

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on June 15, 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	: “ “
Mark Gifford	: Police Chief
Michael Heberer	: Asst. Chief
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Erica Wing	: Library Director
Michelle Jones	: Senior Center Director
Michael Gifford	: City Treasurer
Brett Preston	: City Attorney
Cathy A. VanAlstyne	: City Clerk

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

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – David D’Amore from A & D Architecture and Design was present representing St. John’s Church. They had petitioned the City at a meeting in May, for support in a grant application they would like to apply for to renovate the church and the old YMCA building next door. They purchased the Y building some time ago and plan to hold the NOAH dinners there. It is getting close to the deadline for the grant application. At the time of the May meeting the City Treasurer was not present and the Council wished to seek his advice before taking any action. Mr. D’Amore has not heard anything further so he reached out to the Mayor and spoke to Mr. Gifford to try to see what he could provide as far as additional information to facilitate the discussion and bring to a resolution. He has more information and would like to know if this can be moved forward.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt added that Mr. D’Amore contacted him and he asked for Mr. D’Amore to come to tonight’s meeting to speak to the Council. They are under a time crunch and must be done by the end of July. There is only one more council meeting between now and the end of July.

Mayor Julius said the hold up has been that the City’s grant writer has been on vacation and was looking this over.

Mr. D’Amore is looking for a motion from the Council to support the application which would include a letter of support for one of the grant applications and the other grant application would require the City to become the applicant. That particular fund source is only granted to municipalities and the application would be on behalf of the church. They are looking at potentially \$400,000 for the redevelopment of what was the YMCA building. The estimated

time needed for the City to administer the grant is about an hour a week over a two year period of time. The church has been working with their own grant writer and most of the responsibility would fall on their shoulders. Some of the payments and an audit would be administered by the City. Mr. D'Amore said there is a contract that can be established whereby if the project should be in default the responsibility would be on the church to fulfill the obligation. The grant could be written so any cost incurred by the City would be covered.

Council Member Martin said that not only was the City's grant writer unavailable at the time this was brought to the Council but Mr. Gifford was also unavailable. Because so much of this will fall on his office, the council wanted to give him time to review the documents. Council Member Lakata is concerned that the City Treasurer has time for this and the City finances must come first. This is a great project but she would want to be reassured by Mr. Gifford that this is something the City can take on at this time.

Mayor Julius will set up a meeting with Mr. D'Amore. Mr. D'Amore said they have the language to provide to the City for a resolution.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Julius read a proclamation celebrating Helen Keller Day, June 27<sup>th</sup>. The proclamation was presented to Meredith Russo who had written the Mayor a letter requesting the proclamation.

#### CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

1. General Audit – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills and place on file in the City Treasurer's Office. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lakata. Motion carried.
2. Housing Audit – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills 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

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 731 calls resulting in 37 arrests, 39 traffic tickets issued, 15 parking tickets, and 32 motor vehicle accidents investigated.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department responded to 69 calls that included 5 structure fires, 3 mutual aid fires in Gloversville, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 20 hazardous condition calls, 8 medical assistance calls, 1 vehicle fire, 4 wild land fires, 4 carbon monoxide calls and 14 service calls.

Code Office issued 115 permits with an estimated cost of construction of \$527,023.00 and \$3,002.50 in permit fees. The department conducted 892 inspections and complaints.

WATER DEPT. – Council Member Iannotti reported the department plans to read water meters every three months. This will help to detect any leaks and let the homeowner know.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the department has been out repairing potholes. Residents are reminded DPW is no longer picking up leaves and brush at curb side. The brush drop off is open for residents use.

The citywide clean up program was successful. Over 65 tons of metal, tires, electronics and other household items were disposed of.

Seven consulting firms submitted proposals for the energy study of city owned properties. The selection process is ongoing.

PLANNING BOARD – Council Member Martin reported the Board met on June 2, 2015 where Theresa Cook’s project to renovate her building at 32 W. Main St. was approved. A proposed project to expand the used car lot at Red Carpet Housing on S. Comrie Ave. and an addition to Udderly Delicious was referred to the Fulton County Planning Dept. for their input. They will come back for a public hearing at the next meeting on July 7, 2015. A renovation project also came before the Board for 128 W. Main St. The project is put over for the public hearing on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported the 50+ Club will host an antiques appraisal on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The cost is \$5 and all proceeds will be donated to Hope House. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30 the center will host Men’s Health Day.

ASSESSOR – Council Member Queeney reported grievances were heard on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 65 individuals attended grievance and 140 filed but did not attend. Notifications of determination of assessment review will be mailed by June 22, 2015. The Final Roll will be filed with the City Clerk on July 1, 2015.

LIBRARY – Council Member Queeney reported the Summer Reading Program will begin on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Kids can register at the library or on line. NYS Council on the Arts funded book discussion is scheduled for Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. The library is closed on the weekends in the summer.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the aluminum covers have been ordered and should eliminate the order in the area of the plant once they are installed. Contractors have started work on replacement of the mechanical screen.

CRG – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported Mr. Peters has been reaching out to small businesses talking to them about the micro enterprise grant program. They are going to re-up for that program in 2016. It was not very well promoted in 2015 so this year they expect more. Mr. Peters is also working on business retention for businesses looking for larger spaces. One of them is Robison & Smith. He is trying to keep them in the area.

RESOLUTION No. 27, 2015 was presented by Council Member Queeney to appoint individuals to the Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 28, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to enter into Environmental Easements covering the former Johnstown City Landfill. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 29, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt authorizing Fulton County Electrical and Electronics to replace old insufficient electrical equipment at City Hall. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 30, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize an agreement with Arcadis for consulting support and monitoring of the closed Johnstown Landfill. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 31, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to authorize an agreement with Arcadis for the Request for Authorization for additional compensation to complete the Environmental Restoration Program at the former Karg Brothers Site. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Discussion: City Engineer Chris Vose explained that this is additional work placed on the City by DEC and will be wrapped up by the end of the year.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 32, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize an agreement with Greenman-Pederson, Inc. to retain the services of Rifenburg Construction, Inc. for work to be completed on the FJ&G Rail Trail. Seconded by Council Member Lakata.

Discussion: Council Member-at-Large Swatt does not think this is necessary. Mr. Gifford said most is covered by grant money. Our portion is \$37,500. This has been ongoing since 2013.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt thinks this is a waste of money and wanted to know if we have to do this. Mr. Gifford said this was approved two councils ago. Council Member Lakata said this council approved the expenditure in this year's budget. Council Member-at-Large Swatt said we can dump this into the Rail Trail or we could get the bus service back for \$35,000. Mr. Gifford said this is a one time expense and the bus service would be ongoing.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 1 Swatt

RESOLUTION No. 33, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to execute an Agreement for Application Software and Support Services relating to tax collection software for the City of Johnstown. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

DISCUSSION

Council Member Martin was approached by one of our Main St. business owners. He asked about public parking behind Main St. buildings and if there is a way to refresh signage to direct to parking areas. This is in the Historic Overlay District and would have to go through the Zoning Board for approval. Mr. Vose said we should look into this. Mr. Gifford said that part of the NY Main St. Grant Program was earmarked for signage.

Council Member Martin announced that Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Johnstown Tourism Committee is organizing a Summer Fest for children. There will be games, a bouncey house and prizes for children inside the Main Gate at Knox Field from 3pm-6pm. The Annual Fireworks, sponsored by the Johnstown Area Community Center will begin around 9:15pm at Knox Field.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt had contacted Andrea Fettinger, director of the Fulton County Office for the Aging and was told OFA provides senior transportation free of charge but a \$3 donation is suggested. Calling in advance is necessary. He has also been speaking to Brown's Transportation who will be putting together a proposal for bus service in the City. Price Chopper already pays Brown's to pick up people at Trackage and bring them to Price Chopper for shopping.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt said there has been discussion for a year and a half about getting another person in the City Treasurer's Office to help Mr. Gifford with his work load. There has been some delay in putting together the job description but we need to get this done. The work is piling up.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt motioned to enter into executive session at 7:55p.m., for discussion of litigation. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:15p.m., was made by Council Member Lakata and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Council members discussed St. John's grant application. It was agreed that a meeting between city officials and project officials would be scheduled to discuss the application.

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member-at-Large Swatt at 8:25p.m., and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne  
City Clerk