Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, April 19, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Due to Covid-19 this meeting was closed to the public but broadcast using Facebook Live. The public was able to view the meeting from the official City of Johnstown Facebook page: City of Johnstown, New York

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [x] Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | [ ] Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| [x] Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large  | [x] Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney  |
| [x] Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | [x] Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| [x] Kathi Iannotti, Council Member Ward 2 (via phone) | [ ] Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| [x] Amy Praught, Council Member Ward 3 | [ ] David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| [x] Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | [x] Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer[ ] Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program |

ABSENT

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting.

PROCLAMATION / CITATION – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – Amend Chapter 20; No Parking Any Time – South Perry Street

Opened at 6:01 p.m.

Discussion: Mayor stated this would be for No Parking Any Time on South Perry Street. Pick up only. Praught and Spritzer both received concern from residents. Praught voiced questions she had; time frame, weekends, events, vendor parking, handicap parking. She sees a need for this Ordinance but wants issues addressed. Mayor stated this was the school district request and it would be for no parking all day long. Spritzer thinks the Ordinance is a good idea. The roadway is very narrow during sporting events with parking on both sides of the roadway. He worries about public safety for emergency vehicles. Mayor said perhaps parking can be relaxed during events. Mayor’s opinion is to go ahead with Ordinance and if it needs to be modified then that could be done in the future.

Closed at 6:08 p.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – March 15, 2021

Motion to approve – Council Member Praught

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 5159 | $ | 300,715.99 |
| General Fund A  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 04/2021A | $  | 1,374,887.58 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 04/2021G | $ | 266,663.38 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 833 | $ | 102,074.23 |
| Community Renewal | * Paid
 | Abstract # | 04/2021CDR | $ | 1,000,000.00 |
| Voucher Fund VO  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 04/2021VO | $ | 48,157.00 |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.
* Spritzer questioned the Assessor’s Report regarding Grievance Day being handled by phone appointment only. Mayor clarified that this is how it was handled last year and it worked out well.
* Praught asked why they are no longer getting reports from the Treasurer’s office. She thinks it would be nice if they received a report on city finances, should be getting monthly updates on processes, rebuttals, where we stand. Mayor will speak to Treasurer.
* Mayor addressed police report that they will be drafting a resolution to ban skateboards and bikes from city parks due to vandalism, especially in the band shell. Spritzer asked if vandalism was just at Main Street Park, Mayor stated that it’s happening everywhere. Praught said that Partners Park gets used a lot and the kids there seem to be very respectful. Spritzer asked if there were other options, perhaps in the future looking for grant funding for recreational equipment, skate jumps.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Craig Talarico, Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
	+ Generated 49,630 kw of energy which was sold to National Grid for $3,378.19
	+ Generated:

6.6 million gallons of wastewater

15.7 million gallons of wash water

2.6 million gallons of whey

* + Hauled 1,727 tons of sludge to Landfill
	+ Accepted 2 million gallons of leachate
	+ April 9th tour with Senator Tedisco, Assemblyman Smullen and representative from Elise Stefanik’s office.
* Bradley Hayner, Water Board
* Approved a Utility Will Serve Letter for the Fulton Friendship Lodge.
* Approvedthe Tap Application for the Fulton Friendship House
* Hayner went over itemized list of request for Bond: Phase II and III Repairs, Sedimentation Basin, Dam Repairs, Bypass & Falls Repairs, Route 30A water line, Vehicle purchases as needed, Turbidimeters, Leak Locator, and Chlorinator/vacuum regulator
* Authorized Clerk to pay bill from Goldberger & Kremer in the amount of $13,175.25 covering legal fees from 09/08/20 – 02/01/21 Hayner went over itemized list.
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
	+ No Report
* Mayor, Assessor’s Office
* Tentative Roll has been completed
* Roll will be on file in the City Clerk’s office on May 1st
	+ Grievance Day is Tuesday, May 25th from 4-8. Phone appointment only.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCES

Discussion – The Clerk read a message from a citizen which was received online during the meeting regarding the parking on S. Perry Street. Individual questioned where else will they be able to park during games and events. Parking is near nonexistent now. Many can’t walk long distances. What about visiting people? Mayor stated they’ll have to meet with the school district to see how they’ll want to work this. Spritzer named off side streets that can accommodate parking. Praught and Spritzer would like to see a designated parking lot created. Hayner would like to see the parking restricted during school hours.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Hayner to Amend Chapter 20, No Parking any time on East Side of roadway from intersection of First Avenue to intersection of Fourth Avenue.  |
|  | Seconded – Council Member IannottiDiscussion:Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Praught to advertise for a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 11; Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Articles I & II. |
|   | Seconded – Council Member IannottiDiscussion: The Clerk brought up that the Council still needs to clarify the fee for garage sales, Clerk would like fee eliminated. Praught was in favor of no fee as there is no expense to the City but still have them obtain a permit. Spritzer wanted clarification as to how much was sold last year. Clerk responded approximately $57.00Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 26, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Spritzer to advertise for a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 20; Streets Where Parking is Limited. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member HaynerDiscussion: Mayor clarified this would make intersection on E. Clinton and FonClair a 4-way stop.Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 27, 2021 | Presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to advertise for a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 20; Handicap Persons’ Parking Zones. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member IannottiDiscussion: Mayor stated this was for handicap parking in front of Knox,Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 28, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Hayner to advertise for Construction Services to replace certain infrastructures in the City of Johnstown.  |
|  | Seconded – Council Member PraughtDiscussion: Engineer Vose stated this would be for one contractor to construct Miller Street Bridge and culverts on S. and North Chase Street. Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 29, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Praught to advertise 126 W. Fulton Street for bid. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member HaynerDiscussion: Mayor clarified a minimum purchase price of $20,000. Vose stated the minimum bid offsets what the city paid for tipping fees. No asbestos on site. The City has not done any monitoring of the site, to the best of his knowledge there is nothing there. Spritzer asked if that would be the responsibility of the purchaser. Vose stated that the City is selling the property as is.Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 30, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Spritzer to advertise for 111 N. Perry Street for bid.  |
|  | Seconded – Council Member HaynerDiscussion: Engineer Vose stated there was an active DEC spill on site but has sense been closed but they are still monitoring the neighboring property. DEC gave consent to city selling but would need to be informed who purchases in case they need to access the surrounding properties.Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 31, 2021 | Presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize NYS Dept. of Conservation access to 111 N. Market St. to investigate hazardous waste contamination at 115 N. Market St. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member HaynerDiscussion: Praught asked if DEC will need to access property once its sold. Vose stated it may be possible. Not entirely sure what is in the ground. The city did what was required by DEC as far as testing was concerned. Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 32, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Hayner to rescind Resolution #67, 2020 to accept offer for 6 Spring St.  |
|  | Seconded – Council Member PraughtDiscussion: Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 33, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Agreement with Eastern Medical Support to provide Substance Abuse Testing for 2021. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member IannottiDiscussion:Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 34, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Spritzer to accept offer for N. Market Street; SBL #162.20-15-23. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member IannottiDiscussion: Praught asked if this was just vacant land. Mayor confirmed.Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |
| 35, 2021 | Presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to accept offer for N. Market Street; SBL #162.20-15-24. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member PraughtDiscussion: Mayor stated that the properties being bid on are adjoining. Gets them back on the tax rolls.Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0Abstain: 0 |

DISCUSSION

* Mayor
* Received communication from Lane Zugalla at ATEC with their rebuttle to the NYS Audit in regard to the City’s computer system and IT services. The Mayor read a portion of the letter which is on file and made a part of these Minutes.
* Praught asked if the City had responded to report from state, if we are going to, are we required to. The Mayor responded no to all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Curbside brush pickup will continue through April 23rd. Please rake leaves and yard debris on to the terrace and not in the street.
* City-wide Garage Sale – Friday, April 30th – Sunday, May 2nd
* Spring Clean-up – Thursday, May 6th & 7th 11am – 7pm and Saturday, May 8th 7-1 pm.
* Business Meeting Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Hayner made a motion to enter in to executive session at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

No action was taken during executive session.

Council Member Hayner made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:26 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:28 p.m.

Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk