The Johnstown Common Council held their Business Meeting on May 15, 2017 at 7:00p.m., in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Vernon F. Jackson : Mayor

Craig Talarico : Council Member-at-Large

Bradley Hayner : Council Member

Kathi Iannotti : “ “

Helen Martin : “ “

Timothy Cellary : “ “

Mark Gifford : Police Chief

Bruce Heberer : Fire Chief

Christopher Vose : City Engineer

Michelle Jones : Senior Center Director

Erica Wing : Library Director

Michael Gifford : City Treasurer

Cathy A. VanAlstyne : City Clerk

ABSENT:

Michael Poulin : City Attorney

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

ROLL CALL – all council members present.

APPROVE MINUTES – the minutes of the April 17, 2017 Business Meeting were approved with a motion from Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council Member-at-Large Talarico made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:03p.m., for the discussion of labor negotiations. Seconded by Council Member Cellary. Motion carried.

A motion to come out of executive session was made at 7:13p.m., by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Iannotti. 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 $67,545.67; General Fund (A) paid $3,758,073.76; Sewer Fund (G) unpaid $10,424.61; Sewer Fund (G) paid $617.63; Voucher Fund (VO) paid $44,155.40; Capital Fund 2012 (H12) unpaid $1,503.00. Motion was seconded by Council Member Martin. Motion carried.

CITY OFFICIAL’S/LIAISON’S REPORTS

FIRE DEPT. – Chief Heberer reported three new firefighters graduated from the state fire academy and two new captains will graduate from the academy in NYC. The Code Office responded to 60 calls for service in April that included 3 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 7 motor vehicle accidents, 14 hazardous condition calls, 8 medical assistance calls, 2 carbon monoxide alarms and 24 service calls. The code division issued 76 permits with an estimated construction cost of $325,105 and $3,032.50 in permit fees collected. During the month they conducted 754 inspections. The burn ban was lifted on May 14th. Permits for recreational burning are required and can be obtained through the Code Office.

POLICE DEPT. – Chief Gifford reported the department received 693 calls for service resulting in 53 arrests, 22 parking tickets, 85 traffic tickets, and 28 traffic accidents investigated.

During the month they participated in the DEA Take Back Program. Many people turned in their expired and unused prescription medications. They collected two large 40 gallon garbage bags full.

DPW – City Engineer Vose reported the department has been patching streets and working on sewers. He has received information on our dormitory grants. Miller St. project has passed the initial stage and is on to the financial consultants. We have a grant from Senator Farley that involved the area around 107 E. Main St. This will require a short form SEQR. He has reached out to GPI for a consultant. It is uncertain who would be the lead agency in the SEQR process. We will have to consult with DOT because it is a state highway and also DEC because there is a stream there. The deadline for consultants for the W. State St project was last Friday. Three firms have submitted letters of interest and the selection committee should have their recommendation shortly. This will require a resolution for next month’s meeting. Collection of brush at curbside is over. Residents can take their brush to the drop off site on W. Main St.

SENIOR CENTER – Director Michelle Jones reported May 18th at 1:15pm, Yvonne Major from HFM Prevention Task Force will be at the center to talk about drug use and abuse as well as tobacco and marijuana. There will be a summer line and tap class beginning soon.

LIBRARY – Director Erica Wing reported this coming weekend is the last weekend the library will be open. Summer schedule will begin and continue through Labor Day. On Wednesday at 6:30pm, the FMCC Library will present a class for incoming college freshmen and their parents.

CITY TREASURER – Treasurer Gifford reported he has been working on retirements. With changes in retirement concerning military time a few of the police officers have retired in the past year. He is also working on the annual SCC filing.

ASSESSOR – Council Member Iannotti reported the assessor is sending out a reminder that Grievance Day is May 23rd from 4pm-8pm.

PLANNING BOARD – Council Member Iannotti reported the Board approved an application for an addition from Shelly VanNostrand, 105 S. Comrie Ave. Brown’s Ford requested updating their lighting on their display lot. Also Townsend Leather wants to move into the Diana Knit building on the corner of N. Perry and Grove Sts. They plan to renovate the building. Both applications will have a public hearing on June 6, 2017.

SEWER BOARD – Council Member Martin reported the Board made the decision to contact Arcadis concerning the problem with the CAST system. They are contracting with them to do a study to help find a solution to remediate the odor problem. Mr. Vose added that the problem is that most wastewater treatment plants are out in the middle of nowhere, so odor is not an issue. Our plant is in a residential area.

WATER BOARD – Council Member Cellary reported the Board appointed two new members, Jason Hammer and John Swierzowski. They received the permit from DEC to begin the dam rehabilitation project and they are hoping to put it out to bid mid-summer.

RESOLUTION No. 36, 2017 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Talarico to advertise for the sale of properties that the City has acquired through Tax Sale foreclosures. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 37, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin listing the events the City covers under insurance. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 38, 2017 was presented by Council Member Cellary to fix the starting time for the Common Council meetings at 6pm. Seconded by Council Member Hayner.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 39, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to scrap the 2009 Chevy Impala police car. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Talarico.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 40, 2017 was presented by Council Member Hayner to enter into an agreement with Nathan Littauer Hospital for a local Health Officer. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 41, 2017 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Talarico to authorize and execute a Consent Order and Judgment for the assessment at 300 ½ S. William St. Seconded by Council Member Iannotti.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 42, 2017 was presented by Council Member Cellary to authorize and execute a Consent Order and Judgment for the assessment at 103 W. Second Ave. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 43, 2017 was presented by Council Member Martin to contract with Michael Albanese, Esq. for legal counsel for city court matters when Robert Subik, Esq. has a conflict. Seconded by Council Member Cellary.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 44, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to authorize city treasurer to execute a Subordination Agreement with KeyBank National Association concerning JEDC assets. Seconded by Council Member-at-Large Talarico.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 45, 2017 was presented by Council Member-at-Large Talarico to advertise for a public hearing to discuss the city’s community development needs and Community Development Block Grant. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

RESOLUTION No. 46, 2017 was presented by Council Member Iannotti to enter a Memorandum of Agreement with CSEA. Seconded by Council Member Martin.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

DISCUSSION

Mayor Jackson told the Council the he has been working with Carrie in the City Attorney’s Office on finding a new website and she has found a company, North Shore Solutions, who has given us a reasonable price. He asked the Council to look at this information and give him answer by this Friday, Monday, May 22nd at the latest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citywide Garage Sale is May 19-21, 2017

Memorial Day Parade is May 26th at 6:30pm. The Mayor and Council will be marching.

City Hall offices will be closed May 29th.

Council Member Hayner made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Talarico. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne

City Clerk