

The Johnstown Common Council held a Committee Meeting on December 7, 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	: “ “
Vernon Jackson	: “ “
Michael Gifford	: City Treasurer
Michael Poulin	: City Attorney
Michelle Jones	: Senior Center Director
Erica Wing	: Library Director
David Gilbo	: Police Lieutenant
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Bruce Heberer	: Fire Chief
Cathy A. VanAlstyne	: City Clerk

ABSENT:

Cynthia Lakata : Council Member

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

ROLL CALL – One council member absent.

PUBLIC SPEAKER – Edward Bishop, Supervisor for the Town of Mohawk, spoke to the Council concerning an agreement he would like to see signed between the Town of Mohawk and City of Johnstown. The agreement involved annexing property in the Town of Mohawk into the City of Johnstown for a business park. He would agree to revenue sharing of 45% Town of Mohawk and 55% City of Johnstown. Fulton County has already approved an agreement and Montgomery County plans to vote on the agreement tonight. The term would be 80 years. Mr. Bishop said this has been going on for years and he would like to get it done. There are things in the contract that concern the citizens of the Town of Mohawk. This property borders along the Old Trail Road in many places. The boundaries will go around some of the residences that are there. He would like that there be no access from the park to Old Trail Rd. but the access be from Opportunity Drive. There is also the continuing concern about the amount of traffic that goes through Fonda. There has been discussion about a by-pass but that has been tabled. That leaves the annexation process. He has no control over that and the City will decide on the zoning but if they go with distribution or warehousing in that location it will kill the Village of Fonda and the Town of Mohawk can't handle much more traffic. There is a public hearing scheduled for December 28th and he would like to have some idea of where the City stands before that hearing. Robert Kruger, Town Attorney for Town of Mohawk was present but had nothing more to add.

APPROVE MINUTES – the minutes of the November 16, 2015 Business Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

DPW – Mr. Vose reported his department has slowed down at this time. Holiday decorations have been put up and most of 31 Crescendoe Rd. property has been cleared out. They will attempt to get a pole barn up to store supplies. The draft copy of the Hydraulic and Hydrologic Study done by Greenman-Pedersen showed no surprises. We should be able to address most of the problems in the coming year and the year after. We have not had to use any of the salt yet this year which will help next year. Probably won't have to order anymore for the season.

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported his men also did some of the decorating in the park for the holiday. The Code Office is busy with three major projects. Planet Fitness is coming but much prep work to be done in the mall.

SENIOR CENTER – Director Michelle Jones reported this Thursday the 50+ Club will feature a holiday movie at 1pm. On December 16th the Fulton County Office of the Aging will have a holiday dinner at noon. On December 17th the Betty Green Choir will perform at the center. The center is still collecting food for the food pantry and toys for Toys for Tots.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported they are also collecting for the food pantry. Late fees will be waived for anyone bringing in a canned good. A new program the library has is called Zinio. Patrons can download magazines.

POLICE DEPT. – Lt. Gilbo reported he and other members of the Traffic Safety Board judged the projects of students in the Ptech Program at Jansen Ave. School. The students are high school juniors and senior and he was very impressed at the technology they used in their projects. The department has their new license plate reader in the car and up and running. Once the city computer upgrade is complete they will be able to download and transmit data. The parade went pretty smoothly. They did have one problem with the public moving barricades. He would like to have this advertised before the next parade. No one is authorized to move a police barricade.

CITY TREASURER – Mr. Gifford reported he is working on getting the City's financial statement to NYC to the Security and Exchange Commission.

RESOLUTION No. 74, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for a public hearing for the 2016 Tentative Budget. Hearing will be held on December 21, 2015 at 7pm. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

DISCUSSION

Council Member-at-Large Swatt said the article in the Leader Herald about Water Board Clerk Cinda Spraker, named Michael Poulin as Mrs. Spraker's attorney. That is incorrect.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt thanked Council Member Martin and Chief Heberer for putting together the parade and stroll.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council Member-at-Large Swatt made a motion to enter into executive session for discussion of a contract. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

Council Member Martin made a motion to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

Council Members decided unanimously not to negotiate further with the Town of Mohawk regarding the proposed revenue sharing agreement for a proposed business park that may be annexed into the City of Johnstown.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to adjourn seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk