

The Johnstown Common Council held their Business Meeting on November 16, 2015 at 6:00p.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	: “ “
Vernon Jackson	: “ “
Brett Preston	: City Attorney
Mark Gifford	: Police Chief
Michael Heberer	: Asst. Fire Chief
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Erica Wing	: Library Director
Michelle Jones	: Senior Center Director
Michael Gifford	: City Treasurer
Cathy A. VanAlstyne	: City Clerk

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

Council Member-at-Large Swatt made a motion to enter into executive session to conduct interviews for City Court Judge. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt made a motion to come out of executive session at 7pm. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

APPROVE MINUTES – minutes of the November 2, 2015 Committee Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Jackson and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to approve the claims and pay the bills and place on file in the City Treasurer’s Office. Seconded by Council Member Lakata. Motion carried.

LIAISON’S REPORTS

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 602 calls that included 31 arrests, 14 parking tickets issued, 40 traffic tickets, and 44 accidents investigated.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Lakata reported the department received 74 calls that included 6 structure fires, 4 mutual aid fires in Gloversville, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 14 hazardous condition calls, 26 medicals assists, 4 confined space entry stand-by calls and 10 calls for service. The Code Office issued 79 building permits for an estimated cost of construction of \$1,737,899 and \$4,780 in permit fees. Ward sweeps and complaints totaled 734.

WATER DEPT. – Council Member Iannotti reported the Water Board approved their budget for 2016 and finalized their 6 year plan.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the brush drop off is still open for residents to drop off leaves and brush. The N. East Ave. culvert is almost complete. This work is being done in house. Leaf pick up is ongoing and residents are asked to bag in paper bags or rake to the terrace not the street as it causes catch basins to be blocked. They will make two sweeps of the city. The sewer line on E. Clinton St. between Glebe St. and S. Perry St. has been repaired.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported an AARP Defensive Driving Course will be held at the center on December 5, 2015 from 10am-2:30pm. An Intro to Photography will take place on Tuesdays from 4-5pm. A trip to Lancaster, Pa. is scheduled for November 17th. On November 23rd there will be a bus going to Colonie Center for shopping. The center will be collecting Toys for Tots and canned goods for the food pantry.

LIBRARY – Council Member Jackson read a thank you note from the library for a donation made by council members and the mayor in memory of Edwin Queeney III, Ward 4 Council Member. The library has launched its 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative. The program encourages parents to read 1,000 books to their child before they enter kindergarten. The library has a fun tracking program to help obtain this goal. Children will receive small incentives along the way. The library will be closed Thanksgiving Day and reopen on Nov. 27th.

ASSESSOR – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the Enhanced Star renewals will be mailed out the end of November.

CRG – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the Board is looking for a new member, preferably a female. A letter was sent out to all newly elected officials looking to discuss regional growth with them.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the CAST upgrade is complete. This will eliminate the odor. The NYSDEC Annual Inspection was done on October 22, 2015 and the plant passed the inspection. Milton Cat has been at the plant to make a promotional video. The lighting upgrade has begun.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – Brett Preston was appointed City Court Judge beginning December 4, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

RESOLUTION No. 72, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to appoint Michael Poulin of Northville, to the position of City Attorney beginning December 4, 2015. Term will expire on December 31, 2017. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Discussion: Council Member Martin asked Mr. Poulin, at the present time, do you have any private cases that could potentially cause a conflict for your acting in the capacity as the Johnstown City Attorney or are you representing anyone that has a suit against the city? Mr. Poulin replied, no.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Council Member Lakata noted that the resolution to change the date of the 2016 Organizational Meeting was pulled by the Council. The meeting will be January 1, 2016 at 12pm.

RESOLUTION No. 73, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to appoint Michael Viscosi to the position of City Court Judge to replace Frederick Stortecky. Seconded by Council Member Lakata.

Discussion: Council Member-at-Large Swatt said all three candidates were good candidates.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Treasurer Michael Gifford has a draft budget He said it's been a struggle because this is one of the worst budget he has worked on. It is not a good idea to use the fund balance. This includes a projected property increase of 3.3% but is still within the tax cap. He would like to go through this tentative budget with the Council, line by line. He hoped to replenish the fund balance with sales tax. Retirement has come down some. The question is, what can the City continue to support? The requests from department heads are not outlandish. Workshops will be scheduled with the Council for review of the budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Hall Offices are closed Nov. 26th and 27th.

Colonial Stroll and Home for the Holidays Parade is December 4th from 6-8:30pm.

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss litigation was made by Council Member Iannotti and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk