and food pantry. They are also in contact with the Red Cross and would like to use the building for emergency shelter. The main entrance would be moved to the side entrance on Church St. because it is handicap accessible. The grant application requires a resolution of support from the City as well as a public hearing. They are asking the City to be lead agency for the Community Development Block Grant Program. The funds from the grant would run through the City. The second project is an historical preservation project involving the church building and steeple. Other renovations are required to preserve the building. They will be asking NYSERDA for more money to cover such things as windows for energy efficiency.

Council Member Lakata told them the Council would have to consult with City Treasurer Michael Gifford. Asst. Chief Heberer said some of the project may have to come before the City Planning Board. They should also check with Homeland Security because they have stricter rules for shelters. They can't change the address to Church St. It has to stay with the N. Market St. address.

PUBLIC HEARING – At 7:24p.m., Mayor Julius opened the public hearing for the Warren St. School, no parking during school hours.

APPROVE MINUTES – The minutes of the April 20, 2015 Business Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

LIBRARY – Library Director Erica Wing reported the recent Mini Golf fundraiser was very successful. This weekend they will be doing their annual summer landscaping. The library is preparing for the Summer Reading Program. They will host a concert by the "Dream Catchers" on May 17th. The library will be closed on Mother's Day.

SENIOR CENTER – On May 11th the Ladies Group will celebrate Mother’s Day with the Gloversville Seniors. On May 14th at 11a.m., Mark Caffrey will be at the center to hold hearing screenings. Director Michelle Jones reported that AARP helped 1.6 million in tax preparation, across the country.

POLICE DEPT. – Lt. Gilbo reported on the Emergency Response Team with Gloversville. They had four members of the team go to Turning Stone to the National Tactical Officers Conference. They received training in night vision, mechanical breaching, hostage rescue and active shooter. Governor Cuomo is sponsoring a New York State Ravens Challenge. It is very prestigious for the department because we are one of the smallest organizations competing. The officers have put in a lot of effort into the training. There have been a couple of cases that they were called in on by the State to assist them.

FIRE DEPT. – Asst. Chief Heberer reported the department is doing spring cleaning and have been training in the Hoosac St. houses before they are torn down. They are doing ward sweeps but for now only issuing warnings until after the citywide clean-up. There are a few issues coming before the Planning Board having to do with the Downtown Grant.

DPW – City Engineer Christopher Vose reported they have been busy cleaning up the Rail Trail. Drainage work has been completed on Glebe St. and at the Little League Ball Park. They will return to finish the road repair. Slow Children Playing signs have been erected on both sides of W. Main St. by the ball park. There is a spot on Decker St. needing repair. They will be redoing the drainage at Robin Circle. GPI has started the engineering work on the creeks. They should be done by next week. They are in the process of awarding the job for the Rail Trail. Curbside brush clean up began today and should be done in two weeks. The street sweeper has been repaired and is out sweeping. They will not be using it everyday as in the past. It was not meant for constant use.

Council Member Swatt asked if we could have the creeks cleared of fallen trees and brush. Mr. Vose said you have to be careful of that because of DEC.

PUBLIC HEARING – No one was present to speak so Mayor Julius closed the hearing at 7:35pm.

ORDINANCE No. 2, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to amend Chapter 20-209 to include Warren St. – “No Parking During School Hours”. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Johnson Jog – May 16th
2. Charter Review Commission Meeting – May 12th at 6:30pm
3. Farmers’ Market – Tuesday May 19th 3-6pm
4. Memorial Day Parade – May 22nd at 6:30pm
5. City Hall Offices closed for Memorial Day – May 25th
6. Citywide Garage Sale – May 29th-31st

At 7:40pm, Council Member Iannotti made a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussion of litigation. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

At 7:53pm, Council Member Lakata made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Mayor Julius asked the Council to get their ideas on the Charter revision to the Charter Commission and attend their next meeting, if possible.

At 8:02pm, Council Member Iannotti made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Martin.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk