

The Johnstown Common Council held their Business Meeting on July 18, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

PRESENT:

Bradley Hayner	: Council Member
Kathi Iannotti	: Council Member
Helen Martin	: Council Member
Vernon Jackson	: Council Member
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
Mary Jo Smith	: Deputy City Clerk

ABSENT:

Michael B. Julius	: Mayor
Michael Gifford	: Treasurer
Cathy VanAlstyne	: City Clerk

Council Member Hayner called the meeting to order and led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL- four council members present.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS- Council Member Hayner opened the floor for public speakers. He announced that James Dempsey would not be speaking at this meeting but plans to be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Council Member Hayner introduced Tolga Morawski to speak on behalf of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. Mr. Morawski brought in a sample resolution and intermunicipal agreement for the Council to consider, as well as, one sample project map. He asked that the Council review the information, and to be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting for further discussion. He explained that the New York State Attorney General's Office has \$17.3 million in funds collected from foreclosures, and this money is going to be available for Land Banks, with potentially \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 going to the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank. He described what some other municipalities are doing, and asked that the Council begin to think about areas in Johnstown that could benefit from these funds which could be as much as \$400,000. The funds have to be used primarily for residential, demolition-related or brownfield. Council Member Martin thanked Mr. Morawski for his presentation and stated that the Council is still reviewing the information.

APPROVE MINUTES- Council Member Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2016 Business Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS-Council Member Iannotti made a motion to pay the bills and put on file as follows: General Fund (A) unpaid total \$107,845.57; General Fund (A) paid total \$665,238.92; Capital

Fund 2012 (H12) unpaid total \$9,189.83; Sewer Fund(G) paid total \$322,114.11; Voucher Fund(VO) paid total \$44,777.10. Seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING-Council Member Martin made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss "No Parking on Wells Street" and "No Parking on Crescendoe Road from 6:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M." Council Member Jackson seconded. No one was there to speak, so Council Member Hayner closed the hearing at 7:10 p.m.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

FIRE DEPT.-Chief Heberer reported that the Fire Department continued training in the month of June getting ready for the new codes that are going into effect in October 1. They have also started First Aid and CPR training for the year. The Department responded to 75 calls for service including 5 structure fires, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 20 hazardous conditions calls, 12 medical assistant calls, and 30 service calls. The Code Enforcement Division issued 81 permits, with the estimated cost of repairs or construction \$406, 843, with fees of \$2,835. There were also 930 inspection and complaint responses. He repeated the importance of notifying the Codes Department before beginning any work. Johnstown Renewables got their permit, so should begin excavation this week. Assistant Chief Jeff Kollar with 32 years of service and Fire Fighter Kurt Horan with 20 years are retiring, and should be attending the next Council meeting. The Department is trying to get more people into the academy next week. Council Member Jackson inquired about the training with the new codes. Chief Heberer responded that there are not many changes, but there will be in-house training. The New York State required off-site training has already taken place. Council Member Jackson stated that he has advised the Water Board that the Chief is willing to update the Water Department. Chief Heberer indicated that he has also mentioned it to Board President Cannizzo. Council Member Martin asked if there is anything in the new code book to address absentee owners. The Chief said there is some, but he is also trying to formulate some legislation to be passed locally that will address Johnstown's issues. Gloversville recently passed some legislation to deal with the problems, and he is in contact with the City of Cortland for ideas. He is hopeful that he will have something by the end of the year. Many of the vacant properties are in bankruptcy foreclosure, and there can be a series of diverse banks in ownership from one day to the next. Tolga Morawski asked to add to the discussion on this topic. He reported that Land Banks can offer the REO Match program that works with banks concerning these "zombie" properties. There is a clearinghouse where they can quickly move properties to the control of the Land Bank or the municipality because they are pre-vetted.

POLICE DEPT. - Chief Gifford reported that the Police Department responded to 711 calls for service resulting in 25 arrests. 37 traffic and 15 parking tickets were issued, and 39 traffic accidents were investigated in June. He introduced the most recent graduate of the Police Academy, Jase Kollar, who graduated July 8th after 6 months. There is full staffing at this moment, but 2 to 3 officers may retire in the next few months, so more recruits will be trained soon.

DPW- City Engineer Vose reported that his department has been busy with routine maintenance, especially replacing and patching curbs. They are also cleaning out some of the basins that have been neglected for some years. This may help alleviate some of the flooding. He said there were four CHIPS bids for street resurfacing with Peckham having the lowest bid. Now more work can be done on Main and Chase Streets. Vose reported that vandals had broken into the former Carville Leather Company and tipped over several 35 gallon drums full of chemicals and dyes. The DEC showed up the next day and referred the problem to the EPA who evaluated it immediately and will be cleaning it up. They are

reaching out to the owners who no longer live here. Most of the damage was on the tanning processing floor. He said the building is as secure as possible right now. Council Member Martin asked who will be responsible for the cleanup cost. Engineer Vose said probably the EPA, but they will also go after the owner. Chief Heberer commented that it is a similar situation to Allied Chemical and Demi's. Vose reported that the Engineering Department was able to obtain a 600 gallon per minute pump from Government Surplus for \$2,200 which had an original cost of \$72,000. The Landfill also bought one. He said the Office of Government Surplus is very helpful. The DEC has approved the Karg's site and Arcadis is almost wrapped up. Bill Wessels has retired after 35 years with DPW, and Wade Hohenforst, who has been with the Water Department, is now going to be a working supervisor with DPW. The public was reminded to contact DPW about front yards that are overgrown. Council Member Martin congratulated the workers on the new planter and sign in front of City Hall.

SENIOR CENTER- Director Jones reported that the Senior Citizen Picnic will be held at the Concordia Club on August 4, and tickets are available at the Senior Center. They expect 400-500 people to attend. Also, the 50 Plus Club is having a chicken barbecue takeout at Whitey's on Friday from 4 to 7 PM for \$10.00.

LIBRARY- Director Wing announced that the Serenading Strings concert had to be postponed because of inclement weather last week and have the raindate rescheduled to this Wednesday, because St. John's Episcopal Church next door has a Chamber Music concert scheduled inside at the same time. The Library has had many children in for the Summer Reading program. This week the Library is partnering with Sir William Johnson Hall for two programs for fourth graders and up. Next week, for adults, Johnstown's David Mulligan will present a program on Mary Todd Lincoln. On Friday, another Johnstown resident, Roz Melita, will facilitate a discussion of OLIVE KITTERIDGE through "Books a la Carte".

PLANNING BOARD- Council Member Iannotti said the Planning Board will have a public hearing on an addition to Harvey's Pet Center for a pet daycare and hotel.

WATER BOARD- Council Member Jackson reported that the Clerk has been terminated after 13 years of service, and the Water Department was closed today and will be tomorrow.

ORDINANCE No. 1, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to amend Chapter 20-209, entitled Streets where parking is limited, to include the following subsection (c) Schedule of Streets: Wells Street- "No Parking Any Time" on the north side of the roadway; entire street. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

ORDINANCE No. 2, 2016 was presented by Council member Martin to amend Chapter 20-209, entitled Streets where parking is limited, to include the following subsection (c) Schedule of Streets: Crescendoe Road – "No Parking 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday" on the north side of Crescendoe Road, between Dove Street and Grand Street. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 61, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to reject an offer of \$100.00 from Janet Wade for City owned property located on Glebe St. with SBL #'s 174.16-8-24 & 174.16-8-23, and to offer it for private sale in the future. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 62, 2016 was presented by Council member Iannotti to accept the offer of \$1,000.00 from Janet Wade for the purchase of 410 N. Market St. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 63, 2016 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to execute a Municipal Advisor Services Agreement with Munistat Services, Inc. to provide financial advisory services regarding bond issues, effective July 15, 2016. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 64, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to accept the bid of Peckham Road Corp. in the amount of \$285, 251.79 for the resurfacing of certain city streets. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 65, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to authorize the private sale, scrapping and/or disposal of a list of city owned vehicles and equipment. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 66, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to execute an agreement with Robert M. Subik, Esq., to provide independent legal counsel for the prosecution of infractions brought before Johnstown City Court and to be compensated at a rate of \$150.00/hr. from July 18, 2016 through December 31, 2017. Seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 67, 2016 was presented by Council Member Jackson to authorize Stephen M. Almy, Esq., of the Vincelette Law Firm, to execute the Stipulation of Settlement and settle the proceeding commenced by James VanDeusen challenging the assessments on his real property parcel # 162.19-9-1. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

The resolution to accept or reject the offer for 24 Briggs St. was tabled for Executive Session.

DISCUSSION

Council Member Jackson commented on what a great experience it was to go on the Historical Society's guided tour of the Johnstown Cemetery. Council Member Iannotti mentioned that she would enjoy having the Haunted Tour of the Colonial Cemetery again. Council Member Martin indicated that the attendance had dropped, so they decided to wait to possibly offer it again another year in the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Band Concerts Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
Block Party- August 5

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Council Member Iannotti made a motion at 7:43 to enter into executive session to discuss the sale of real property. Council Member Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

Council Member Jackson made a motion to come out of executive session and Council Member Martin seconded. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION No. 68, 2016 was presented by Council Member Martin to accept the offer of Mark Hayes in the amount of \$8,00.00 for the purchase of 24 Briggs Street. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Jackson at 7:55 p.m. and seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Smith
Deputy City Clerk