 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting

Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

This meeting was 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

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 – Amy Praught, Mayor

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
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| [x] Amy Praught, Mayor | [ ] Thomas Herr, City Treasurer |
| [x] Scott Jeffers, Council Member-at-Large  | [x] Michael M. Albanese, City Attorney  |
| [ ] Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | [x] Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| [x] Scott Miller, Council Member Ward 2 | [x] Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| [x] Eric Parker, Council Member Ward 3 | [x] David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| [x] Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | [ ] Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer[x] Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program |

ABSENT – Bradley Hayner, Christopher J. Vose, Thomas Herr

PUBLIC SESSION – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* January 17, 2023

Motion to approve – Council Member

Seconded – Council Member

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

STATE OF THE CITY – Amy Praught, Mayor

* Document attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

* Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

Chief Heberer:

* + Parker asked if the closing of the Access Transport would affect City. Chief stated that it may but with the extra man power they have, they should be able to pick up the slack. The County would be impacted greater than the City.
	+ Spritzer asked for an update on new pumper truck. Chief stated that it officially was put in to service today.

Chief Gilbo:

* + Spritzer asked for an update as to discussions with Johnstown School District for a School Resource Officer (SRO). Chief stated that he’s met with Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent a few times and they show an interest in having a SRO. They been provided with data as what it costs for an officer. A lot of particulars need to be worked out. He asked the School Board to give the Chief an answer by April 1st in order for him to put a package together to bring before the Mayor for approval in order to be in place for the coming school year. This will be for an armed officer; he will not put an officer with that type of responsibility of protecting the school without the means to do it. The SRO will not necessarily make arrests, they will refer the matter to the school administration or police detective division. Schools are becoming more violent.

Treasurer Herr:

* + Parker mentioned that the Fulton County sales tax up 9.8%, City up almost 21%

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Joint Sewer Board
	+ Odor complaint resolved on Breckenridge Drive; isolated incident
	+ Cleaned up a 20 gallons whey spill
	+ Authorized purchase of Bobcat skid steer
	+ Hired Wastewater Treatment Operator Trainee, 2 attendants and may have a college student interested in a position
	+ Tabled resolution to approve the proposed Fulton County Sewer District #5 until both City of Gloversville and Johnstown are on board
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board
	+ Popeye’s Restaurant moving in to the Cranesville Block location on Comrie Avenue. Has to go to the County Planning Board on the 21st and a Public Hearing is scheduled for March 7th
* Scott Miller, Assessor
* exemptions due on March 1st

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 11. | Execute agreement with CT Male for consulting services relating to the water system |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember  | Parker |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated that price has not increased from last year. Miller asked what we spent last year. Mayor Praught did not have the figure but advised Miller to contact the Treasurer and he could look it up for him.  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12. | Retain Arcadis to provide monitoring and reporting activities for closed Johnstown Landfill Site |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Miller | Seconded by Councilmember  | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated amount has increased by about 9%. Miller asked how long we would need to do the monitoring. Albanese said its up to the State and Federal government |
|  | Ayes: 4 |
|  | Noes: 0 |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |
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| 13. | Execute proposal for codification services with General Code to update Code of Ordinances |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: Parker pointed out that just about every local government in Fulton and Montgomery County work with them and feels this is overdue. Mayor Praught mentioned the process has been started twice before but never continued w/ the process and feels its time. Miller asked how changing the Ordinance will affect the Charter as some of the Codes coincide w/ the Charter. Albanese stated that a referendum would be needed to change Charter. The company will go through the entire Code book and make recommendations for the Council to decide on changing or adding. |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |  |  |

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| 14. | Execute agreement with CT Male to provide engineering services related to Abel Drive Water Main Replacement Project |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember  | Parker |
|  | Discussion: None |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |  |  |

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| 15. | Execute agreement with CT Male to provide engineering and grant administrative services related to the Lead Service Line Replacement Program |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember  | Miller |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked how long we’ve had the Grant for this project. Mayor Praught said about 5 years. When the City took over day to day operations of water department the health department reached out to let us know that the Grant will go away if we don’t use it.  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |  |  |
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| 16. | Accept bid for the installation, repair, replacement and/or updating to the electrical and lighting at Cork Center Filtration Plant |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember  | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None |
|  | Ayes: 4 |
|  | Noes: 0 |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |
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| 17. | Reject bids for the Door Replacement Project at the water treatment plants |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Miller | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked why we have to reject bids. Mayor stated that one bid didn’t meet specs and the other only provided an estimate not actual numbers.  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |  |  |

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| 18. | Authorize Upstate Utilities to request proposals for energy suppliers in order to reduce natural gas and electric costs at city owned facilities |
|  | Presented by Councilmember  | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember  | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion:  |
|  | Ayes: 4 |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0  |  |  |
| 19. | Appoint Commissioners of Deeds |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember  | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: None |
|  | Ayes: 4 |
|  | Noes: 0 |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) |
|  | Abstain: 0  |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Daylight Savings Time – March 12th
2. Business Meeting – Monday, March 20th @ 6pm

DISCUSSION

* Mayor mentioned the recent water main breaks on Abel Drive. She had several residents call to commend on how professional and friendly our DPW and Water employees were.
* Miller asked the status of the Rules and Regulations of the Common Council being adopted. Clerk stated she needs a consensus on what the Council wants as a whole. The newly drafted rules or the old ones. Council discussed the confusion as to adding Roberts Rules of Order. Parker liked the newly drafted Rules, streamlined and verbiage is brought up to date. Miller didn’t like the fact that the new drafted Rules didn’t have many rules, he’d like to keep the original 40 rules.
* Miller asked as to why the Charter wasn’t revised when we took over the Water Dept. It was explained that the Charter has been amended but not re-written. The Charter is not a working document. Clerk will check with General Code to see if their proposal also include recommendations for Charter revisions and if not, will request a quote to do so.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:05 p.m.

* Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

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| Ayes: 4 |
| Noes: 0 |
| Absent: 1 (Hayner) Abstain: 0 |
|  |

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk