 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, May 16, 2022 @ 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

ABSENT

Scott Miller

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Ann Refue of Cady Street – spoke about a recent dog attack she experienced and her concern for unlicensed dogs in the city.
2. John Sagan of Linden Avenue – spoke on the need for the public to have more information on the department’s monthly reports. Clerk will begin putting the monthly reports online along in addition to the Agenda and Resolutions for the Business Meetings.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Scott Henze, Fulton County Planning Department & Travis Mitchell Environmental Design Partnership; Proposed Fulton County Route 30 Sewer District
   * An engineering study was conducted to evaluate capacity of the existing trunk sewer system in the City of Johnstown and Gloversville. The proposed sanitary sewer would go from the City of Gloversville to the Village of Northville, and municipalities between; Village of Mayfield. They discussed the city’s ability to accept additional flow along with what the user rates for the outside users would be.

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* April 18, 2022

Motion to approve – Council Member Hayner

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Miller)

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Miller)

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

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

Discussion:

* Mayor spoke on Treasurer’s report. We have begun accepting payments online for taxes. To date we have had 28 individuals pay online, collecting over $30k. She sees the benefit of using credit cards and paying online and we are working toward that; hopefully soon to come, this summer. She is also hopeful to begin working with the County to have them handle taxes for the City.
* Parker pointed out that sales tax has continued to exceed projections.
* Spritzer asked Vose about curb side brush pickup. Vose stated that they picked up a little longer than usual this year due to a few storms, but they are now done until Fall. The drop off site on West Main is open for the residents to use. City wide clean up begins this week behind the Senior Center.
* Parker asked who is responsible for enforcing lawn mowing. Joint effort between the Codes office and DPW. Vose stated they are working on revising Ordinance to make it clearer for residents to understand – eliminate any grey area.
* Spritzer asked Gilbo how the issues are at Knox. Gilbo stated there are still issues but stated again that the police need to be notified while the issues are happening not after the fact.
* Jeffers asked Herr about AUDs – still working on. Can’t begin on one year without previous years being completed.
* Spritzer asked Vose if he has any idea on what streets will be paved this year. He works with his Deputy and the garbage crew (they see roads day to day) to get an idea of what streets need to be done. Hoping to put out to bid in June. We’ve received a significant increase in funds from previous years, so more streets will be able to get done.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Water Dept.
  + Deposits total $119,922.72
  + Resolutions were approved to move forward with meter replacement and sewer connection to Johnstown Town Hall.
  + Replace fire hydrant at 464 N. Perry St.
  + Replace valve actuator at Cork Center
  + Hydrant flushing starts today
* Bradley Hayner; Joint Sewer Board – No Report; meeting rescheduled to May 17th
* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board – No Report; no meeting
* Scott Miller, Assessor – No Report; absent

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 46. | Execute Release of Real Covenant – Greater Johnstown School District | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Parker stated church is buying Jansen Ave School but the playground and grounds belong to school district. There was a point where the city had an opportunity to get the property but we may discuss in the future. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller ) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 47. | Authorize Contract with Nathan Littauer Hospital - Health Officer Services | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Hayner | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 48. | Authorize Agreement with Benetech Inc. – Benefit Manager for Employee Benefits Programs | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if this is the same company we’ve used before; Herr confirmed. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 49. | 2022 Budget Transfer | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Hayner |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked Heberer about street light. Heberer stated that the internal functions are outside of their useful life. Looking for a grant to replace all street lights in city as they will all be facing same issue. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 50. | Bond Resolution Change – Approve increase for 2 plow trucks ($17,800) | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember | Parker |
|  | Discussion: Spritzer asked if steel pricing was due to Covid. Vose confirmed and stated he didn’t like the way the City was approached about increase but had few options regarding accepting the increase. Either accept increase, rebid but could face similar pricing by the time bids came back or cancel but need the vehicles. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Miller) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

DISCUSSION – N/A

1. Spritzer asked if we could hang banner for graduating seniors again this year. The Mayor will look in to.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Wide Clean Up – Prindle Ave., behind the Senior Center, on May 19th 11-7, May 20th 11-7 & May 21st 7 – 1
2. Memorial Day Parade – Friday, May 27th @ 6:30 p.m.
3. Business Meeting – Tuesday, June 21st @ 6:00 p.m.
4. Mayor, Councilmember Parker and Treasurer attended NYCOM Conference.
5. School Budget Vote – Tuesday, May 17th
6. Mental Health Awareness – Mayor read a statement recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 7:01 p.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