Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, March 15, 2021 @ 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

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.

PROCLAMATION / CITATION

* Wells Nursing Home – 50th Anniversary

PUBLIC HEARING – Police Reform Plan

Opened at 6:01 p.m.

* The Mayor thanked Chief Gilbo and Captain Johnson for a job well done on the Plan.
* Talarico stated that even without the Plan the police department has always had a good history about being professional and compassionate and genuinely interested in the people here.
* Spritzer said it was a great presentation. A lot of the mandates have already been completed. Thanked Chief Gilbo for all that they have done.

Closed at 6:06 p.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

February 16th

Motion to approve – Council Member Praught

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

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Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

February 18, 2021

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

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 # | 5135 | $ | 300,715.99 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 03/2021A | $ | 771,781.22 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 03/2021G | $ | 131,531.96 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 03/2021VO | $ | 60,806.60 |

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.
* Praught

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Amy Praught, Water Board
* Reviewed monthly bills
* Received their new EIN
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
* No Report
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
  + Fulton Friendship House was granted a one (1) year extension to begin work
* Craig Talarico, Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
  + Generated 53,569 kw of energy which was sold to National Grid for $2,248.29
  + Generated:

4.4 million gallons of wastewater

20 million gallons of wash water

2.4 million gallons of whey

* + Hauled 1,490 tons of sludge to Landfill

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* + Accepted 600.000 gallons of leachate
  + Trying to hire a new operator trainee and maintenance supervisor
  + March 26th is the tentative date for the tour with Senator Tedisco and Assemblyman Smullen

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

1. Jason Mylott – reappoint to Planning Board

ORDINANCE – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

1. 19, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to adopt Police Reform Plan.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 20, 2021 presented by Council Member Iannotti to re-appoint Kathryn Cabrera to Board of Assessment Review Board.

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 21, 2021 presented by Council Member Praught to authorize MJ Engineering as consulting firm for West State Street Bridge Project.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: Praught asked if this was something we’ve already paid for, if this is a new Consultant. The Clerk stated this is a new contract and no fee has been discussed or contract provided yet. She wanted to be sure that before we approve contract, we will know what fee will be. Poulin stated the reason to approve resolution for consulting firm was so they could get proposal together.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 22, 2021 presented by Council Member Spritzer to appoint Bruce Heberer as Fair Housing Officer.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: Spritzer asked if this relates to Vesta. Mayor stated that the city just did a close-out audit of CDBG Grant. One of the things the State noticed is that the city does not have a Fair Housing Officer and one needed to be appointed. It has always been held by Chief Code Enforcement.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

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1. 23, 2021 presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to authorize to advertise for Public Hearing to amend Code of Ordinances for No Parking on S. Perry Street.

Seconded – Council Member Iannotti

Discussion: Spritzer asked Chief Gilbo to explain why this was needed. Gilbo stated it was two-fold; received complaints from neighbors and the school district will be utilizing Knox for students again. First Ave will be No Parking on north side, making this a one way street during the morning hours and afternoon. S. Perry will basically be standing only for parents picking up children.

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

1. 24, 2021 presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize Treasurer to collect tax levy, per 2021 Tax Warrant.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

DISCUSSION

* Praught
* Discussed with Chief Gilbo the intersection of FonClair and Clinton. She has received several complaints from residents on Clinton Street regarding the speeding traffic. Asked if a digital sign to see how fast they are going. Gilbo stated that he had officers do “directive patrol” which is to run speed estimates and very few were found to be going above the speed limit or even 30 mph. He’ll have an officer sit at FonClair, perhaps in unmarked, to see how fast cars are going. He can look in to making the intersection 4-way, instead of 2-way stop.
* Iannotti
* DPW did an outstanding job taking down the former Demi’s mill; it was very fast and efficient. Great to see our demolition crew working.
* Spritzer added that they’ve done a great job overall.
* Mayor thanked Dave Rhodes and Luke Case from Fulton County Solid Waste for loaning us their decontamination trailer, roll-offs and supplying us with drivers.
* Clerk
* Jason Vosburgh left a message on Facebook stating that he is seeing progress in the industrial park and that he would still like a chance to speak with the Council regarding the parking issue. Mayor mentioned that he met with WalMart and they were receptive. They have also put up signage for no parking throughout park and giving drivers paperwork stating same.
* Spritzer said he’s taken a drive in the industrial park on the weekends and it’s been pretty clear.
* Gilbo has plans with the State to conduct a truck stop; any truck within 3 sq. miles would have to go through it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* DPW has begun picking up sand barrels
* Brush drop off site on W. Main Street will be open the beginning of April
* Good Friday; April 2nd – City Offices close at 11:30 a.m.
* City-wide Garage Sale – Friday, April 30th – Sunday, May 2nd

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* Spring Clean-up – Thursday, May 6th & 7th 11am – 7pm and Saturday, May 8th 7-11am.
* Hannaford now accepting appointments for vaccine shots for ages 60+
* Community Health Center and Palmer Drugs are teaming up to provide vaccines at home visits for shut-ins
* Overnight Parking Ban has been temporally suspended
* Business Meeting Monday, April 19, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
* Amy Praught announced her candidacy for Mayor of the City of Johnstown.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to enter in to executive session at 6:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of proposed, pending and current litigation.

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

No action was taken during executive session.

Council Member Iannotti made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Seconded – Council Member at Large Talarico

Discussion - None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:20 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk