

The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on December 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
Vernon Jackson	: “ “
Kathi Iannotti	: “ “
Bruce Heberer	: Fire Chief
Michael Poulin	: City Attorney
Mark Gifford	: Police Chief
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Erica Wing	: Library Director
Michelle Jones	: Senior Center Director
Cathy A. VanAlstyne	: City Clerk

ABSENT:

Cynthia Lakata	: Council Member
Michael C. Gifford	: City Treasurer

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

ROLL CALL – one council member absent.

PUBLIC SPEAKER

James Calhoun residing at 16 Hillside Ave. – he stated he has heard people saying there is a drastic water pressure problems in his neighborhood. He has lived there since 1975 and at that time they did have a low water pressure. The water line was then extended past his property to Cummings Ave. and up the hill. The pressure increased immediately and has been good ever since. As a tax payer, he hates to see water purchased from Gloversville. We have ample supplies of water. When Karg and Milligan & Higgins was running at full board we had ample water. We still have the same sources so it leaves the bottle neck at the purification plant. He heard that it is running at 50% capacity. He would think that the Water Dept. would tend to repair the filtration plant if that is what is needed. Repair the existing supply that’s not being used rather than purchase water from Gloversville. He hopes that they think about the taxpayers. As far as Hillside Park he doesn’t see a problem.

PUBLIC HEARING – At 7:04p.m., Mayor Julius opened the public hearing on the 2016 Tentative Budget.

APPROVE MINTUES – A motion was made by Council Member Martin to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 Committee Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

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

LIAISON'S REPORTS

ASSESSOR – Council Member Iannotti reported the Enhanced Star renewals have been mailed. The senior exemption renewals will be mailed out by the end of December. The filing deadline for all exemptions is March 1st.

DPW – Council Member Iannotti reported the brush drop off is closed for the season. Crews have been cleaning the cities newly acquired property at 31 Crescendoe Rd., in preparation for storage of equipment, materials and supplies. Sand barrels are being placed at various intersections around the city. There is a stock pile of sand for public use at the end of Prindle Court. DPW with the help of Fulton County, demolished 104 Hoosac St. Mayor Julius and the Common Council received a letter from the Mayor of the Village of Broadalbin extending his thanks for the use of DPW personnel and equipment to dig holes for the placement of their new street lights. The Village of Broadalbin stands ready to assist the City of Johnstown if and when the need arises.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported Chad Kortz from C.T. Male has prepared a letter to send to the Dept. of Health concerning the low water pressure in the Bloomingdale Ave. area. During peak periods fire flow situations or hydrant flushing pressures dropped considerable. Currently, the Gloversville Water Dept. adds fluoride to their water. Johnstown Water Dept. does not add fluoride. In 1999 the City of Johnstown passed a local law that Johnstown cannot have fluoride in their water. Council Member Iannotti asked City Attorney Poulin to send a copy of the local law to the Johnstown Water Board. The Water Board opened bids for sale of timber. It was recommended that they accept the bid from Wadsworth Lumber Co. with a bid of \$96,713.00. Council Member Iannotti would like to know who gets the money from the timber sale; the City or Water Dept. Mr. Poulin said that it is city property. The Water Board hand wrote a resolution to hire their own attorney at \$205 per hour. At the meeting Mr. Poulin told them that the City of Johnstown Charter states he covers all departments in the City. He is the Board's attorney and if they retain outside counsel they could be liable for the bill themselves, not the City of Johnstown. Mr. Caruso said the resolution is for legal matters. Mr. Poulin told them he is their legal counsel. The Board Members were told they will be personally responsible and not the department. He told them they may want to consider rescinding the resolution. The Charter cannot be modified with a resolution. Mr. Poulin sent the Board a letter reiterating this.

SENIOR CENTER – Council Member Martin reported the 50+ Club will host the Warren St. School students at the center on Tuesday at 10:30a.m., to perform a concert. Every Friday at 9:30a.m., free baked goods are available at the center provided by Price Chopper.

FIRE DEPT. – Council Member Jackson reported the department received in-service training in November. They received 69 calls for service that included 3 structure fires, 1 mutual aid in Gloversville, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 14 hazardous condition calls, 12 medical assist, 6 confined space calls and 23 calls for service. The Code Office issued 46 permits with an estimated cost of construction of \$678,314.00. Permit fees totaled \$2,080.00. Complaints and inspections totaled 635.

LIBRARY – Council Member Jackson reported emagazines are available to borrow on the library's website. They are still collecting food for the food pantry. Late fees will be waved in exchange for can goods.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the Board is looking to fill two positions on the board; both from Gloversville and Johnstown. They are continuing with the lighting upgrade. It will

pay for itself in less than five years. They are in full compliance with all the permits, no violations in the lab and no accidents.

CRG – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported that they hope to increase their membership. They had a networking event on November 13th and are looking to put together a membership committee.

POLICE DEPT. – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the department received 654 calls resulting in 32 arrests, 37 traffic tickets issued, 8 parking tickets, and 36 traffic accidents investigated. The winter parking ban is in effect but residents will be allowed to park on the streets until the first snow fall.

Mayor Julius closed the Public Hearing for the 2016 Tentative Budget at 7:20p.m. No one present wished to speak.

RESOLUTION No. 75, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to adopt the 2016 Budget. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

RESOLUTION No. 76, 2015 was presented by Council Member Jackson to accept the offer for 115 Hoosac St. from Antoinette Calderwood. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

RESOLUTION No. 77, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to rescind Resolution 71, 2015. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

RESOLUTION No. 78, 2015 was presented by Council Member Iannotti for an agreement with NYSDOT to allow the City to be reimbursed for the construction phase of the North Market Street Bridge Replacement Project. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

RESOLUTION No. 79, 2015 was presented by Council Member Martin to execute a Shared Services Agreement with NYS Dept. of Transportation to provide emergency assistance to the City of Johnstown.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

RESOLUTION No. 80, 2015 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to enter into an agreement with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for general on-call engineering services to the City Engineer's Office. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Lakata

DISCUSSION – Council Member-at-Large Swatt told City Officials that next year they will give their department reports and not the Liaisons. Liaisons will only give reports for boards that are not represented at the meetings.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt said, considering the water pressure issue in the Bloomingdale area, the report that Council Member Iannotti gave for the Water Board, that is the information the council bases their decisions on, as well as the information from the fire chief concerning whether there is enough pressure to fight a fire.

At 7:35p.m., Council Member-at-Large Swatt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk