



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
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Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Bruce King, Deputy Mayor
Richard Balles, Trustee Martin Meaney, Trustee John Walker, Trustee

Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
 Bruce King, Deputy Mayor
 John Walker, Trustee
 Martin Meaney, Trustee

Absent: Richard Balles, Trustee

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Jeff Jacobs, Attorney for the Village

Mayor Deemie explained that Trustee Balles had a family commitment out of town but he had sent a note stating that he is in support of all the resolutions tonight but he does have an issue with a fundraising event that the Mayor has planned at CFJ Park. He feels that event should be approved by the board.

The Board met with Patrick and Diana Starks regarding her pet chickens. Attorney Jacobs explained how the code current handles animals. There have been several requests recently for harboring chickens and that is currently not permitted in a residential district. Attorney Jacobs explained that residents could apply for a use variance and explained that 5 factors that must all be met which is a legal impossibility in this case. The other option could be a special permit but that had to be brought before the board because that would require a code change. Trustee Walker asked if the board can make an exception. Trustee Meaney asked if we could do this on a case by case basis. Attorney Jacobs stated no and explained that the board could set restrictions and parameters in the code. Mrs. Starks explained that most places will sell a minimum of 6 chickens. Mrs. Starks asked about a disparity in the code between sections 96 where it describes the setbacks and guidelines which they meet but in section 300 it says you need a minimum of 3 acres. Attorney Jacobs explained how we would need to change our code. Mrs. Starks stated that she has had her chickens for 2 years and explained her son's health issues. Mayor Deemie stated that he has been to their home and he did not even notice they had chickens until he went into the back yard. The board instructed Attorney Jacobs to move forward with drafting a change to the code. Trustee Walker stated that we need to make sure that the family can keep the chickens while this process is ongoing. Attorney Jacobs and Mayor Deemie stated that we will not go after them for the chickens right now. Mayor Deemie stated that the Village will reimburse the use variance fee Mrs. Stark paid.

The Board met with Chuck Shager from the City of Binghamton to discuss the JSTP resolution on the agenda. The JSTP is asking to take \$5 million from the sewer board to put it towards a grant for solids handling. The amount would be reimbursed by the end of the year. Trustee King asked where we are in the grant process. Mr. Shager explained the issues they faced and how the financing will work. They should be on schedule.



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The Board met with Grant Writer Dai Korba and reviewed the resolutions she has on the agenda and the projects she is working on.

Hiring the Zombie Clerk, Jovanny Mejia. This is a part time temporary position. The hourly rate will be \$12.50/hr. We will still have to pay for half of his social security and workers comp.

Solar Permitting Process – Ms. Korba needs this as a resolution to submit to the state and they will give us up to \$2,500.00 for use on energy efficiency projects.

Floral Avenue Parking Change – Ms. Korba reviewed the areas on Floral Avenue where on street parking will be eliminated. Trustee Meaney asked why we are not going all the way to the City of Binghamton line. Ms. Korba stated that Mr. Bennett thought it would be good to leave those spaces for the laundromat. Trustee Walker stated that he has concerns over the apartments on Floral Ave. near Lincoln Ave. and asked if we can move the no parking here to corner signs back a little bit on Lincoln Ave. Mayor Deemie stated that we can look at that.

Community Gardens – Ms. Korba explained that each proposed garden would have to come before the Village Board before approval. The Village would partner with VINES on these gardens. Attorney Jacobs asked if they have spoken to Code and Zoning regarding these gardens. Ms. Korba stated that she will ask Daria Golazeski about Zoning ordinances for this.

Blighted Properties – 38 St. Charles Street and 219 Main Street are being condemned. The Village already owns 38 St. Charles Street and Broome County owns 219 Main Street. Mayor Deemie stated that he has spoken to the County Executive and they are willing to sell 219 Main Street to the Village for one year of back taxes.

CFA Applications – Ms. Korba reviewed the projects she is working on. Trustee Meaney suggested that she speak to JH Robotics regarding the bollards by the Harry L. Johnson statue in the EJ Theme Park.

High Speed Wi-Fi – Ms. Korba is looking into high-speed wireless internet throughout downtown JC. Ms. Korba explained what the company is offering and will explore what else they could provide.

Micro – Grid – Ms. Korba is researching the idea of a micro-grid downtown and explained what it would entail. NYS does have grants for micro-grids.

Economic Development – Ms. Korba explained that she is meeting with Joe Moody from the Town of Union on economic development and is working with Diane Busko on an informational packet for businesses. She will also be meeting with a representative from the Broome County Realtor's Association on how they can better market the area. Trustee Meaney stated that we need to get the word out about what opportunities we have. Ms. Korba stated that she would like to hold an event similar to what the Heart of JC used to do with their Square Deal Days. Trustee Meaney asked about what kind of help is the county providing – they just took 2 buildings on Broad Street and are giving them to the University. He is concerned that the infrastructure can handle the development. Mayor Deemie stated that he has asked for a list of properties that the county owns but he has not received anything. Mayor Deemie thought that the buildings were on Corliss Avenue not Broad Street.

The Board met with Chief Jacyna to discuss the 2 upcoming vacancies in the department. The next school begins in July.



EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:25pm to discuss Fire Department Personnel and the potential hiring, firing and/or discipline of an individual or individuals was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 6:40pm was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:41pm to discuss Police Department Personnel and the potential hiring, firing and/or discipline of an individual or individuals was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee King. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 6:49pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee King. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

AGENDA - The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

Verizon Micro Cell Tower - Trustee Meaney questioned the rental rate. Attorney Jacobs explained that the rate is similar to other municipalities. The Board also discussed the length of the contract. Trustee Meaney and Trustee Walker stated that they are uncomfortable with 25 years. Attorney Jacobs explained that there will be renewal options and reviewed how it works with the tower on Brown Street. The Village will have the option to terminate the license after 10 years.

Local Law #5-2017 – Attorney Jacobs reviewed the changes to the Appearance Tickets section of the code. It is just clarifying who can issue the tickets.

Planning Board Vacancy – Mayor Deemie asked the Board to think of anyone that may be interested in serving on the Planning Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

A motion to enter into executive session at 7:02pm to discuss the Police Contract negotiations was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee King. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 7:15pm was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Meaney. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

OTHER ISSUES

Trustee Walker asked about the purchase of a new ladder truck. He stated that he has spoken to a lot of people including retired fire fighters and they all feel that we do not need a ladder truck. Mayor Deemie stated that we have not borrowed any funds yet and he does not believe that the Chief as ordered anything yet. The Chief is still waiting on to hear about the grant he applied for. Trustee Walker stated that he would still like an independent review of what the Village needs. He is doing research into other options. Trustee Meaney stated that not having a ladder truck will impact the ISO rating. Trustee Walker stated that he wants someone to come in and



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verify that. Trustee King asked if ISO would come in and do an appraisal. Trustee Meaney stated yes there is a group that could come in.

Trustee Meaney asked why the DPW was trimming and mowing a vacant lot on Weymouth Lane. Attorney Jacobs explained that if they were cited by Code to cut the lawn and it wasn't done then it would be done for them and they would be billed. Mayor Deemie said he would look into why DPW was doing it.

Trustee Meaney stated that he was approached by a resident on Jay Street whose neighbor's retaining wall is collapsing and no one is doing anything about it. This has been going on for many years. Code has been there and have stating that there isn't anything they can do. Attorney Jacobs explained that there may not be a specific section of the code that this can be cited under. He will reach out to Code Enforcement.

Trustee Meaney asked about the tent in the mall parking lot selling steaks. Attorney Jacobs stated that they are working on that. The code section needs to be revamped. Food is exempt and the tent was under a certain size.

Trustee King stated that he is waiting for a final copy of the contract from the Fire Department. He will make sure the Trustees have a copy of it.

Attorney Jacobs explained that Park Outdoor has been working with Attorney Sarah Campbell at Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP regarding the Village changing code allowing the installation of digital billboards on the Rt. 17 corridor. This would be for converting existing signs. The Board stated that they would be willing to consider it.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 7:29pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/db

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.