

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on August 17, 2015 at 7:00p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Michael C. Gifford	: City Treasurer
Michelle Jones	: Senior Center Director

Mayor Julius called the meeting to order and led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Frank Parker, City Assessor.

ROLL CALL – all council members present

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Wayne Cannell, 423 N. Market St., told the Council the Rail Trail runs along the front of his house. He was not aware that a 6’ sidewalk would be constructed in front of his property until someone knocked on his door last week. He moved there 31 years ago because it was the last day the train ran. Then the Rail Trail was put in. He has put \$50,000 into his house and planned to have it sided. Now he feels his property is ruined. His plan was to sell in a few years and move to a warmer climate. He is not happy with the sidewalk directly in front of his house and it has made his house worthless. He sent emails to Council Member Lakata and got no answer. He was given the wrong information from City Engineer Vose. He was told it would be on the east side of N. Market St. not the west where he lives. Mr. Vose corrected himself and apologized to him for the mistake.

Mayor Julius told him he is aware of a problem with his driveway and the City will repair it so he can get in and out.

Mr. Cannell said he has a pole light in front of his house that was centered but now the sidewalk is so close to it, it looks ridiculous. Channel 6 News will be interested in how the City is wasting money.

MINUTES – a motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting on July 20, 2015 and the Special Meeting on August 10, 2015 was made by Council Member Swatt and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills on the General Audit and place on file in the City Treasurer's Office. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills on the Housing Audit and place on file in the City Treasurer's Office. Council Member-at-Large Swatt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member Queeney abstained.

LIAISON'S REPORTS

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 633 calls for service that resulted in 28 arrests, 24 parking tickets, 43 traffic tickets and 26 motor vehicle accidents investigated.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 65 calls for service that included 6 structure fires, 9 motor vehicle accidents, 25 hazardous condition calls, 10 medical assistance calls, 2 carbon monoxide calls, and 13 service calls. The Code Office issued 87 building permits with an estimated construction cost of \$427,089.00 and \$2,552.50 in fees collected. Complaints and inspections totaled 790.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the brush drop off is monitored and emptied on a regular basis. Potholes are being repaired as needed. Residents are asked to report any potholes. DPW crews have been addressing the preliminary list of location problems for hydraulic and hydrological study performed by GPI. Work to segregate the creek and storm run off from the road has been completed on Elmwood Ave. as recommended by GPI. Installation is complete on the new storm drain line that runs along the south side of Daisy Lane. DPW will pave where work has been done. Rivenburg Construction has begun the construction phase of the RJ&G Rail Trail Project on N. Market St. and Mason St. as well as N. Perry and Decker Sts.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported the Board passed a resolution to hire C.T. Male to do an engineering study for the area around Bloomingdale Ave. to improve the fire protection and water pressure. A resolution to appoint Cinda Spraker as Clerk of the Water Board effective August 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015 was approved by the Board. Council Member Iannotti said this is totally appalling that a city employee with over ten years of service is living month to month not knowing if she is employed or not. This is the fourth time the Board has extended her employment for a short period. Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked what the reasoning is for this. Council Member Iannotti said the Board does not give a reason. Mayor Julius added that no other employee in the City of Johnstown is treated this way. Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked what can be done to alleviate this problem. City Attorney Preston

was unable to advise because he represents both boards. Council Member Iannotti said this all goes back to the Charter and why it needs to be changed. The standard appointment for the Clerk is yearly. It only changed this year. The Clerk was told at the end of last year that the Water Board would not reappoint her. Then they did appoint her. They want her to sign a contract but she would be giving up some things. In March of 2014 the Clerk went on vacation and when she came back there was a note on her desk that said they missed her and what a great job she does.

LIBRARY – Council Member Queeney announced the library will offer a pair of memoir writing workshops. The workshops will be held at the Shirley J. Luck Senior Citizens Center on September 21st and 25th. Call the library or senior center to register. The library will be closed for Labor Day, September 7th and reopen Tuesday the 8th with regular hours.

ASSESSOR – Council Member Queeney reported the 2015 Final Roll was signed by the acting City Assessor Susan Otis and filed with the City Clerk on July 1st.

CRG – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported they are currently lobbying our county for funding from Gov. Cuomo. Estee Commons is now 90% occupied. They have a private company running it now. They are sending out an RFP to knock down the old high school. Ron Peters is going door to door to small businesses introducing himself and asking how CRG can help them. They have three businesses signed up for the micro enterprise grant for next year. They also have new marketing packets.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the tank cover will be delivered by the end of next week. This should alleviate the odor. National Grid is coming to the wastewater treatment facility for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The plant is the first treatment facility in NYS to export electricity to the grid. They had a bid opening to repair the roof and the lowest bidder was Jablonski for \$41,000. They want to fill the position of Wastewater Engineer and are advertising the salary at \$45,000.

RESOLUTION No. 45, 2015 was presented by Council Member Queeney to enter into an agreement with GAR for assessment service. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 46, 2015 was presented by Council Member Queeney to contract with Susan C. Otis as acting assessor. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 47, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for bids for 2015 street resurfacing. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Discussion: Mr. Vose told the council, if no bids are received the money would roll over into next year.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 48, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to execute a supplemental agreement with NYSDOT allowing the City to be reimbursed for up to \$1,615,578.55 for the construction phase of the North Market Street Bridge. Seconded by Council Member Lakata.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 49, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to enter into an agreement with New York State Unified Court System for court security. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 50, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to authorize an agreement with the New York State Unified Court System for court cleaning and minor repairs. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 51, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to advertise for a public hearing for proposed changes to the City of Johnstown Zoning Ordinance. Seconded by Council Member Lakata.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 52, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin authorizing City Engineer Christopher Vose as a responsible local official for the purpose of accessing the New York State Department of Transportation Equitable Business Opportunities System. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5
Noes: 0

DISCUSSION

Council Member Queeney praised the Johnstown Water Department for their professionalism in repairing a water main break in his neighborhood.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt made the motion to adjourn at 7:34pm, seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk