

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on September 21, 2015 at 7:00p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Edwin Queeney III : Council Member

Mayor Julius called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., and led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION – ENERGY CONTRACTORS

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – Erin Gavin residing at 3360 StHwy 29, Johnstown, is owner of property at 3360 State Highway 29 and 170 Wemple Rd. and requesting to connect to city water. She had submitted a F.O.I.L. request for information on nearby residents that had city water and found that only two houses didn’t have city water. The city engineer and city attorney will look into this further.

PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING AMENDMENTS – Mayor Julius opened the public hearing at 7:05p.m., so that anyone present could be heard.

APPROVE MINUTES – the minutes of the August 17, 2015 Business meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member-at-Large Swatt and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the claims for the General Audit and Housing Audit and place on file in the City Treasurer’s Office. Motion was seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 663 calls that included 26 arrests, 23 parking tickets, 33 traffic tickets, and 15 motor vehicle accidents investigated.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 65 calls that included 5 structure fires, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 25 hazardous condition calls, 14 medical assist calls, 2 confined space standby calls and 11 calls for service. The Code Office issued 64 building permits for an estimated cost of construction of \$386,733.00. Permits fees were \$1,801.00. Inspections and complaints totaled 769.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the department has been filling potholes. Rifenburg Construction has completed construction phase of the FJ&G Rail Trail Project. As a result there are new crossing patterns at intersections on N. Perry and Decker St. as well as N. Market and Mason St. The culvert under Maple Ave. has been replaced. EPA and NY DEC performed their 5 year review for the closed city landfill and semi annual ground water sampling program. The report was positive with no major deficiencies. Work is still being done to try to reduce the yearly number of samplings from 2 to 1.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported the center will hold their business meeting on October 1st. Rite Aid Pharmacy will provide a flu shot clinic that day. On October 8th at 1:15pm, Mayor Julius will speak to the seniors at the center. On October 22nd, club members will celebrate their 49th anniversary at a luncheon at the Winner Circle in Fonda.

PLANNING BOARD – Council Member Martin reported three matters came before the Board at their Sept. meeting; an addition to Robison & Smith's building, an addition to Ruby & Quiry's building and an addition to the Johnstown Mall for Planet Fitness.

LIBRARY – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the library will host a workshop called making the most of social security on Thursday, October 29th at 6:30. The Summer Reading Program had the highest number of books read this year. Story time is held for pre-school aged children every Tuesday at 10:30a.m.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported on Sept. 9th, plant manager Tyler Masick resigned from his position effective October 9th. They recently hired a wastewater engineer from C.T. Male Assoc. who will assume the daily operations of the plant until a replacement can be found.

CRG – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported they are applying for another \$200,000 in grants. They have five people waiting for them. Estee Commons is 92% occupied. President Ron Peters has been busy pitching Fulton County to businesses.

Mayor Julius closed the public hearing at 7:20p.m., for the zoning amendments.

ORDINANCE No. 3, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to adopt proposed amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinances. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 53, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to award the paving bid to Peckham Road Corp. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Discussion: Chris Vose said sidewalk crews will start next week with paving done mid October.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 54, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to re-appoint Michael Kirkpatrick to the Board of Assessment Review. Term expiring September 30, 2020. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 55, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize the Water Board to execute an agreement with C.T. Male Associates for engineering services to improve fire protection and water pressure in the area of Bloomingdale Ave..

Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Discussion: Council Member Lakata asked Chief Heberer if that would allow for increased growth in the area. The chief said that it may.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 56, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to authorize the Water Board to execute an agreement with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for professional services to oversee the scope of work performed by Adirondack Basement Systems. A Geo Lock Wall Anchoring System will be installed to repair the retaining wall at Larrabee Reservoir. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Discussion: Council Member Lakata questioned why they need someone to oversee this work. Would City Engineer Vose be able to do this? Mr. Vose said he was not approached about this. Council Member Lakata said there is no working relationship between the water dept. and city engineer. Mr. Vose said that the administration doesn't communicate with him. This is \$5,000 of taxpayer money that may have been done in house.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 57, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize the Water Board to execute an agreement with General Control Systems, Inc. for engineering services for a SCADA system to detect leaks in the water system. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 58, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to authorize Warren Electric Supply to provide new cost-cutting, energy efficient equipment to replace old insufficient electrical equipment at the Fire Department. National Grid will pay up to 2/3 of the cost. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Discussion: Chief Heberer said his men will do most of the work.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 59, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to report to the New York State Comptroller's Office to establish a standard work day for employees. Seconded by Council Member Lakata.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 60, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to rescind Resolution No. 43, 2015, Supplemental Agreement #2 with the NYS Department of Transportation for the North Perry Street Bridge Replacement Project. Seconded by Council Member Lakata.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 61, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to execute Supplemental Agreement #2. This agreement will allow the City to be reimbursed, up to \$2,418,700.00 for the construction phase of the North Perry Street Bridge Replacement Project. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Queeney

RESOLUTION No. 62, 2015 was presented by Council Member Lakata to advertise for bids for 15 sets of the 3M Peltor CONTACT/SWAT-TAC back band headsets with 15 FL5000 push to talk adaptors. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Discussion: Chief Gifford said this will be covered with grant money. The cost will probably be \$15,000.

Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Absent: 1 Queeney

CLASSIC IMAGE PARADE – Mayor Julius had sent Karen Coppola, parade organizer, a letter back in November of 2014. The letter informed Mrs. Coppola that the City, in order to cut cost, was asking that she plan the parade on the same night as the City’s Colonial Stroll which is the first Friday in December. She usually plans for the parade on the 3rd Friday in November. In the spring she claimed she never received the letter so she was sent another copy. She never responded. Helen Martin, Chairperson of the Tourism and Special Events Committee, spoke with Mrs. Coppola on the phone on two or three different occasions and together they made some plans for the December 4th combined event. The following week it was announced on facebook that the parade was being pulled from Johnstown and moved to Gloversville. She never told anyone in the City she was pulling the parade or that she would not have it on December 4th, along with the Colonial Stroll.

Chief Heberer said Mrs. Coppola claims the City doesn’t support her or her parade. That is untrue. We are trying to save taxpayer money by having one event. Mrs. Coppola claims that she can’t have the parade in December because it is too cold for the bands to play. The Schenectady Thanksgiving Parade is held every year at the end of November and has several bands playing in all kinds of cold weather. The Johnstown Parade Committee will be meeting and is planning to put together a parade for the night of the Colonial Stroll.

MAYOR’S EMAIL – Mayor Julius had received a copy of an email between Vern Jackson, Chairman of the Charter Review Commission and Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Mr. Swatt told Mr. Jackson that he had gone out to a meeting in Gloversville with Water Board President Nicholas Cannizzo. Mr. Cannizzo told him that he spotted three of the water dept. employees driving around and he yelled at them. Mr. Swatt asked Mr. Cannizzo who was supposed to be supervising them. He said Mike Hlozansky is their supervisor but he was busy doing his job so he said he does it. That is the problem, there is no leader. Board members are not supposed to be involved in the day to day operation of the water department. Mr. Cannizzo then told Mr. Swatt the Board is talking to Mr. Satterlee at the Gloversville Water Dept. about splitting his time between the City of Johnstown and City of Gloversville and paying him to supervise our guys. Mayor Julius said we have the structure in place with our own City Engineer and Deputy Engineer but they won’t use them.

Chief Heberer said he has been here a while and remembers that when the position of Deputy Engineer was created that person was suppose to be the water superintendent as well. That is why that position was created. Everyone wants to preach smaller government and less taxes and better control but as soon as you propose something like that its like you’re cutting off their arm. No one is going to loose work or their job. This will be better; the money will be better controlled. We all have bosses. We all have someone to answer to. There has to be direct management.

Mayor Julius stated, smaller government means less taxes; bigger government means more taxes.

Council Member Martin said she had received a letter from a resident on E. Third Ave. requesting that parking be prohibited on one side of the street. The street is very narrow. Chief Gifford agrees and there will be a resolution to prohibit parking on the south side of the street.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked how the tree lighting will take place during the Colonial Stroll when there is no tree. City Engineer Vose said there is a new tree for the park on its way. It will be planted in October.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion at 8p.m. to enter into executive session for reasons of litigation. Seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Council Member Lakata and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lakata and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk