 Johnstown Common Council

Special Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Friday July 29, 2022 @ 8:00 a.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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Amy Praught, Mayor | Thomas Herr, City Treasurer |
| Scott Jeffers, Council Member-at-Large | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Scott Miller, Council Member Ward 2 | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Eric Parker, 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  Susan VanHoesen |

ABSENT

Scott Miller

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting

PUBLIC SESSION

* Gary Locatelli of N. Chase Street voiced his opinion on the reasons why the City of Johnstown should take control of the Water Department. Wants the City to move forward with Local Law #1 to abolish Water Board.

LOCAL LAW

1. Amend Charter to Abolish Water Board and transfer its powers and duties to the Common Council

Presented by Councilmember Hayner Seconded by Councilmember Spritzer

Discussion: None

|  |
| --- |
| Ayes: 4 |
| Noes: 0 |
| Absent: 1 (Miller) |
| Abstain: 0 |

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 58. | Contract between City and Water Board | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: Parker attended the Water Board’s meeting last night and Water Board voted unanimously to approve  the Contract. Spritzer asked if the Contract could be extended past the initial 4 month agreement. Mayor said yes, by mutual agreement of both parties. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

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| 59. | Contract with JCF Consulting, Inc. | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Spritzer clarified as to what the contract provides; giving back up to our Water Treatment Operator. Hayner clarified that this was the same company we contracted with prior. Mayor stated they rescinded the Contract when the Board took over but once the City took control he agreed to come back on and provided a new Contract. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

DISCUSSION

* Jeffers asked when the Boil Water will be lifted. Mayor stated there is a 1A Operator on the job, state requires 2 days of testing because it was unsupervised for more than 24 hours. The soonest time to be lifted would be Saturday mid-day.
* Mayor made a statement to the public. She stated this is not about politics, power or money. It is about protecting the people of the City of Johnstown. Safety must always be first. She is not basing her decisions of past actions of the Water Board or City. She is here to do what is right. Our plant operator did not abruptly leave, she has letters from both December and April that he would not work for Water Board; letters were provided to City, Water Board and State. She will not stand by and allow anyone to disrespect him. Water Board had 6 months to plan how they would run the water system and failed to do so. Moving forward she stated she has a 1A Operator, a 2A Operator, an Operator Trainee, 2 licensed D employees and will continue to build a succession plan to make sure this never happens again. What the City has done in 6 months under an Emergency Order is more than what the Water Board has done in 5 years. She urges the public to contact her and apologized to residents and businesses of the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 8:14 a.m.

* Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Miller)

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk