

A Business Meeting of the Johnstown Common Council was held on February 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Michael B. Julius	:Mayor
Christopher Swatt	:Council Member-at-Large
Kathi Iannotti	:Council Member
Bradley Hayner	:Council Member
Helen Martin	:Council Member
Vernon Jackson	:Council Member
Michael Poulin	:City Attorney
Bruce Heberer	:Fire Chief
David Gilbo	:Police Lieutenant
Chris Vose	:City Engineer
Erica Wing	:Library Director
Michael Gifford	:City Treasurer
Mary Jo Smith	:Deputy City Clerk

ABSENT:

Michelle Jones	:Senior Center Director
Cathy VanAlstyne	:City Clerk
Mark Gifford	:Police Chief

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

ROLL CALL- All Council members present

APPROVE MINUTES- The minutes of the January 19, 2016 Business Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS- Council Member Iannotti moved to pay the bills for the general audit and place on file with a second from Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried. Council Member Iannotti moved to pay the bills for the housing audit and place on file. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIALS' AND LIAISONS' REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT-Chief Heberer reported that the Fire Department continued in-service training in CPR and First Aid in January. The Codes Division is still working on the New York State Codes update which should go into effect this year. In January they responded to 62 calls for service. These included 6 structure fires, 2 mutual aid calls to Gloversville, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 14 hazardous condition calls, 8 medical

assistance, and 20 service calls. The monthly building report is as follows: 37 permits issued, with an estimated cost for improvements of \$1,266,246 with fees of \$2,269 that were collected. The Codes Division conducted 454 inspections and complaint responses in January. He added that the biggest increase in the estimated cost had to do with the renovation to Stewart's.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT-** Lieutenant Gilbo reported that in January there were 558 calls for service leading to 62 actual cases, 20 arrests made, 87 citations written including parking and traffic, and 19 traffic accident investigations. Two officers just completed SWAT training sponsored by Homeland Security, and should be fully certified in March. Officers are starting their in-service training this month as part of the State HazMat and Use of Force requirements. The department just received the Easy Child I.D. equipment, and next week two officers will be familiarizing themselves with the service, so it can be used at schools and places like the Y.M.C.A. Council Member Iannotti suggested they go to the Easter Egg Hunt in the Park on March 26 at 10 a.m.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS-**Engineer Vose said the DPW has been removing snow and spending a lot of time with overdue cleaning of the Garage and securing 31 Crescendoe across from the garage to store sanitary sewer and other items. He reported that one employee has been out for over and off the books for over a year, so they will be posting the position for a laborer tomorrow and hope to make a decision soon. The recent heavy rains have indicated some flooding problem areas that the DPW hopes to get to this year. He said it is difficult for the City to deal with some issues, because they are on private property. Council Member-at Large Swatt asked about the Chase and Main Streets area. Engineer Vose replied that there probably won't be a contract in place until later this year with the actual work starting in 2017. The box at 107 E. Main is ready to collapse and the only solution is for the City to purchase the property from the owner. This is in process now. He said the box will not be replaced, and the area will be left as an open channel. He further reported that many issues can now be addressed with the funding they will receive. He said that a number of projects can be handled in house; for example, separating the creek from the retention pond by the D.S.S. building on Daisy Lane. He felt that many of the flooding issues will be alleviated within the next couple of years. Engineer Vose said the City should have the money for the bridge at N. Chase St. through a Dormitory Authority grant with the help of Senator Farley's office. The Dormitory Authority funding will go toward work at 107 E. Main St. and other miscellaneous storm water projects that were outlined in the H&H report. Also funded will be S. Chase St., E. Main St. and the culvert under the Washington/Pleasant Ave. area. Similar funding for the Miller St. bridge should be available with the help of Assemblyman Butler.

**LIBRARY-** Library Director Wing indicated that the Library is about the only place taxpayers can obtain hard copies for their tax returns. She reported that all the State forms are available, as well as, the Federal 1040, 1040A and EZ. Additionally, the Library will print out any form and any instructions that are not available for a fee of 10 cents per copy. She said she tries to update the Library's website to inform everyone as other paper

copies becomes available. She was happy to announce that the Hannaford in the Town of Johnstown is donating, to the Library, \$1.00 for every blue reusable bag purchased in the month of February. On March 31st there will be a citizen disaster preparedness program at JPL. It is sponsored by the State, and anyone interested needs to register in advance so there will be enough materials available. The Mini Golf Fundraiser will be on April 16. Council Member Martin asked how many baskets have been donated so far, and the response was, "over 30".

**TREASURER'S OFFICE-** Treasurer Gifford reported that the collection of County taxes went well in January, and his office is gearing up for City wide tax collection beginning in April. They are also starting to work on the financial statements for 2015.

**SEWER BOARD-** Council Member Martin reported that, even though the DEC did not force it, the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment plant decided to close down the CAST system on January 28 due to odor problems after trying unsuccessfully to solve the problem. The engineering firm of Barton and Loguidice are being consulted to determine a permanent solution. In the meantime, the crew is trying many different chemicals. There were some glitches returning power back to National Grid, but are now on line and selling it back. The Sewer Treatment plant was given an award by the American Public Works Association for the CAST system, and have also been nominated for a State award. The annual report was completed. They are presently conducting interviews for a new wastewater treatment facility manager. She said they are pleasantly surprised at the caliber of people applying, and hope to make a decision next month.

**WATER DEPARTMENT-** Council Member Jackson reported that all three reservoirs are filled to capacity. The water production for January was 1.68 million gallons per day, and over 54 million gallons for the month. The federal Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response Plan has been completed and submitted. The annual pesticide use forms have been filed with the DEC. The Water Board approved a contract with C.T. Male for professional engineering services on an "as needed" basis not to exceed \$9,000. They also approved a \$62,000 contract with Greenman-Pederson for the Cork Center Reservoir dam improvements. The 2014 engineering assessment report outlined compliance of the dam with respect to the NYS DEC guidelines and dam safety regulations, such as spillway compliance, armoring upstream embankment flattening to the downstream embankment with a 3 on 1 slope, removal of trees, replacement of the pedestrian and spillway access bridges, inspection of the new outlet works control building, and verifying and certifying the integrity of all critical valve operations. The anticipated construction is the fall of 2016. On January 15 there was an emergency in front of Applebee's on Rt. 30A which also affected other parts of the mall. The distribution crew was able to return the water service quickly. The Water Board wanted to thank DPW for providing the labor to assist and for the use of the sewer jet. Council Member Jackson added that he took a tour of all the facilities and wanted to thank Mike Hlozansky and John Denmark for that.

ASSESSOR- Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported that March 1 is the deadline to file for all City tax exemptions. Field work and data collection is ongoing and will be completed by the taxable status date which is March 1.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS-The Mayor announced his appointments to the Committee for Promoting Tourism to take effect immediately: Helen Martin, Leslie Foss, Noel Levee, Scott Jeffers, Wade Wells, Bernadette Weaver, Cathy A. VanAlstyne, Linda Hinkle, James Dempsey Jr., Dale Webb and John Murray.

The Mayor and Council Member Martin discussed finding out more about some State money that may have become available recently to promote tourism.

RESOLUTION No. 15, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to remove Bank of America and add Berkshire Bank as a designated bank for the deposit of City funds through December 31, 2016. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 16, 2016 was presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents needed for the purchase of 10 sets of night vision goggles from Atlantic Tactical Option #2 for \$32,005.80. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Council Members Swatt and Martin questioned the difference in the two submitted bids. Lieutenant Gilbo replied that the optical parts were all about the same; the mounts were the difference. The Atlantic Tactical Option #2 had ones that were used by the military and much more secure. He further stated that the total cost was under what the Police Department had expected and budgeted for.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 17, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize the Mayor to execute the Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement with the Abctes at 429 N. Perry St. for the City to access their property to construct a drainage ditch to alleviate flooding at 10 Elmwood Ave. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Council Members Iannotti and Martin wanted to mention their appreciation to the Abctes.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 18, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with I.&S Energy to conduct an energy assessment of certain city-owned buildings for \$17,607. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Council Member Martin asked which buildings would be affected. Engineer Vosc replied with the following: City Hall, the Library, Senior Center, Fire Department, the sewer and

pump stations, the Garage and "Crescendoe"

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 19, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to approve James and Erin Gavin's request to connect to the existing water line for their properties at 3360 St. Hwy 29 and 170 Wemple Road in the Town of Johnstown. The Gavins are to execute the standard service contract with the City of Johnstown Water Department and pay any connection fees and/or charges assessed. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked if they were in the permissive use area. The Mayor replied that they are. Council Member Martin and Council Member-at-Large Swatt commented that they were pleased this could be done.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 20, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize the scrapping and/or disposal of 8 obsolete voting machines. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 21, 2016 was presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize the scrapping and/or disposal of a 2007 Chevy Impala which had been used as a patrol car and later for parts. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 22, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to rescind Resolution #7, 2016 regarding the appointment of Tina K. Dimitriadis to City Assessor as revisions were needed for this agreement. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Council Members Martin and Iannotti asked what the changes were. Attorney Poulin responded that it was essentially just a change in the time period of the agreement.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 23, 2016 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to authorize an agreement with Tina K. Dimitriadis to provide assessment support services as a subcontractor in the position of City Assessor for the City of Johnstown from January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019 for an annual salary of \$12,000. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 24, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize the City Clerk to advertise in the Leader Herald for soliciting bids for the sale and disposition of several City-owned premises. The proposals must be sealed and include a bank or certified check equal to 10% of the bid price. The proposals will be publicly opened on March 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Clerk's Office. ( see attached Schedule "A" for complete list). Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked if details of the properties would be placed on the City's website. Chief Heberer replied that he can be contacted by phone to answer any questions if anyone is desirous of additional information.

Ayes: 5

Nocs: 0

#### DISCUSSION

Council Member-at-Large Swatt asked if the City invited to the Regional Transportation meeting. Mayor Julius responded that there was an invitation, but he could not attend. Council Member-at-Large Swatt said he felt we need this and should be represented in discussions. Council Member Martin suggested that even if the Mayor can't make a meeting, maybe other Council members could go in the future.

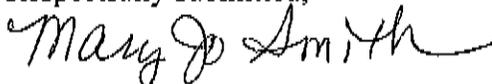
ANNOUNCEMENTS- The Mayor announced that City Hall offices will be closed at noon on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Also, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at J.A.C.C. on March 26 at 10:00 a.m. Council Member Martin added that the "hunt" will be conducted by the Council of Churches, and the Johnstown Tourism Committee is providing additional activities for the children.

Council Member-at-Large made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a contract. Council Member Martin seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURN- At 7:43 Council Member Iannotti moved to adjourn. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- At 7:50 Council Member-at-Large Swatt made a motion for the Council to begin Executive Session. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council Member-at-Large Swatt moved to adjourn at 8:25. Council Member Hayner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



MaryJo Smith  
Deputy City Clerk