

The Johnstown Common Council held their Business Meeting on March 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Michael C. Gifford	: City Treasurer
--------------------	------------------

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

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

PRESENTATION BY DUSTIN SWANGER, F.M.C.C. PRESIDENT – President Swanger spoke to the Council about the proposed Global Village Project at the college. This project will create a multi-generational community. They are planning for student housing, open market apartments, 55+ housing, independent living, assisted living, primary care, restaurants, retail and entertainment space. They are asking for approval from the Council for an additional 40,000 gallons per day of water. They plan to have the project completed by September 2018.

APPROVE MINUTES – Council Member Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 Business Meeting and the March 7, 2016 Committee Meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin. 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. Motion was seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Julius opened the public hearing at 7:21p.m., concerning the Johnstown Renewables LLC project. Nick Zabawsky, the City’s grant writer, said the City will be applying for a community development block grant on behalf of Johnstown Renewables. Johnstown Renewables will convert whey from FAGE USA Dairy into two products; ethanol and animal feed. This is a \$12.5 million dollar project with \$400,000 in block grant funding, \$2 million from the State of New York. They will be looking at \$6 - \$7 million dollars in bank financing as well as \$3.5 million is equity financing. Twenty-seven jobs will be created with salaries ranging from \$39,000 to \$100,000. Eduard Zaydman, a partner

in the company, said an acid whey pipeline will be constructed to run from FAGE to Johnstown Renewables. They will be pulling out about 10 loads per day and go up to 23 loads per day which will eliminate truck traffic by using this pipeline. No water is used in this process. The waste that comes from this process is basically clean water. They may market this to farms instead of having it go through the sewer. This project is unique and is not done anywhere else in the United States. They hope to have construction completed by October. The alcohol will be used locally in such products as hand sanitizers and Windex. Mr. Zabawsky explained that the City will be applying for the grant on behalf of Johnstown Renewables LLC. The Council will vote on a resolution to submit the application at the next meeting.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Julius read a proclamation proclaiming April 10, 2016 through April 17, 2016 as Federation of New York Insurance Professionals Week.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – Mayor Julius appointed Terri Easterly and Elizabeth Camarra to the Johnstown Planning Board for a three year term to expire on March 31, 2019. Mayor Julius also appointed George Kline and Fredrick Franko to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term expiring on March 31, 2016.

CITY OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported in the months of February and March they have been doing all their code updates. The department received 58 calls for service that included 4 structure fires and 1 assist in Gloversville. The Code Office issued 27 building permits with a total estimated cost in construction of \$296,782.00 and \$962 in permit fees collected. The burn ban is in effect until May 16th.

POLICE DEPT. – Chief Gifford reported the department received 651 calls in February resulting in 34 arrests, 48 traffic tickets issued, 29 parking tickets and 25 motor vehicle accidents investigated. On March 26th the department will be fingerprinting children during the Easter Egg Hunt at the Johnstown Area Community Center. They will be using the new fingerprinting equipment.

DPW – City Engineer Vose reported the sand barrels have been collected. They are working on the Hydraulic and Hydrologic Study in the Daisy Lane area. This will help relieve some of the flooding. The Miller St. Bridge has been demolished and will go out to bid for materials. The project is being done in house allowing it to be replaced for \$100,000. The brush drop off is open. They are starting to develop the Mapleton Tract for water and sewer.

SENIOR CENTER – Director Michelle Jones reported for Public Health Week there will be a health fair at the center and JACC building on April 2nd from 10am-4pm. It is free and open to the public. The Spring Bazaar will be held on April 9th from 8:30am-2:30p.m. The next AARP Defensive Driving Course will be held on April 13th.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported they are preparing for the annual fundraiser mini golf to be held on April 16th from 10am-3pm. Raffle baskets received so far total 61. The library will be celebrating their 20th anniversary of the library expansion and will display before and after pictures of the building. The annual report to the State has been completed.

SEWER BOARD – Helen Martin, Sewer Board Chairperson, announced the Board has hired new plant manager Wallace Arnold. He has 37 years of experience and will start on April 4th.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Jackson reported the department purchased a new road cutting saw. Their emergency plan was approved by NYS Dept. of Health. The annual inspection results said the department is well run but pipes are old and need replacing.

ASSESSOR – Council Member-at-Large Swatt reported the Tentative Roll will be filed on May 1st.

RESOLUTION No. 28, 2016 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Swatt to appoint Catherine Julius to the Johnstown Board of Health. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 29, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to appoint Victoria Nellis to the Johnstown Board of Health. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 30, 2016 was presented by Council Member Hayner to advertise in the Leader Herald that the City is accepting RFP's for a consultant to assist with the administration of a grant for the St. John's Church project. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 31, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti authorizing the city treasurer to collect the tax levy per the 2016 Tax Warrant. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 32, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson authorizing the Mayor to execute a Plan Management Agreement regarding employee benefits program. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 33, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize and execute any and all documents necessary for the purchase of 5 additional night vision goggles from Atlantic Tactical. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 34, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to advertise in the Leader Herald the City is accepting bids for the sale of vacant land on Chestnut St. SBL#174.15-4-6. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Swatt.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

DISCUSSION

35 Yost St. – this was one of the properties recently put out to bid. There were three bids on the property. One was very low. Mr. Kollar bid and it was thought that he wanted to tear down the house and leave as a vacant lot. Mr. Ackerknecht has done many renovations on property in the city and does a nice job. The Council agreed Mr. Ackerknecht would be the best one.

104 Hoosac St. – the neighbors put a bid on the property and plan to use as their side yard to make it bigger. The Council agreed they would accept their bid.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Julius closed the public hearing on the Johnstown Renewables LLC project at 8p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Hall will close at noon on Good Friday
2. March 26th at 10am – Easter Egg Hunt at JACC

A motion to adjourn at 8:01p.m., was made by Council Member-at-Large Swatt and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk