Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Monday, May 17, 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 |

ABSENT

Michael Gifford, City Treasurer

PROCLAMATION / CITATION – N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Chapter 11; Licenses & Miscellaneous Business Regulations
2. Chapter 20; Designation of Through Streets
3. Handicap Parking Zone

Opened at 6:01 p.m.

Discussion:

Handicap Parking Zone

Spritzer received comments from individuals in his ward that would like to see the parking spots remain.

Chapter 20; Designation of Through Streets

Praught received comments from individuals in her ward that would like to see the stop signs on the intersection of FonClair and Clinton.

No public comments received.

Closed at 6:04 p.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – N/A

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES – April 19, 2021

Motion to approve – Council Member Iannotti

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 # | 5180 | $ | 93.775.95 |
| General Fund A | * Paid | Abstract # | 05/2021A | $ | 4,571,127.41 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Unpaid | Abstract # | 836 | $ | 124,065.70 |
| Sewer Fund G | * Paid | Abstract # | 05/2021G | $ | 583.82 |
| Voucher Fund VO | * Paid | Abstract # | 05/2021VO | $ | 49.466.10 |

Seconded – Council Member Praught

Discussion: None

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

CITY OFFICIALS’ REPORTS

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

Praught asked Chief Heberer, when it comes to EMS expenses, if he could include a breakdown of what we are billing monthly, collecting monthly. Heberer stated he could provide that information quarterly.

Spritzer asked if he could give the taxpayers an overview of lead pumper 711 which is 30 years old; oldest apparatus in Fulton County. Heberer stated that it’s becoming more difficult to get parts to repair the truck. Parts basically have to get manufactured somewhere, rather than just picking it up something in stock. Maintenance costs about $1500 every two months. Parts are becoming to be worth more than the truck. Spritzer asked what would happen if the truck is out of service for an extended period of time. Heberer said that we have a rental policy with our insurance, so we could get a loaner. Last grant received was 12 years ago.

Praught voiced her concern over condition of structure from recent fire. Heberer stated that the structure is stable, the most dangerous sections were removed that same day with help of Department of Public Works. Investigation on fire is ongoing but close to completion.

* Treasurer’s Office

Praught stated office still has not provided a report. She wants to know what’s going on with street lighting, process was approved 3 years ago but it's not moving forward. She said high risk alerts have been addressed by contractor. She believes everything was sent to Treasurer’s office 3 months ago but haven’t heard anything.

Mayor asked if City Engineer could offer any insight. Vose stated he could only answer questions on his end. They’ve received updated procurement pricing from National Grid. He had a conversation with Treasurer and he would like to attempt to include in Bond Issue. Gifford has everything compiled to send to Bond Attorney. Next step would be to sign agreements and pass a Resolution.

Praught asked if the Covid Relief Package could be addressed.

Mayor has asked the City Engineer to compile a list of items that we could use some of the money for.

Vose says there are stipulations on how money can be used. He would like to use some of the money to fund the Miller Street Bridge and Chase Street culvert repairs. In terms of water infrastructure, Vose feels that money should be used for valve replacement.

Praught asked if we’re making sure we aren’t bonding for things that we could be getting from relief package.

Vose said yes, splitting cost of projects between Bond and Relief Package.

* Department of Public Works

Spritzer asked how he was doing with sending out letters to homeowners who are neglecting their properties. Vose stated he has just started process. Park Supervisor is going to inventory delinquent properties and letters will be sent within next week or two.

* Police Department

Spritzer questioned the issue of vandalism in our parks and proposed ban on bicycles, skateboards, etc.in parks. Will the proposed Ordinance be a complete ban, dawn to dusk, include scooters and hover boards? Gilbo said this has been put out that the police department will not tolerate the vandalism with or without an Ordinance but kids aren’t responsible until they are 18, this comes down to parents teaching their kids to respect other people’s property. Looking in to putting cameras in band shell, more cameras on Main Street and at brush drop off site.

If Ordinance is passed, discretion would be used for children with their family enjoying the parks. Chief will put one together and present to Council at next meeting.

Question was asked online as to why police are mad about kids riding bikes. Chief stated they are riding down the middle of the road, diving in and out of traffic, jumping bikes off of buildings in to flowers, etc.

Chief explained more about removing handicap parking in front of the entrance to Knox Field. He understands the complaints but 2 parking spaces mean nothing if you have a graduation ceremony of say 500 people. Trying to create a flow of traffic for anyone with mobility issues can be dropped off. Spritzer asked about individuals that drive with mobility issues? We would need to block off the entire side of Perry Street. Conversations with City Clerk determined that for a community of roughly 8500 people, they have issued upwards of 1000 disability permits. There is no easy fix. Chief has suggested to Superintendent to add a bigger parking lot on the grounds. If this were to happen, it would be part of the Capital Project and would be a few years out.

LIAISONS’ REPORTS

* Craig Talarico, Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board
  + 60,000 volt power line blew up. There is currently no power to the plant. Generators are running the pumps. Cost to replace will be between 1.2 and 1.5 million dollars. Repairs are ongoing and should be complete within 3-5 weeks.
  + April 16th tour with Senator Tedisco, Assemblyman Smullen and representative from Elise Stefanik’s office to look in to funding for a sludge dryer.
* Bradley Hayner, Water Board
  + Water Board Meeting was rescheduled from original date of May 10th to tonight, May 17th, currently meeting.
* Kathi Iannotti, Planning Board
  + No Report
* Kathi Iannotti, Assessor’s Office
  + No Report

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

ORDINANCES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Hayner to Amend Chapter 11; Licenses & Miscellaneous Business Regulations |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Spritzer  Discussion: None  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Iannotti to Amend Chapter 20, Section 20-202; Designation of Through Streets; Intersection of FonClair & E. Clinton Street to become four-way stop. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Praught  Discussion: None  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Praught to Amend Chapter 20, Section 20-211.1; Handicap Parking Zones. Remove two handicap parking spaces on east side of roadway on South Perry Street, in front of the premises of the entrance to Knox Field. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Iannotti  Discussion: None  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 36, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Spritzer to authorize private sale for city owned properties at 111 N. Market & 126 W. Fulton Street. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Hayner  Discussion: None  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |
| 37, 2021 | Presented by Council Member at Large Talarico to advertise for a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 20, Section 20-202; Designation of Through Streets – add stop sign at north end of Linden Avenue and Pleasant Avenue. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Iannotti  Discussion: None  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |
| 38, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Hayner to authorize contract with Nathan Littauer Hospital for Health Officer Services. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Praught  Discussion: None  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |
| 39, 2021 | Presented by Council Member Praught to authorize an amended Agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes with Fulton Friendship House, Inc. |
|  | Seconded – Council Member Iannotti  Discussion: Mayor stated that boundary lines have been redrawn, which reduced the size. Offer is only $1850.00 less than previous agreement.  Ayes: 5  Noes: 0  Absent: 0  Abstain: 0 |
|  |  |

DISCUSSION – N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Memorial Day Parade – cancelled for this year
2. Memorial Day – City Offices closed on Monday, May 31st
3. Re-opening of City Hall anticipated for June. Waiting to see what State does.
   * Encourage continued use of lockbox for convenience of residents
   * Appointments necessary for obtaining a Marriage License from the City Clerk’s office
4. Johnstown Historical Society Dinner scheduled for Thursday, May 20th from 2-6 p.m. in Dunkin parking lot
5. Business Meeting Monday, June 21, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
6. Praught announced that effective May 31st she will be resigning as Ward 3 Council Member as she has relocated from Ward 3. She is still living in the City and still running for Mayor. Mayor stated anyone living in Ward 3 interested in that seat should send letters of interest to the attention of the Mayor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:51 p.m.

Council Member Iannotti

Seconded – Council Member Hayner

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk