Johnstown Common Council

Budget Workshop - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 @ 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the City Clerk; because the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member | David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| Helen Martin, Council Member | Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
|  | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |

ABSENT

Tim Cellary, Council Member

CITY OFFICIALS

* Fire/Code – Gifford presented his budget at the last workshop. Heberer explained a few of the line items:
* Increases to vehicle/equipment maintenance, building maintenance, office supplies and professional services.
* Professional Services saw biggest increase due to new OSHA testing requirements and physicals
* Capital Projects – front ramp, wind damage loss; slate is actually asbestos blend so asbestos abatement needs to be conducted.
* Turn out Gear – needs to be replaced every 10 years
* Tires – 4 tires to be replaced on ladder truck and then good for 7 years for all trucks
* Hose – recently replaced
* SCBA Cylinders – Have 54, on a 15 a year replacement cycle. 2020 is last year for this line item.
* Personnel – 2.5% increase in salaries, secretary going from 35 hr. employee to a 40 hr. employee, minimal change in longevity, clothing allowance, retirement bonus, health insurance buyout, are standard numbers. Chief salary - reason for increase request was the difference between assistant chief and himself is approx. a $5,000 difference in base pay. When the time comes for him to retire it will be difficult to find a replacement at the salary he is at now. Code stipend has always been $2,500, $1,000 more than assistants made, union negotiations have now made the assistants making $1,000 more than the Chief.

DISCUSSION

1. Education pay for non-union employees – during last discussions it was said that by offering this incentive wouldn’t effect “bottom-line” or Mayor’s budget. Hayner felt that by offering the incentive, filling the positions in the future would be more attractive. Martin agreed. Gifford stated this would amount to about $5,500. There are a few positions that this incentive doesn’t effect; Fire Chief, Police Captain. Degrees aren’t required, education comes through training; not accredited. Gifford stated that there are 4 positions that do not receive longevity pay; Fire Chief, Police Captain, Treasurer, and Police Chief – this would amount to $9,500. Gifford could adjust the fund balance. Choose to offer either education incentive or longevity pay; longevity is easier to manage. Hayner made a motion to add longevity to those positions. Longevity is a greater amount than the education incentive. Martin seconded the motion. Gifford stated this doesn’t change tax rate.

 When retirements happen and new positions need to be filled. Education incentive can be reflected in salary offered.

 Heberer would like this to also be considered when filling position for Fire Chief and Codes Officer when the time comes as well, Codes Officer has separate duties from Fire Chief. He also stated his office is the only office that doesn’t have a deputy. He has assistant chiefs, but they don’t have authority to make administrative decisions or punishments. Talarico asked if something were to happen and he, Heberer wasn’t around, what would happen. Heberer stated that the Mayor would have to make a provisional appointment as there isn’t a second in command.

1. Police Typist – Martin stated there is hesitation to raise the pay for the police typist, who is doing work as accreditation assistant, unless that is an official position. This would mean going through Fulton County Personnel and having that made to an official position. Gilbo stated it’s not an actual title change it’s a duties and responsibilities change. Martin stated this is creating a new position as she is not strictly a typist any longer, the new position would be accreditation assistant. Gilbo stated that is more of an in house term, there is nothing in NYS Civil Service that is going to reclassify accreditation manager. He is getting a list emailed to him of other agencies that utilize their secretarial staff to assist law enforcement. This is an extensive program and having an accreditation manager keeps from having to use police officers and pulling them off the street. This is not an everyday duty, varies month to month.

 Martin asked what decision is on changing pay scale of police typist. She understands that it is sizeable but Chief is returning money to the budget from animal control officer’s reduction in hours. Council would like to see list, of similar positions, from Chief before a final decision can be made.

Council members commended the department heads on a wonderful job with their budgets. Iannotti stated that as much as she hates to have to raise taxes she understands that if we don’t will be facing another 9% down the road.

Talarico mentioned that by talking to people on the street, they are happy with 2%.

Public Hearing on Budget is scheduled for Monday, November 19th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – 12:36 p.m.

Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Cellary)

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk