Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, February 16, 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 | [ ] Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer[ ] Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program[ ] Darryl Purinton, Internal Control Officer |

ABSENT

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting.

PROCLAMATION / CITATION – N/A

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS

Lewis Brown from Vesta Corp. spoke on the proposed Trackside Homes PILOT

* Vesta Corp has been in business for 40 years and is strictly in the business of affordable housing; owner, operator, developer and manager. They operate up and down east coast and as far west as Texas. Have acquired 2 properties in NYS since 2019, Trackside will be their third. Their mission is to preserve affordable housing at Trackside.
* Took over management of Trackside on November 1, 2020 and retained all staff.
* Trackside Homes I currently has a contract for Section 8 which has been extended for 20 years.
* Trackside Homes II as units become vacant they will be filled with people who are earning 80% of area median income.
* PILOT Agreement for Trackside I will be $39,000 per year for 20 years, with 2% increase annually. With no grievances filed for 3 year period after the 20 years.
* PILOT Agreement for Trackside II will be $36,500 per year for 20 years, with 2% increase annually. With no grievances filed for 3 year period after the 20 years. Property value will increase by 10%.

Mayor would like to meet on Thursday to vote on Resolution to approve PILOT Agreement.

APPROVE MINUTES – January 19, 2021

Motion to approve – Council Member Praught

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 5118 | $ | 276,633.64 |
| General Fund A  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 02/2021A | $  | 792,505.71 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Unpaid
 | Abstract #  | 826 | $ | 2,663.01 |
| Sewer Fund G  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 02/2021G | $ | 988.11 |
| Voucher Fund VO  | * Paid
 | Abstract #  | 02/2021VO | $ | 43,148.60 |

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.
* Praught commented on Internal Control Officer’s report. 11 Policy and Procedures are pending on Mayor’s review and 24 high risk alerts which have not been addressed. Council needs to know who is responsible for writing Policy and Procedure, why they aren’t addressed. Everything needs to be in order before transition next year with new officials in office. Praught is available to help address the high risk alerts.
* Praught would like to have a consultant come in and go through departments as to job duties.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board
* Approved purchases for booster pump, cylinder, piston
* Tap machine purchased was tabled until President Capparello speaks to crew
* CT Male to prepare bid documents for Fulton County Water District #1
* Pointed out that Atty. Goldberger fees are $13,175.25 that water board is paying to sue the city that they are a department within

Discussion: Praught asked if the Clerk of the Water Board was providing financials to Treasurer as stated in Charter. Mayor stated that as far as he knew she had been. Praught also stated that the members talk about repair of equipment at length but still have to bond for million dollar projects. She feels they concentrate on insignificant matters.

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
* March 1st exemptions are due
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – N/A
* Craig Talarico, Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
* Facility tour still planned for Congresswoman Stefanik, Senator Tedisco, and Assemblyman in an attempt to secure grant funding for sludge dryer.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 11, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to advertise for Public Hearing to adopt Police Reform Plan.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: Mayor has reviewed plan and feel Chief Gilbo and Captain Johnson have done an excellent job. Spritzer stated some of the mandates set in place by the State have already been completed by department.

Clerk stated the Plan will be on the city’s website and Facebook for the public to view.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 12, 2021 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Mayor to sign contract with Johnstown Senior Citizen’s Center.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 13, 2021 presented by Council Member Spritzer to appoint members to Johnstown Sewer Board.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Mayor thanked members for volunteering to serve on the board again.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 14, 2021 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to appoint individuals as Commissioners of Deeds.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 15, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to approve relocation of water main for the Phase 2 Route 29A/30

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 16, 2021 presented by Council Member Praught to approve contract for closed Landfill Compliance Monitoring.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* County recycling has commenced
* Special Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
* Business Meeting: Monday, March 15, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION

* Mayor stated that truck traffic in industrial park is becoming an issue again. As many as 21 trucks are parked along the roadway. Will ask police department to start ticketing. City will look in to barricades or guardrails. Will discuss issue with Jason Vosburgh to hear his ideas concerning the matter.
* Spritzer is concerned with change in leadership in the Treasurer’s office. The Deputy has retired and position has not been filled, and the Treasurer is not running for re-election. He would like to get someone appointed as Deputy Treasurer soon. He doesn’t feel that both positions being vacant when a new Treasurer starts January 1st would be good for City. The Mayor explained that the Treasurer is an elected official and he makes that appointment. He said he has spoken with the Treasurer and has stated he doesn’t plan to fill that position. Praught asked if the position was civil service (it is not) and also asked if there are qualifications, if a job description is put out, do people apply and then Treasurer chooses? Mayor wasn’t sure. Praught felt the city should be proactive with so much change is city government next year. She would like to have a resolution next month to hire a consultant to find out what the city really needs as to positions. Hayner asked if an RFP would be required; one would be needed.
* Hayner announced that he will be running for the position of City Treasurer, and plans to hit the ground running.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member at Large Talarico made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

No action was taken during executive session.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:18 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:22 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk