



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET • JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
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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, September 5, 2017 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Cheryl Sacco, Attorney for the Village

The Board met with Director of Public Services, Robert Bennett to discuss roads in the Village. Trustee Walker stated that we appropriated a lot of money this year for repaving and he hasn't seen much going on yet. He would like an update. Mr. Bennett explained that New York Avenue is complete except for street signs. The sewer separation project on Baldwin Street has been delayed almost 6 weeks due to issues with getting the proper permits with the railroad. They were just secured last week. The contractor hopes to be done with Baldwin between Corliss and the railroad tracks in the next 2 -3 weeks. That project is also holding up the completion of Faatz Alley and Arch Street. Due to the weather, the contractor doing the concrete work on Adams Avenue is behind. Mr. Bennett explained the extent of the work on Adams Avenue and stated that there is an issue with NYSEG on Adams and on Jay Street. He spoke with NYSEG and told them they had to be off both streets by October 1st or they will be responsible for milling out the top course and repave the length of their trenching from curb to curb. Trustee Walker asked about a bill for concrete work on Adams Avenue and asked if that was out to bid or under a blanket. Mr. Bennett explained that every 3 years the concrete work is put out to bid and explained the process. Trustee Walker asked the extent of the road work we are doing. Mr. Bennett explained that Division Street, Fairview Street and Oakdale Road will be mill and pave. Trustee Walker asked if there is a set plan for the money we borrowed this year. Mr. Bennett stated the 3 blocks of Adams Ave., the 3 blocks of Jay Street, Division Street, Fairview Street from Jay Street to Richard Street and the entire length of Oakdale Road from the Town line to Harry L. Drive. Trustee Walker expressed confusion over funding. Trustee Balles stated the remainder of New York Avenue from Arlington to Floral will be done next year. Trustee Walker asked how that is funded. Mr. Bennett stated we use our CHIPS money, sanitary funds and sewer funds. There is a list of 15 catch basins that we need to rebuild.

Mayor Deemie asked for Mr. Bennett's opinion on the request on the agenda from Vines to forgive the fee for installing and removing the water meter every year. Mr. Bennett explained what a "hot box" is which could be an option. Attorney Sacco stated that she and Mr. Bennett have spoken and they both feel it is a bad precedent to start and would be a gift of public funds. It doesn't cost anything to remove the meter, but to reinstall it there is a \$150 charge. Trustee Meaney asked that a letter be sent



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explaining the Board's decision and providing some options. Attorney Sacco and Mr. Bennett will write the letter.

Trustee Walker asked for clarification about the separation projects. Mr. Bennett explained there are 3 phases and reviewed the projects. The project at 135 – 139 Baldwin Street – the roof leaders and paving went into the sanitary sewer. They are putting in a separate storm line that we are going to connect to. Trustee Walker asked about the Town of Union paying for some of this. Mr. Bennett stated that is for the third phase. Trustee Walker asked for an update of the UHS project. Mr. Bennett stated that the design is complete. It could go out to bid the first week of January and start in April.

Trustee Meaney asked about the Tripp property on Reynolds Road and reviewed Mr. Tripp's concerns regarding the easement from the drainage ditch project. Mayor Deemie stated that he promised to replace the damaged trees if they don't survive. Mr. Bennett stated that it was constructed according to the design and Mr. Tripp's argument is that he didn't know it was going to be as steep as it is. Mr. Bennett explained that Mr. Tripp told him he wants a flat yard to the edge of the ditch like he had before. Trustee Meaney asked if it wouldn't be better to add dirt and grass seed rather than fight a lawsuit. Mr. Bennett stated that the project is closed out so it would had to be done with Village forces.

Trustee King asked about the salary for the new hire. Mr. Bennett explained the difference in the positions and it was discussed with the union president and vice president and civil service. It is the salary that was on the list. Trustee Meaney explained that the new is his daughter-in-law's uncle. Attorney Sacco stated that he could recuse himself. Mr. Bennett stated they did not know that when they interviewed him. He did have to pass a competitive exam.

The Board met with Alicia Beck and Will Andres from the JC Elks regarding their request to hold a dog show at CFJ Park. Mrs. Beck explained that all dogs are required to be leashed and show their rabies certificate. Mrs. Beck stated that they will make sure the area is cleaned up and explained the event.

The Board met with DCPW Codes & Ordinances, Daria Golazeski to discuss the proposed changes to the chicken and peddlers local laws. Ms. Golazeski explained the changes to the chicken law. Trustee Walker asked if, with these changes, would the people who came before them a few months ago be able to keep their chickens. Ms. Golazeski stated yes, if they meet the requirements. Ms. Golazeski explained the changes to the peddling and soliciting licenses. She also suggested that the Board consider raising the fees. Trustee Meaney asked about the transient businesses and setting up at places like the mall. Ms. Golazeski stated that if you are going door to door it is not a transient retail business. Ms. Golazeski explained that they told the mall that if they are going to continue to have people setting up in the parking lot they will need to go through site plan review. Ms. Golazeski reviewed some other municipalities' fees and will compile a list for the Board. Trustee Meaney asked about a tractor trailer parked on Reynolds Rd. Ms. Golazeski explained that they were sent a violation notice. Trustee Walker asked if the banners on the fence at Harry L. Drive and Rt. 201 are legal. Ms. Golazeski explained that she believes that they are not legal. It is a state fence and she cannot get the state to enforce it. She is working one an amendment to the sign code.

Trustee Walker asked if the changes to Riale Ave. were because of complaints. Mayor Deemie stated yes. Trustee Walker suggested that we should look at all of our streets for the no parking here to corner.



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The Board met with Police Chief Brent Dodge. Mayor Deemie asked if we are moving ahead with the K9 vehicle that we have the donations for. Chief Dodge stated that they want to order them at the same time.

Chief Dodge spoke to the Board about getting some extra help for Joe Murcko and explained some of the many duties that Joe has done and how much money he has saved the Village. This does not leave time for cleaning the building. It is hoped that the Village could hire a part time person to help with cleaning. Mayor Deemie stated that we will look at some budget lines. Trustee Meaney suggested community service people helping out with that. Chief Dodge explained that Joe would still need to oversee them. Trustee Meaney asked if we had someone who did that before. Chief Dodge stated then you would pay overtime for a police officer to do that. Trustee Meaney asked if Corinna Johnson could do that. Mayor Deemie stated that we have to look into if we have to hire her as a Village employee. Trustee Balles suggested getting quotes from a cleaning agency. Attorney Sacco stated you would have to pay prevailing wages to a cleaning agency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:35pm to discuss personnel in the Fire Department was made by Trustee King and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 7:04pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

Trustee Walker read from a prepared statement (on file) regarding items he spoke about in the past year but stated that they are not in the minutes. He stated that very few of the bill questions and even fewer of the answers have made it to the minutes. He requested that all questions raised by the Mayor and each Trustee as well as anyone who speaks at the work session appear in the minutes. Trustee Walker stated that he has made several statements regarding outside reviews of both the code department and the tower truck and he stated that neither got into the minutes. He stated that he requested on several occasions that we contact Binghamton University and state representatives to speak to us to help offset some of the costs associated with the Pharmacy School and he stated that nothing is in the minutes. Trustee Walker spoke of an e-mail that he sent to the Mayor and the Trustees regarding the questions regarding the bills that he stated is for the record. He read his e-mail of July 31, 2017 – “To All, I will reluctantly give my bill questions at this time, yet from here on out I will not submit the questions because it seems that there is an answer for every question that I have ever asked. I would ask that we have some dialogue on this subject in the coming work sessions. Thank you, Trustee Walker.”

Trustee Walker asked if the bills could be attached to the previous minutes. Trustee Walker stated that it is not so much the questions but the answers that he gets and he provided an example of a DPW bill question. There is an answer for every question that they ask. Mayor Deemie stated that typically you want an answer when you ask a question. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that she was brought up that if you are asked a question then you are expecting an answer and asked if she was wrong. Trustee Walker stated yes. Trustee Meaney stated that he did not get answer for a question he asked for tonight and he has been asking another question for months now and that still is dormant. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that the questions that do not have answers – Mr. Bennett was not in today and she did not hear back from the judge. She will have those answers. Trustee Meaney stated that Mr. Bennett has



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been in many days when he has asked the one question. Trustee Balles asked about 3 proposals for Veterans Park. Two of the proposals were for removing the tree and the concrete work and the other one was just concrete slab. Mayor Deemie stated that he thought the DPW was going to remove the tree. The slab is in and done. Trustee Walker asked what part of the budget did that come out of. Mayor Deemie explained that it was out of curbs and sidewalks and explained it was above and beyond what was bid for curbs and sidewalks in the Village. This was a separate job that needed to be done. It went for out quote. Trustee Walker asked where the funds came out of for the new blacktop and concrete at Northside Park. Mayor Deemie stated that he didn't know.

AGENDA - The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

Trustee Meaney asked about why no one knew about honoring former Mayor Lewis at Field Days. Mayor Deemie stated that it was through the Celebration Committee and he was asked not to tell anyone. Trustee Meaney stated that in the future they should be notified about items like this and there should be a PA system. Mayor Deemie explained that there was a PA system but it didn't work out as planned. There were technical difficulties. Trustee Meaney also stated that they were informed about the St. Charles Street demo but they were not told he would be driving the excavator.

Trustee Walker stated again that he wants to get the heads of Binghamton University and local state representatives in here to talk to us about getting some help for the project. We are putting in a ton of taxpayer money and we are not getting anything out of it from the state. Mayor Deemie asked what project. Trustee Walker stated Faatz Alley, Baldwin Street. Mayor Deemie stated that some of that money is coming from them. Some of these projects have been in the works for years. Trustee Walker stated that he ran into Senator Akshar and the Senator said we have to come and ask for help and no one has. Mayor Deemie stated that he has asked. Trustee King stated that he reached out to his office. Mayor Deemie stated that he met with him at his office. Trustee Meaney spoke to him about other issues. Trustee Walker asked about future BU projects in the Village and listed properties now owned by BU in the Village. Attorney Sacco suggested asking President Stenger at BU to come in and speak to the Board.

Trustee King spoke of the fire fighter's retro pay. For 2011- 2012 and 2012-2013 they agreed on and it is \$40,000 and \$43,000 for 2 years. For 2015-2016 we don't agree on. There are some issues with some new guys getting raises that shouldn't be. Trustee King explained the raises. We are still within what we budgeted for. There is an MOU that legal needs to review to clean up 3 issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 7:25pm.

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.