

The Johnstown Common Council held their Business Meeting on June 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Michael B. Julius	: Mayor
Brandon Hayner	: Council Member
Kathi Iannotti	: “ “
Vernon Jackson	: “ “
Helen Martin	: “ “
Michael Poulin	: City Attorney
Bruce Heberer	: Fire Chief
David Gilbo	: Police Lieutenant
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Michelle Jones	: Senior Center Director
Erica Wing	: Library 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.

ROLL CALL – four council members present.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – Rev. Laurie Garramone from the St. John’s Episcopal Church spoke to the Council about the grant funding they received. They have decided not to accept the funding. It is not a good fit for their church. There are too many restrictions. But they are moving forward with their plans to have the food pantry and NOAH meal site moved into the former YMCA building hopefully by January 2018. They appreciate all the support they received from the City and thanked the City for the good relationship. They have engaged with a local architect and businesses, moving forward with the project.

Council Member Martin questioned why they did not inquire about the parameters of the grant before applying. Rev. Garramone said they had applied for several grants and received two. One was for St. John’s and a larger one that was a CDBG Grant. They weren’t aware of some of the restrictions because it depended on what grant you receive to understand the particulars of that grant.

Council Member Iannotti mentioned the Editorial in the Leader Herald about the grant and the City, saying the City didn’t do their job. That is not correct. Rev. Garramone wrote a Letter to the Editor and will write another one to correct this.

APPROVE MINUTES – Council Member Iannotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting. 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 as follows: General Fund (A) unpaid totaled \$160,820.70; General Fund (A) paid totaled \$4,785,909.75; Capital Fund 2012 (H12) unpaid totaled \$6,784.38; Sewer Fund (G) paid

totalled \$476,544.01; Sewer Fund (G) unpaid totalled \$475.14; Voucher Fund (VO) paid totalled \$44,836.70. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hayner. Motion carried.

#### CITY OFFICIAL AND LIAISON REPORTS

ASSESSOR – Council Member Iannotti reported the Final Roll will be filed in the City Clerk’s Office on July 1, 2016.

PLANNING BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported the Board approved plans for Friendly’s drive thru and Brown’s Ford addition. Planet Fitness should be open by the holiday season.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Jackson reported the Board has asked the State Police and Fulton County Sheriff’s Office to patrol the watershed properties. The property is posted but they have found evidence of people fishing and trapping.

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported they received 69 calls for service in May that included 5 structure fires, 9 motor vehicle accidents, 18 hazardous calls, 10 medical assistance calls and 27 calls for service. The Code Office issued 90 permits with an estimated cost of construction of \$307,859.00 and permits fees totalled \$2,082. Complaints and inspections totalled 850.

Chief Heberer addressed the Letter to the Editor that was in the paper recently criticizing his department. They do investigate every complaint. They do not issue tickets without investigating a complaint. Some are unfounded and some are not.

POLICE DEPT. – Lt. Gilbo reported the department received 632 calls in the month of May resulting in 75 cases, 30 arrests, 51 tickets, 32 traffic tickets, 19 parking tickets, and 33 accidents. They have hired a new officer, Jason Roth, who has finished his training and is out working. Police Cadet Jace Kollar is field training with our office and will graduate July 8<sup>th</sup> from the academy. He will do his field training with an officer from the department immediately following graduation. Officer Jeffrey Dunn retired recently. One officer remains on sick leave.

They are in receipt of the new 2016 Dodge Charger. They are working on having it stripped and outfitted and should be ready for use in a month.

Council Member Iannotti wanted to know if something could be done with the timing of the light on Main and Perry. Lt. Gilbo said they would have to adjust all of Main St.

Chief Heberer said they are also looking at traffic lights in the city and will have a report next month.

DPW – City Engineer reported they are catching up on odds and ends from last year, putting some curbing in and patching streets in preparation for the CHIPS paving. They should be paving by Labor Day. The Karg’s easement has been filed and is on its way back to DEC for their final approval. We will then be able to decide how to proceed with the property.

We have gone as far as we can with the Linden Ave. properties. The sewer line has been installed and we will need to figure out the water situation, getting the water lines and services in. A decision will need to be made, what to do with the properties. We have gone as far as we can for this year.

There is one more questionnaire to be filled out for the \$100,000 grant for the Miller St. Bridge. We put this out to bid but we have to wait to award the bid.

They are not done replacing the sewer line on E. Clinton St. yet. Crews will be back to finish up and pave.

SENIOR CENTER – Michelle Jones, Director, thanked DPW for work done at the center. The center has three new health and fitness classes scheduled for the summer. The 50+ Club will hold an ice cream social in the park on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported the Summer Reading Program will begin on June 27<sup>th</sup> with several workshops scheduled through August 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Sports". On July 14<sup>th</sup> the Library will sponsor a free Strings Concert that will be performed in the park. The library has just implemented faxing, scanning and printing from mobile devices for the public. The Board of Trustees is beginning the process of their long range plan for the library. The first step will be asking the public to fill out a survey.

CITY TREASURER – City Treasurer Mike Gifford has been working on the 2015 yearend financial statement. Our fund balance is down and we don't want it to go any lower. Going forward the 2017 Budget may be difficult because there won't be the fund balance to use. We don't want it to go any lower. Tax freeze, flat sales tax and no increase in state aid are catching up to us. Mayor Julius asked how the City's sales tax is this year. Mr. Gifford said it is flat. In 2015 it was \$60,000 under budget. That is not good. In the past, we have had sales tax that was greater than the budget. 2017 will be difficult because we don't have that fluff, so to speak. Our bond rating is AA-. Mr. Gifford doesn't think it will change based upon where we are financially but if its more weighted based on projections there might be somewhat of a dip.

RESOLUTION No. 54, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin authorizing Stephen M. Almy, Esq. of the Vincelette Law Firm to execute the Stipulation of Settlement and submit to the court concerning Maple Knoll assessment. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 55, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise that the City is soliciting bids for sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 56, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to advertise that the City is accepted bids for street resurfacing. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 57, 2016 was presented by Council Member Hayner to re-appoint J. Christopher Foss, John S. VanArnam, Joseph Polidore and Joyce Kirkpatrick to the Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 58, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to accept the resignation of Council Member-at-Large Christopher Swatt. Seconded unanimously.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 59, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to advertise for a public hearing to amend Chapter 20, Section 20-209, Wells Street – No Parking Any Time on the north side of the roadway; entire street. Public Hearing will be held on July 18, 2016 at 7p.m. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 60, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to advertise for a public hearing to amend Chapter 20, Section 20-209 – Crescendoe Road – No Parking 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday on the north side of Crescendoe Road between Dove St. and Grand St. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

#### DISCUSSION

Outside Counsel – Attorney Poulin explained to the Council the Water Board has an issue that he cannot handle and the Board would like to hire outside counsel. This would have to be approved by the Common Council. Water Board President Nick Cannizzo was supposed to get back to Mr. Poulin with the name of who they would like to hire but he has not heard from him yet. They would probably only need someone for one hour.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Fest – Knox Field – June 25<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm games and bounce house

Fireworks – June 25<sup>th</sup> Knox Field

NYS Free Fishing Weekend – June 25-26

City Hall Offices closed July 4<sup>th</sup>

Citizen Band Concerts begin July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Iannotti made a motion at 7:50p.m., to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

Council Member Hayner made a motion at 8:20p.m., to come out of executive session. Seconded by Council Member Jackson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25p.m., was made by Council Member Jackson and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne  
City Clerk