

Minutes

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Monday, October 23, 2023
7:30 P.M.
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

Prior to the work session, Councilwoman Ecklund led the budget proceedings. The Police and Fire departments presented their 2024 budget requests to the City Council for review and consideration.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Dolce, Councilman Sheldon, Councilwoman Brackman, Councilwoman Carrubba, Councilman Reynolds, Councilman Faulkner, Councilman Russell, Councilwoman Ecklund, Councilman Daversa

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others Present: Mayor Sundquist, City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Williams, Corporation Counsel Elliot Raimondo, Deputy Comptroller Carol Malek, Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Coon, Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Timothy Jackson, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Zach Altschuler

Council President Dolce called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Opportunities for public to address the council

Melissa Paterniti of 342 Buffalo Street, appeared before the City Council to ask what the status of the property located at 103 Willard Street is. Will it be demolished? She also expressed her concern that the leaves are once again covering the street signage.

Finance Committee

1. WHEREAS, a donation was made by Gebbie Foundation, Community Foundation, Sheldon Foundation, and Jamestown Renaissance Corporation of fifty-five trash receptacles to be designated for use throughout the downtown area in the City of Jamestown and

RESOLVED, that the City of Jamestown hereby accepts the donation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Jamestown City Council hereby extends its appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the citizens of the City of Jamestown to Gebbie Foundation, Community Foundation, Sheldon Foundation, and Jamestown Renaissance Corporation for their generous donation.

Councilman Sheldon and Councilwoman Ecklund would like to find out the actual value of the trash receptacles. Mayor Sundquist noted they will find out and report back to the councilmembers.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

2. WHEREAS, a donation was made by Eastside Fellowship Club to be designated for use at the new Veterans Park in the City of Jamestown in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$10,000.00) and

RESOLVED, that the City of Jamestown agrees to the following stipulations with regard to this donation:

1. All monies will be held into a special fund;
2. Funds will only be used for Veterans Park, located between Harding Avenue and West Third Street;
3. Fund projects must be approved by the Jamestown Veterans Commission Chair, George Spitale, Mark Roetzer, Acting Director of Public Works, and Dan Stone, Jamestown Parks Department;
4. The donated funds will not go into the General Fund account.

RESOLVED, that the City of Jamestown hereby accepts the donation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Jamestown City Council hereby extends its appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the citizens of the City of Jamestown to Eastside Fellowship Club for their generous donation, and George Spitale for the continued push to improve our Veterans Park.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

3. RESOLVED, That Fire Investigators Shawn Shilling, Adam Akin, Ryan Saunders, and Detective Rex Goot be hereby authorized to attend the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control – Fire/Arson Investigation Seminar, as conducted by the New York State Academy of Fire Science, located at 600 College Avenue, Montour Falls, NY 14865 beginning Tuesday, November 14, 2023 and concluding Thursday, November 16, 2023, with fees and expenses paid pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Laws of the State of New York.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

4. RESOLVED that the Mayor and Mark Roetzer, Jr., P.E., Acting Director of Public Works and Acting Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, are authorized and directed to designate Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy Dollars and No Cents (\$6,870.00) from the New York State DOT CHIPS funding, for the purpose of purchasing two new tandem dump trucks for the Streets Department to replace truck numbers 65 and 64, from Fleet Maintenance, Inc., 67 Ransier Drive, West Seneca, NY 14224, subject to the approval of the Corporation Counsel as to form.

Councilwoman Ecklund asked for clarification on the wording of this resolution. Clerk/Treasurer Williams will rework the resolution to be approved at the voting session.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

5. WHEREAS, a minimum of six members of the Council concur that it is impractical to take bids for the purchase of seventeen (17) traffic signal controllers for the Traffic Division due to the fact there is one distributor in the area, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Mark Roetzer, Jr., P.E. Acting Director of Public Works and Acting Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, be and they hereby are authorized and directed to purchase for the Traffic Division, from New England Traffic Solutions, seventeen (17) traffic signal controllers for installation at seventeen (17) different city intersections, for a total not to exceed Seventy-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars and No Cents (\$79,662.00) subject to the approval of Corporation Counsel as to form.

It was noted that funding is to come from CHIPS.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

6. WHEREAS, on January 22, 2002 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200201C03 that effective immediately and until further notice instituted a hiring freeze for the City of Jamestown, and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2006 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200611B17 to extend the freeze to any change in employment from Part-Time to Full-Time status, and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that within the Department of Public Works an effort to effectively manage the city's day-to-day responsibilities in a cost-efficient manner, it is in the City of Jamestown's best interest to lift the hiring freeze for a certain position, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that effective immediately the Jamestown City Council hereby suspends the hiring freeze instituted by resolution number 200201C03 and authorized the filling of the following position due to the essential nature of the position.

Laborer position in the Department of Public Works

This position is vacant as the result of a separation.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

Housing Committee

Councilwoman Carrubba and Director of Development Crystal Surdyk provided an overview of the comprehensive demolition process. Handouts were provided to councilmembers detailing the status of properties as well as information on the new Tolemi software. The two trainee Code Enforcement Officers will complete their training in December and will be available to help combat the over 900 open cases.

There was much discussion regarding demolitions, ways to save on landfill costs, the number of properties the city owns on the demolition list, etc.

Councilman Russell noted that in 2022, only one home was built inside the City of Jamestown. He was brainstorming ways to incentivize individuals to purchase and build on the Country View Estate lots. He would like to find a way to reduce the cost of the lots to attract more interest. He would also like to reevaluate size stipulations and mandate that only individuals, not developers, could purchase and build within a three-year time period.

Public Safety Committee

Resolutions

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- This resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

The committee agreed to place the resolution on the October 23, 2023 voting session agenda.

Informational Report

2. Special Event Permit Application – Veterans Day Service to be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.m., on the corner of Third and Main Streets.

The committee approved of the Special Event as Presented.

3. Streetlight request for Parkdale Avenue.

The committee will discuss this request in more detail during the November 6, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Councilman Sheldon noted that there is a spot on Van Buren that is dark. He asked the City Clerk/Treasurer to send a request to the BPU for review and approval.

Public Works Committee

Resolutions

1. RESOLVED that the Mayor and Mark Roetzer, Jr., P.E., Acting Director of Public Works and Acting Director of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, are authorized and directed to designate Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy Dollars and No Cents (\$6,870.00) from the New York State DOT CHIPS funding, for the purpose of purchasing two new tandem dump trucks for the Streets Department to replace truck numbers 65 and 64, from Fleet Maintenance, Inc., 67 Ransier Drive, West Seneca, NY 14224, subject to the approval of the Corporation Counsel as to form.

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Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Sundquist informed councilmembers that the Jamestown Public School District is installing the bus patrol cameras on all city school busses. More information will be released once the installation is complete. There will be a month-long warning period before violation tickets are issued.

The Department of Development is in the final stretch of converting code enforcement software to Gov Pilot. Once the process is complete, there will be a presentation to councilmembers. DPW will be coming online with Gov Pilot shortly as well.

The Local Law for senior assessment has been drafted and is being reviewed by Mr. Raimondo. It will be reviewed at an upcoming work session.

There are several paper street abandonments forthcoming. A public hearing will occur before the October 30, 2023 voting session for discuss, with the vote to occur at the 7:30 p.m. voting session.

Executive Session

There were no items for Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. Williams
City Clerk/ Treasurer