The Johnstown Common Council held a Business Meeting on December 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Vernon F. Jackson : Mayor

Craig Talarico : Council Member-at-Large

Kathi Iannotti : Council Member

Bradley Hayner : “ “

Helen Martin : “ “

Michael Poulin : City Attorney

Bruce Heberer : Fire Chief

David Gilbo : Police Lieutenant

Christopher Vose : City Engineer

Erica Wing : Library Director

Michael Gifford : City Treasurer

Cathy A. VanAlstyne : City Clerk

ABSENT:

Timothy Cellary : Council Member

Michelle Jones : Senior Center Director

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

ROLL CALL – Council Member Timothy Cellary absent.

CITATION – Mayor Jackson read a citation to honor Chief Mark Gifford who will be retiring January 6, 2018. Chief Gifford was present along with his wife Laurie.

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS – Mayor Jackson presented certificates to Mike Muzzi (35 yrs), Bruce Heberer (30 yrs), Wade Hohenforst (35 yrs) and Michelle Jones (25 yrs).

HOLIDAY SPIRIT LIGHTING CONTEST - Council Member Martin announced the winners: 2nd Place Residential Award went to Charlene and Al Bush, 6 Baker St., 1st prize went to Deb and Jack Callery, 25 Cady St. In the Business category winners are: Best Interior Decorations, Johnstown Senior Citizens Center, Honorable Mention was McLemon’s on W. Main St., 3rd Place winner was Main Motors, 2nd Place Blooming Lotus and 1st Place was Something Special at 14 W. Main St.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Jackson opened the Public Hearing at 6:07p.m., for LL#2 – Cold War Veterans Exemption. The law is being changed to make it a permanent exemption.

APPROVE MINUTES – Minutes of the November 20, 2017 Business Meeting and the December 4, 2017 Committee Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member-at-Large Talarico. 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 $136,500.47; General Fund (A) paid $2,367,383.23; Sewer Fund (G) paid $1,035,792.14 and Voucher Fund (VO) paid $45,327.50. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hayner. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIAL’S/LIAISON’S REPORTS

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported the department received 54 calls that included 3 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 1 mutual aid to Gloversville, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 12 hazardous condition calls, 18 medical assistance calls and 11 calls for service. The Code division had 54 permits with estimated cost of repairs and construction totaled $337,608.00 and permit fees that totaled $4, 425.00. They also conducted 716 inspections. Seven members of the department volunteered to help in the search for the missing hunter in Schoharie County.

POLICE DEPT. – Lt. Gilbo reported the department received 556 calls resulting in 70 criminal cases, 34 arrests, 59 citations issued and 40 traffic accidents investigated. The all night parking ban is being enforced and tickets are being issued.

DPW – Chris Vose reported the department is working on two projects in city hall; the locker room in the police department and renovations to the city clerk’s office. Normal garbage schedule will be followed during the Christmas holiday. Sand barrels are out. The brush drop off is closed for the season. There is a salt shed at the end of Prindle Ave. behind the senior center for residents. Up to 5 gallon pails can be used, no contractors. They have purchased a surplus vehicle fuel truck. Mr. Vose has received the shop drawings for the Miller St. Bridge Project. He will begin going through the approval process and hope to be ready to go by spring time.

Council Member Martin thanked Mr. Vose and DPW workers for taking care of retrieving and getting the historic marker on N. Market St. repaired. It had been hit by an RV and knocked off its post. The driver was ticketed for the damage and leaving the scene.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported the educational effort about the library’s pursuit of a funding change has begun. A mailing has been sent out to all residents of the school district outlining the basics of the process. There will be information sessions and more mailings in the near future. Vote on the proposal will be in May 2018.

CITY TREASURER – Mr. Gifford reported his office will be collecting County Tax in January.

ASSESSOR – Liaison/Council Member Iannotti reported the Enhanced STAR renewal forms have been mailed out and are due back March 1, 2018.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor Jackson closed the public hearing at 6:15p.m. No one present wished to speak.

RESOLUTION No. 108, 2017 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Talarico to appoint Christopher Vose and John Rizzo to the Joint Sewer Board. Term to expire December 31, 2020. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 109, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to appoint Victoria Nellis to the Johnstown Board of Health. Term to expire on December 31, 2020. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 110, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to set the cost of landfill stickers at $35.00 for 2018. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 111, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner to donate K-9 equipment to the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 112, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to adopt Local Law #2 to amend a real property tax exemption for Cold War Veterans. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 113, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner to accept the offer from Megan Vahaviolos for property at 319 W. State St. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 114, 2017 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Talarico to enter into an agreement with West & Company, CPAs PC for 2016 audit. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

RESOLUTION No. 115, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize to begin negotiations with the County of Fulton in regards to Smart Waters. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 Cellary

DISCUSSION

Mayor Jackson thanked City Clerk Cathy VanAlstyne and wished her well in her upcoming retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Johnstown Water Board will hold an end of year meeting on December 21, 2017 at 3:30p.m.

Organizational Meeting is January 1, 2018 at noon.

Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the Common Council Meeting is Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Iannotti and seconded by Council Member Hayner. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne

City Clerk