Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, June 15, 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.

Due to Covid-19 this meeting was closed to the public but 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

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

SWEARING IN / OATH OF OFFICE – N/A

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Vernon F. Jackson, Mayor

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

Department Heads were excused from attending the meeting

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Richard “Dick” Luck

Dick was very important to community. He started the Tourist Booth, Charter member, served on the board for Community Center, involved in city functions and school activities. He was a barber for 51 years, 40 of which were at his shop on William Street.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – March 16, 2020, March 18, 2020 & May 23, 2020

Motion to approve – Council Member Praught

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| General Fund A | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 4849 | $ | 143,430.51 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 06/2020A | $ | 1,016,030.79 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 798 | $ | 107,282.38 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 06/2020G | $ | 511,578.34 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 06/2020VO | $ | 49,443.60 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

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

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Max Spritzer, Water Board – No Report
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office – No Report
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board – No Report
* Craig Talarico, Joint Sewer Board –
  + Looking in to purchasing a sludge dryer; it’s expensive to transport sludge to landfill. $750,000/yr. not including million dollars in trucking assets
  + There was an audit. Did well, no significant findings.
  + Permits are up to speed

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment of the following to Zoning Board of Appeals:
   * Robert Gallt
   * Brian Dionne
   * Rodney Schuyler

Discussion: Praught asked if the new members were City of Johnstown residents. Mayor replied that they were.

ORDINANCE / LOCAL LAW – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

* 31, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize contract with Joseph Mastrianni Inc. for Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 (Iannotti)

* 32, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to accept offers for surplus vehicles.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 33, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize Greenman Pedersen, Inc. to provide professional services for culvert repair at 107 E. Main St.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 34, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to acquire properties through Eminent Domain for Townsend Avenue Bridger Replacement.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Iannotti asked if property owners were ok with the amounts. Mayor stated this was first step and property owners will be contacted.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 35, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico that no bids were received for lowboy trailer and authorize to solicit for private offers.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer asked if this was the one that was in the accident. Mayor responded that it was.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 36, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to contract with Arcadis for ongoing site management work at the former Karg Bros. Tannery.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 37, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to discontinue sales of conservation licenses and use of Department of Conservation Automated Licensing System.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner Hayner

Discussion: Although Talarico has been a proponent for keeping the service he applauded the Clerk for her due diligence showing that the city can no longer afford to offer this service.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 38, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to rescind Resolution #22, 2020.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 39, 2020 presented by Council Member Spritzer to transfer property to Johnstown Public Library.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 40, 2020 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize contract with Nathan Littauer Hospital for Health Officer Services.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 41, 2020 presented by Council Member Hayner to approve renewal of Agreement with New York State Unified Court System for Court Security Services.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 42, 2020 presented by Council Member Iannotti to reject bid for Senior Center Roof Project.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

* 43, 2020 presented by Council Member Praught to accept offer for roof replacement at the Senior Citizens Center.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Praught asked if there is more than one bid, does Council get to see all the bids. She stated only one bid was shown and there was another from Kodiak Contracting. Spritzer questioned how the bid process works, questioned that we only received one bid for this project thought we should have gotten more. Praught questioned the start date for the project. Mayor stated Vose was working with contractor to see if we can get an earlier date. Praught asked if we take that in to consideration when accepting bids; even if one bid is higher accepting another if they can start earlier.

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 (Praught)

DISCUSSION

* Talarico brought up flooding issues at the Eaton property on N. East Avenue. He encouraged the other council members to visit the property and take a look at what is happening. This has been an ongoing issue for the past 35+ years. Beavers are a problem. City is in the process of purchasing a property on East Main Street to take it down in order to correct culvert problems. Assemblyman Smullen will be taking a tour of the property and see if there is anything he can do for the City.
* Talarico also brought up property tax issues. Absentee property owners. Paying the minimum due to get them off the foreclosure list. Praught wants a registry of landlords that don’t live in the area, making them public. Give them a call and address issues personally.
* Spritzer wants to work with codes office, engineer, and group that addressed blight problems in city. Positive changes need to be made. Encouraged council members to take a walk in their ward and make codes office aware of problems.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Star Spangled Fireworks cancelled for this year.
* Thanked LaShawn Hawkins for her organization of the silent protest held in the city; she did an excellent job.
* Congratulated City Clerk Carrie Allen. She has been named to Municipal Clerks Honor Roll for 2020. She is one of 210 clerks throughout country to get this honor.
* Business Meeting Monday, July 20, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:36 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk