A Business Meeting of the Johnstown Common Council was held on April 17, 2017 at 7:00 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 :Council Member

Helen Martin :Council Member

Timothy Cellary :Council Member

Michael Poulin :City Attorney

Bruce Heberer :Fire Chief

David Gilbo :Police Lieutenant

Chris Vose :City Engineer

Erica Wing :Library Director

Michelle Jones :Senior Center Director

Mary Jo Smith :Deputy City Clerk

ABSENT:

Cathy VanAlstyne :City Clerk

Mark Gifford :Police Chief

Mike Gifford :City Treasurer

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

ROLL CALL- All Council members present.

GUEST SPEAKERS- The Mayor introduced Ron Robinson, of Hall Avenue, to discuss the 6th annual 5K Johnson Jog to be held May 13 at 9:30 starting at Johnson Hall and passing “many historical sites in Johnstown”. He reported that participants will park in the Johnstown High School parking lot with a shuttle transporting them to and from Johnson Hall. They would like to have Hall Avenue closed to traffic from 7:30 -10:30 a.m. except for local traffic. He indicated that the State Police will monitor the barricade. He asked if Police Chief Gifford would arrange to have a police car lead the course, and have officers also placed at the intersections of W. Main and S. William Streets, and W. State St. at Cayadutta St. and Hall Ave. Mr. Robinson said the remaining 20 intersections would each be manned with two people wearing safety vests and holding flags. Also, the Johnstown Volunteer Ambulance Service will follow the participants. The race will be monitored by the Tryon Amateur Radio Club. Additionally, he asked if DPW could help again with street cleaning and providing the barricade at Hall Avenue. He said all proceeds from this event will go to Johnson Hall programs, such as, restoration of the building, the Market Fair, the holiday open house, lectures and the wallpaper project. Mr. Robinson invited the Mayor to speak before the start of the race.

Mayor Jackson then introduced Wallace Arnold, the manager of Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said they have an ultra violet disinfection system of the wastewater which is a DEC mandate. A bond of $1.5 million is needed which is partially reimbursable. The out-of-pocket expenses should be “15 cents on the dollar”. He said the odor issue at the plant happens when he runs CAST. The most effective solution will cost one million dollars for a “bio” tower, chemical scrubber and activated charcoal which is basically an air polisher. If only a chemical scrubber is put in, the annual operational cost will probably run $500,000. He added that there is no reimbursement for options to solve the odor issue. The DEC mandate needs to be completed by 2019, and he hopes to get it operational by next year. Some of the recent odors may be coming from shutting down the “primary” for cleaning. He said the Turblex needs to be refurbished. It aerates the “ bugs” in the aeration tanks. When that happens, they need to go on the Hoffman which gives a constant airflow. The Turblex can go on and off, so it saves money because they don’t need power if it isn’t in use. There may be some odors during this time, also. Mr. Arnold said a sludge dryer should be added at the plant to possibly save as much as $500,000 annually for sending the sludge to the Fulton County Landfill at a cost of about $750,000 per year. He said the ultraviolet and odor need to be addressed first. Council Member Martin asked if he has spoken to Gloversville yet. He answered that he had and hopes the two cities can do something soon. Council Member-at-Large Talarico asked how much a sludge dryer would cost. He said one system was $4.5 million, but after installation, it would probably be about $7 million. The other is a “chemical engineering” one of $2.5 million, but he doesn’t know the cost of installation for it. Also, currently, there are 7 to 8 trips each day to the landfill. It would only be about 3 trips every 2 days cutting down on those related expenses. The Mayor said Johnstown will have to be in touch with Gloversville to discuss this.

APPROVE MINUTES- The minutes of the March 20, 2017 Business 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 moved to pay the bills for the general audit: General Fund (A) unpaid $69,626.33; General Fund (A) paid $581,590.21; Sewer Fund (G) unpaid $3,865.09; Sewer Fund (G) paid $805.06; Voucher Fund paid $44,598.10; and Capital Fund 2012 (H12) unpaid $2,471.22 and place on file claims and accounts with a second from Council Member Hayner. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIALS’ AND LIAISONS’ REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT-Chief Heberer reported in March the Department finished CPR and First Aid training. They also responded to 72 calls for service, 5 structure fires, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 18 hazardous material calls, 8 medical assistance calls, 4 carbon monoxide calls, 5 mutual aid to Gloversville (of which only one ended up being a fire) and 2 to Berkshire, and 24 service calls. He said two captains are going to New York City for state-mandated training for four weeks so they can be promoted to night supervisors. Codes had 45 permits issued with $446, 522 estimated costs of repairs and renovations, and 527 inspections and complaint responses were conducted. New York State has extended the burn ban to May 23, and the City will follow that ban until it is lifted. Residents need to obtain a burn permit for $20 covering one year from the date of being issued.

POLICE DEPARTMENT- Lieutenant Gilbo reported that last month there were 678 calls for service with 77 cases generated, 44 arrests, 283 citations issued, and 51 traffic accidents. He said two officers attended a two-day drug interdiction class which the Fulton County Sheriff’s Department sponsored at the Holiday Inn. The Police Department is reviewing parking tickets and some outdated codes. He indicated the fees may be increasing. Lt. Gilbo also said that some tractor trailer companies haven’t adhered to the City Charter’s uniform traffic laws, and so tickets have been issued. He said he is doing research into parking violation fees in similarly- populated municipalities, because Johnstown’s are outdated. It will require a resolution to change them. This could include violating 2 hour parking, no parking all night and handicap parking restrictions.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS-Engineer Vose said DPW has been doing a lot of the usual cleaning for this time of year. Starting April 17, they will be collecting brush more than once, but will not collect brush curbside after May 5. However, the brush “drop-off” which has already had heavy use, will continue to be open every day.

Mr. Vose reported that a black top plant had opened yesterday so he expects his department to be out soon patching holes, especially on the Johnson Jog trail streets. The “No Parking” signs should be installed soon on Pleasant, Linden and Walnut Avenues, and grant money may be in soon for the Miller Street Bridge and other drainage-type work.

SENIOR CENTER- Director Jones said HFM Prevention Drug Council is coming to the Senior Center to talk about drug awareness and abuse, including tobacco and marijuana, on May 18 at 1:15. Anyone may attend. The AARP defensive driving class has begun and is usually held once a month. The Center had three tax representatives in the building for 3 ½ months serving many people at no cost. In May, in conjunction with HealthLink, there will be a screening for glucose and cholesterol. The golf league is getting ready for the season at Holland Meadows on Wednesday mornings.

LIBRARY- Library Director Wing reported that approximately $14,500 was grossed at the annual fundraiser. The profit won’t be known until all expenses are calculated. The number of basket raffle tickets sold this year set a record. People golfed throughout the day. She wanted to thank all in the community who were so supportive donating, sponsoring and volunteering. Director Wing also shared some highlights from the Library’s Annual Statistics for 2016: visited by just over 74,000 times (about 230 people per day); held 160 classes, workshops and programs attended by 6,423 people; and over 81,000 items were borrowed. She noted that the Sunday movie showings have been popular, so they will continue to be offered for the public at 1:30. Also, on May 6, 13, and 20 there will be a short story writing class offered with Brian Whalen, SUNY Albany professor. Children’s classes and activities continue to be offered especially during school breaks.

ASSESSOR’s Office- Council Member Iannotti gave the liaison report for the Assessor’s office. She reported that the 2017 tentative roll will be filed on May 1 with the City Clerk. Grievance Day is May 23 from 4 to 8 p.m. at City Hall. Grievance forms are available at the assessor’s office or on line at www.tax.ny.gov.

RESOLUTION No. 31, 2017 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Talarico to authorize the city Treasurer to transfer $33,334 from the Industrial/Economic Account held by the Fulton County IDA to the General Fund to provide equal shares of the expense for Environmental Impact Statement to be done by Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C. for the proposed annexation of the land in the Town of Mohawk. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

 RESOLUTION No. 32, 2017 was presented by Council Member Cellary to retain Arcadis for an amount not to exceed $41,325 to perform continued consulting support and monitoring for the Post-Closure Monitoring Plan of the closed Johnstown Landfill. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

The Mayor asked about how many more years the landfill needs to be monitored like this.

Engineer Vose said, because of when it was closed down, it could be “forever”.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 33, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to authorize the Mayor to execute a Forestry Management Agreement with F& W Forestry to manage the forest on watershed property once the agreement is amended to add the City of Johnstown as owner of the watershed property. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Talarico.

The Mayor displayed an aerial photograph of the area to be forested.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 34, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize the City Treasurer to collect the tax levy of $5,489, 208.69 per the 2017 Tax Warrant. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 35, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner giving the Mayor authority to execute all documents to acquire the $100,000 federal Tactical Team Grant to be shared by the Johnstown and Gloversville Police Departments through the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Council Member Iannotti remarked that it was a nice grant. Lt. Gilbo added that it is the second one the City has received.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS- Mayor Jackson announced that the City Wide Garage Sale will be on May 19, 20 and 21. The Memorial Day Parade and Program will be on May 26 at 6:30 p.m., and City Hall will be closed Monday, May 29.

ADJOURN- At 7:42 Council Member Iannotti moved to adjourn. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJo Smith

Deputy City Clerk