



Johnstown Common Council
Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 @ 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:

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

ABSENT – Bradley Hayner

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Hladik of E. Fourth Avenue, Johnstown would like the fireworks stopped or moved from Knox School to somewhere else. Over the years he has had trash on his property, people have parked on the grass and dug it up and has property stolen. People park where there is no parking making it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through. His recommendation would be the college or airport where its out in the open. Debris from the fireworks gets all over everyone's property. At one time a canister, that never exploded, was on his neighbor's property. He doesn't see the benefit of having fireworks in the middle of the city.

STATE OF THE CITY – Amy Praught, Mayor

A copy of the document is attached and made part of the meeting minutes

APPROVE MINUTES

- Business Meeting – December 18, 2023
Motion to approve – Council Member Miller
Seconded – Council Member Spritzer
Discussion: None
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Absent: 1 (Hayner)
Abstain: 0
- Organizational Meeting – January 1, 2024
Motion to approve – Council Member Miller
Seconded – Council Member Spritzer
Discussion: None
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

- Motion to approve – Council Member Parker
Seconded – Council Member Spritzer
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.

- Engineer's Office
 - Parker asked the status of placing mafia blocks in the Industrial Park. Chris stated that they have not gone forward yet, he and the Mayor have a meeting with IDA on Thursday. Still plan on doing something just need clarification on responsibilities of both parties prior to doing so.
 - Parker asked if the City picks up Christmas Trees; Chris stated staff will pick up curbside through end of January.
 - Miller asked the status of the roof on DPW garage. Chris stated that he is optimistic that costs should come in less than expected; can return unused materials. There will be no gravel to roof, increased insulation. The plumbing work is done; couple of weeks from being completed.
- Fire / Codes Office:
 - Parker asked about the new ambulance. Heberer stated the ambulance is set to be striped on Monday. Looking at different avenues to sell one of the other ambulances; not sure which one yet.
- Police:
 - Spritzer asked about the new armored vehicle. Gilbo said he's looking at picking up next week
 - Spritzer commented on the video put out by the school district on the new school resource officer and what a great asset she is for the school district
 - Parker asked about new officers. Gilbo stated he is still one officer short.
- Mayor spoke briefly on sales tax for 2023. December's sales tax was up 23.6% (up over all \$207,000 from 2022) with revenue of 5.47 million in sales tax for the year.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Sewer Board, Eric Parker
 - Meeting cancelled; no quorum. Meeting will be held tomorrow January 17th if Resolution for Appointments is approved tonight
- Planning Board, Scott Jeffers
 - Discussed Zoning: Cannabis Dispensaries, Airbnb, and Comprehensive Plan. Public Hearings are scheduled in February. Will come before Council after Planning Board approval.
- Assessor, Scott Miller
 - All exemptions that are filed with the Assessor are due March 1, 2024.
 - Renewal applications for the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens were mailed December 6th and are due by March 1, 2024. **Please submit income from the tax year 2022.**
 - A reminder, anyone turning 65 this calendar year may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR and/or the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens. The Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens total income limit is \$29,999 for the tax year 2022.
 - New homeowners need to register for the STAR Credit at www.tax.ny.gov/star or call 518-457-2036.
 - The Assessor's Office continues to work on the 2024 roll.

RESOLUTIONS

9. Sewer Board Appointments
Motion to approve – Council Member Jeffers
Seconded – Council Member Spritzer
Discussion: Miller thanked the City Attorney for the clarification on appointment requirements. He still had questions regarding the appointment of the Engineer (currently a City of Gloversville resident) if he were no longer employed by the City he would still be on the Board and Johnstown would lose a city appointment. Miller feels as this should be looked in to further.
Ayes: 4

Noes: 0
Absent: 1 (Hayner)
Abstain: 0

10. 2024 Budget Transfer

Motion to approve – Council Member Miller
Seconded – Council Member Parker
Discussion: None
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Absent: 1 (Hayner)
Abstain: 0

11. Contract – Reimbursement from Fulton County for ambulance service

Motion to approve – Council Member Parker
Seconded – Council Member Spritzer
Discussion: Parker noted there was an increase from previous agreement
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Absent: 1 (Hayner)
Abstain: 0

12. Authorize Planning Board to handle the SEQR review process regarding the Comprehensive Plan

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer
Seconded – Council Member Jeffers
Discussion: None
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Absent: 1 (Hayner)
Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

The Mayor recognized the Senior Center. She is impressed with the number of memberships the Center has and all that is offered.

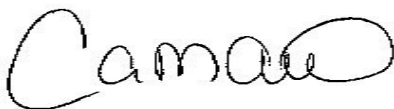
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City offices closed:
 - Presidents' Day; Monday, February 19th
2. Business Meeting – Tuesday, February 20th @ 6pm

ADJOURN – 6:33 pm

- Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer
Seconded – Council Member Miller
Discussion: None
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Absent: 1 (Hayner)
Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk