Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, February 18 @ 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.

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

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT

Bradley Hayner

Mike Gifford

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – JCA (Johnstown Citizens in Action)

A handout of communications are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

The following individuals spoke:

Roberta Thomas of 102 E. Clinton Street, Johnstown

Lisa McCoy of 303 S. William Street, Johnstown

Mary Becker of 507 S. Market Street, Johnstown

Joe Shepard of 2 W. Third Avenue, Johnstown

Christine Reynolds of 300 S. Perry Street, Johnstown

Rosemarie Shepard of 2 W. Third Avenue, Johnstown

Announced meeting on Thursday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the Johnstown Senior Center to discuss the questions and concerns.

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – January 21, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4762 | $ | 151,283.90 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 02/2020A | $ | 764,538.19 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 777 | $ | 124,668.32 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 02/2020G | $ | 911.24 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 02/2020VO | $ | 41,972.10 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Fire/Codes
  + - Townsend Avenue signal light update: In an effort to save the city money they have been taking still photos and videos and conference calling with gentleman from Northeast before he travels to make a repair saving the city $600/hr. onsite fee. Should be finalizing his repair and coming to hopefully make repair within the next week. Bruce has applied for funding to send two of his firefighters to Boston to become signal techs.
    - Fire: conducted CPR / First Aid refresher training

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 142 | Calls for service: |
|  | 4 | Structure fires |
|  | 4 | Vehicle fires |
|  | 8 | Motor vehicle accidents |
|  | 1 | Mutual aid |
|  | 32 | Hazardous conditions |
|  | 83 | Emergency Medical Service |
|  | 10 | Service Calls |

Codes: conducted training on computer aided inspection reports

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 30 | Permits issued |
|  | $ | 296,801.00 | Estimated cost of construction |
|  | $ | 1,843.00 | Fees collected |
|  |  | 585 | Inspection and complaint responses |

* Comments:

1. Spritzer asked if they would be moving from paper & clipboard to “IPad”. Heberer responded that yes they will be using EPCR; codes will be computer base, no longer using paper. Each shift will have a surface pro assigned to them.

* Police

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 672 | Calls for service: |
|  | 77 | Criminal cases were generated |
|  | 23 | Arrests |
|  | 213 | Citations |
|  | 83 | Traffic |
|  | 130 | Parking |
|  | 23 | Traffic accidents investigated |

* Chief Gilbo:
  + 3 officers attended the use of force refresher; new reporting requirements
  + 2 officers attended instructor development course
  + Still working on bail reform.
* DPW
* Joel Wilson retired after 5 years with City. Had over 40 years serving between city and county. He was a driving factor with all that they’ve accomplished. Excited for new deputy, Jeff Putman. He has been with DPW for over 16 years; experience in concrete work as well as sanitary and storm sewer, installation projects as well as operation and maintenance of those systems. Wants to do things a little more modern.
* Garbage truck down. Become a 5 man job, using 3 trucks. Seriously impacted their ability to do other jobs in city. Most man power going toward garbage pickup.

-Vose understands the public’s frustration. There is only so much his department can do with being short on man power.

* + Comments:

1. a member of the gallery spoke up and asked if we can “farm” garbage pick-up out. Vose replied that this would cost a significant amount of money and taxes would go up.
2. Spritzer commented on snow removal; doing excellent job, roads are very well kept. Asked if we can rent a garbage truck in short term. Vose stated he has looked at that but there is no viable option from a cost perspective. Can do used one from rental fleet but there are financing rules.
3. Praught asked if there have been discussions for shared services from other cities. Vose has reached out to Gloversville and landfill but unfortunately there are in same boat.

* Senior Center
* Over 2000 visitors in January
* Started Yoga & Chair Yoga back up
* Mahjong Mondays, Knitting Wednesdays, Pinnacle on Fridays
* April 11th Bazaar; vendors, raffles, excepting donations for auction
* Weeks events include: Corn Hole on Wednesday, Movie Thursday
* March 10th Mohegan Sun
* March 12th St. Patrick’s Day
* Internal Control Officer
  + Report on file and is attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.
  + Working on next portfolio procedures which involve the ambulance service. Identify a need for a billing policy, collection policy and a billing processing and procedures policy. Separate ambulance from general fund to see and make sure we recover all costs – Enterprise Fund.
* Treasurer – No Report; absent

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board – No Report; absent
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office – Taxable status deadline is March 1st. 2020. Working on the 2020 roll
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – N/A
* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board – Arcadis spoke on sludge driers.

RESOLUTIONS

* 10, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to accept appointment for members to Board of Health.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 11, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for Public Hearing to amend Ordinance Chapter 18.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 12, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize to advertise obsolete vehicles on auctionsinternational.com.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 13, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer authorize Mayor to sign agreement with Arcadis for 2020 Landfill monitoring.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Iannotti asked if this was the same as last year. Vose responded that it was close.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 14, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to enter in to an agreement EAP (Employee Assistance Program).

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 15, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti adopt bond resolution to finance 2 garbage trucks and construction of new senior center roof.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: Spritzer asked if we should advertise in Albany Times Union. Vose responded that we can keep in mind for future.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 16, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to advertise for bid for 2 garbage trucks.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 17, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to appoint Jeffery Putman as Deputy City Engineer.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Mayor welcomed Jeff.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION –

Mayor read:

* Letter from retired Det. James Rodecker thanked for working in and protecting the city.
* Email from Tom Vaughn. West Meadow Creamery. Thanked mayor for visiting and thanked member of city hall and fire department for welcoming them with courtesy and respect. They will be naming one of their cheddar cheeses after Johnstown.

Spritzer mentioned that Gordman’s Department Store opened today. Mayor attended ribbon cutting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member at Large Talarico made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:48 p.m. for collective negotiations pursuant to Taylor Law.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

Mayor excused dept. heads and members of the public.

No action was taken during executive session.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:34 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion - None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

RESOLUTIONS

* 18, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize Mayor to sign Collective Bargaining Agreement with Johnstown Fire Fighters Association Local 779.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

* 19, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Mayor to sign Collective Bargaining Agreement with CSEA bargaining unit.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Business Meeting Monday, March 16, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:37 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk