Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 @ 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 – Dorie Cast, Deputy City Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor | Michael C. Gifford, City Treasurer |
| Craig Talarico, Council Member-at-Large | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney at 6:30 p.m. |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Kathi Iannotti, Council Member | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Amy Praught, Council Member | David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| Max Spritzer, Council Member | Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer  Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program  Darryl Purinton, Internal Control Officer |
|  | Dorie Cast, Deputy City Clerk |

ABSENT- Michael Gifford, Carrie Allen

STATE OF THE CITY

* On file and attached hereto

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – Robin Wentworth spoke about the history of Wells House Nursing Home, and advised they are celebrating their 50 year anniversary this year, with many activities planned.

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – Parking Ordinance

Opened at 6:05 p.m.

* No comments / discussion

Closed at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES – December 16, 2019

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

APPROVE MINUTES – January 1, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4748 | $ | 324,786.72 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 01/2020A | $ | 2,272,314.81 |
| ewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 774 | $ | 256,673.77 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 01/2020G | $ | 966.65 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 01/2020VO | $ | 41,179.10 |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

* Fire/Codes
  + - Fire:

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| Firemen’s Ball is March 14th.Tickets available at the Fire Department. Training is being completed. Mayor commended Fire Department on response to ammonia spill at Distribution Center. Council member Spritzer questioned status of light on Townsend and N. Perry St. per B. Heberer, parts have been ordered and repairs will hopefully be completed next week. Firemen are being trained as EMT’s.  Calls were about 2,000 for 2019, with about 1,300 for EMS | | |
|  | 170 | Calls for service |
|  | 3 | Structure fires |
|  | 7 | Motor vehicle accidents, 2 Motor vehicle fires |
|  | 2 | Mutual aid |
|  | 30 | Hazardous conditions |
|  | 107 | Emergency Medical Service |
|  | 19 | Service Calls |

Codes:

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| Complaint responses are being addressed as needed. Comparisons given between December 2018 and December 2019-there were 22 permits issued, $1,235.00 fees collected, $289,795.00 estimated cost and 345 total inspections. | | | |
|  |  | 18 | Permits issued |
|  | $ | 136,782.00 | Estimated cost of construction |
|  | $ | 970.00 | Fees collected |
|  |  | 485 | Inspection and complaint responses |

* Police

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|  | 507 | Calls for service |
|  | 63 | Criminal cases were generated |
|  | 26 | Arrests |
|  | 115 | Citations |
|  | 47 | Traffic |
|  | 68 | Parking |
|  | 41 | Traffic accidents investigated |

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| Comparisons given for 2018-over 600 calls, arrests are down by 43, Citations are down by 119, traffic tickets are up. Discussed possibly making signs larger for tractor trailers in Industrial Park. Gave update on radio project 2/3 way completed. Their old portable radios were given to DPW. |

* DPW

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| All trucks have radios now, working on restocking inventory. Working on filling pot holes, using hot pot instead of cold patch-working better, and more permanent. Snow removal efforts were complimented by Council Member Spritzer. Council Member Praught questioned snow removal on sidewalks on Comrie Ave and was advised it’s the responsibility of the property owner, follow-up letters will be sent. Discussed the lengthy process to hire replacements for the 5 positions vacant in DPW. |

* Senior Center

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| In December, more than 1,400 people attended the Senior Center, Oldie B Goldie played at the New Years Eve party. January 9th, Chris Tallon and school board members gave a presentation. Currently have new Yoga classes, both chair and regular. This Thursday they have Team Trivia. On 1/30/20, they are having Soup and Sandwich luncheon with a First Aid presentation by a nurse from NLH-: Stop the Bleed, a State wide program. April 11th is their Spring Bazaar and breakfast with the Easter Bunny. AARP tax appointments are February through beginning of April-need to call for appointment. 2/2/20 is their Super Bowl party with snacks and games. 2/6/20, Brenda Cresto from the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired will give a presentation. On 2/12/20, the seniors will have lunch at Romana’s, then making cards at the Sr Center, Movieplex will have $6.00 entrance for seniors which will include popcorn and a soda. |

* Internal Control Officer

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| Attached hereto |

* Treasurer

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| Not present |

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Brad Hayner, Water Board –

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| J. Swierzowski was elected President, M. Capparello Vice President. R. Marotta appointed to the Board. An Audit and Finance Committee and a Personnel Committee were set up. They have been working with a Representative from Nestle regarding testing on Egan Road for ground water. |

* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office –

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| All Star and Star Enhanced applications/new and renewal, have to be in by March 1. Assessor’s office is working on the 2020 roll. Their office is closed 1/21-1/24/2020. |

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| Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – Nothing to report |

* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board –

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| DEC is sending engineers to view the modifications to system. December 2019, The Facility was in compliance with permits re. pollution discharge. One tank needs to be cleaned, probably this Spring, may result in an odor, but the public will be notified in advance. Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning specifications prepared for Administration building for improvements, bids are due 2/10/2020. A. Mihalik completed operator training. Adirondack Mechanical installed a gas boiler in the Administration Building.  7.3 million gallons of wastewater each day, 1300 tons of sludge go to land fill, 1,735,500 gallons of leachate are accepted. |

ORDINANCE

* 1, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to add stop signs on the West Madison Avenue at intersection with South Melcher Street.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

RESOLUTIONS

* 6, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to execute contract with Greenman-Pedersen for engineering services for 2020.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 7, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Chief Gilbo to execute Hold Harmless Agreement.

Seconded – Council Member Talarico

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 8, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to execute a contract with the Johnstown Senior Citizens Service Center, Inc. for 2020,

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 9, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to adopt rate increase for 2020 regarding Advanced Life Support First Response service bills.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION –

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| Bruce Heberer discussed the Ambulance contract, with a goal to provide uninterrupted service. Currently have 16 EMTs and anyone hired now will be trained as EMTs. |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* City Hall closed for Presidents’ Day – Monday, February 17th
* Business Meeting Tuesday, February 18th @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member at Large Talarico made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss possible litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Mayor excused dept. heads and members of the public.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:35 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion - none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:36 p.m.

Council Member – Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: none

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Dorie Cast

Deputy City Clerk