



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET, JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
www.villageofjc.com
Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Deputy Mayor Clark Giblin Trustee Martin Meaney
Trustee Benjamin Reynolds Trustee John Walker

**Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:00pm on
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 via Zoom Video Conference**

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Clark Giblin, Deputy Mayor
Martin Meaney, Trustee
John Walker, Trustee
Benjamin Reynolds, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cheryl Sacco, Legal Counsel
Cindy Kennerup, Clerk/Treasurer
Thomas Johnson, Deputy Clerk
Robert Bennett, Director of Public Services
Joshua Holland, Provisional Director of Public Services

Mayor Deemie called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., called roll call and confirmed there was a quorum for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter executive session at 5:01 pm regarding sales acquisition of real property was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Meaney. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit executive session at 5:41 pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

A motion to enter executive session at 5:43 pm for legal recess was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Giblin. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit executive session at 5:50 pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Giblin. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

A motion to enter executive session at 5:51 pm to discuss personnel in DPW and Water Departments was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Giblin. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit executive session at 6:14 pm was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Meaney. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

Mayor Deemie informed the Board UHS will be at the October 20, 2020 meeting. Stacey Duncan of The Agency will be there after UHS.

Trustee Walker questioned how long UHS is going to keep Baldwin Street closed. There is a road closed sign.

- Trustee Meaney added they have traffic signals by the Emergency Room entrance and down by what used to be the main entrance.
- Mayor Deemie answered Bob Bennett probably knows because they would have had to get a street permit.

Mayor Deemie stated we are starting to get information in on the phone system from everyone we talked to. We have added a couple people after that that were suggested to give us information with regards to upgrading the phone system.

Mayor Deemie and Attorney Sacco discussed the public hearing coming up through The Agency Spark Broome LLC on October 19, 2020 at 12:00 Noon.

- They are asking for an extension of its October 16th sales tax and use tax exemption agreement through and including October 16, 2021 due to COVID construction delays.
- The company has also requested an increase in its sales and use tax benefit in the amount of \$385,000 for a total exemption benefit in an amount not to exceed \$585,000.
 - An increase in exemption benefit is necessary due to COVID19 delays as well as changes in the project make up with a significant portion of the project shifting from office use to a more expensive bill for clinical use.

This is from the legal firm that works with The Agency. Mayor Deemie will send the information to anyone who would like to go the Zoom meeting regarding this.

- Trustee Meaney asked if it has to deal with the Sears Project. Mayor Deemie affirmed.
- Trustee Meaney said he is confused he thought it was going to be a wellness center not a clinic. He remembered the plans presented. He understands COVID delays, but when you are changing the plans of the project that is on you.
- Attorney Sacco said it is a public hearing the agency is holding. It is a public hearing notice and information will be presented. She suggested the Mayor Deemie copy Dee and Marina so they can see the mentioned changes.
- Trustee Giblin is confused also and would like to see the information. What does that have to do with us? They are asking for forgiveness of the Pilot?

- Mayor Deemie responded because the project is in Johnson City and they have a Pilot through us. They are asking for extensions of sales and use tax.
- Attorney Sacco said no, a benefit they get from working with the IDA some places are certain things, including sales and use tax. They have to use it within a certain time period so they are asking for an extension of time to use it and an increase.

Mayor Deemie added they don't have to pay the sales tax on stuff.

Trustee Walker asked if it is the Lourdes project. The Lourdes wellness project proposed last year, was a five-year plan. They didn't plan to open it for five years.

- Mayor Deemie answered he assumes it is since it says clinical use that it is the Lourdes end of the project. He further stated the best thing to do would be to attend the public hearing and ask questions. Typically, the public hearing would be at Village Hall, but they are holding it by Zoom.

Trustee Meaney would like the information.

Mayor Deemie confirmed he will send the information to the Board.

Mayor Deemie discussed the Sewer tour. He was the only one from Johnson City to attend. Binghamton had three people there. It was interesting. He saw it before construction and after construction.

Mayor Deemie, Attorney Sacco and the Village Trustees reviewed the Agenda and Resolutions.

Attorney Sacco advised a paragraph needs to be added to Resolution #2020-153. Resolved that this local law is sent to the Planning Board for their recommendation. It was accidentally omitted.

Mayor Deemie, Attorney Sacco and the Village Trustees discussed Resolution #2020-155:

- Mayor Deemie said they cited them for high grass, sent the citation out and never heard back. They went and did the grass cutting and the citation came back because they had the wrong address. So, the owners never got the original violation to take care of the issue.
- Attorney Sacco added they omitted the North. Code is acknowledging a mistake.
- Trustee Reynolds explained Code cited 227 N. Harrison on September 16th for not mowing his rear yard. We issued a work order on September 24th and the mailing address was incorrect in the system for the County and they forgot to put in the N. (North). The violation was returned, but not in time to prevent the work order from being issued.
- Trustee Meaney stated let the County pay for it.
- Trustee Giblin said the work was still done.
- Trustee Reynolds asked how can we expect someone to pay for something that they weren't told they had to pay for.
- Mayor Deemie said the work was done. He told Dee to hold off on sending the bill out until he discussed it with the Board. He added they weren't given their due diligence to correct the problem before it was taken care of.
- Attorney Sacco stated they didn't get a chance to correct. They did not get due process under the law.

Trustee Walker forgot to pay his taxes in June and apologized for that, but he got a notice on September 1st that the taxes were due by 11/2/2020 and then on the 15th he got the same notice saying they were due on 9/30/2020 and he called Cindy and talked with her and was told there was a mistake in the program and the program was wrong and they are due on 9/30/2020. That sends a really bad thing to the public when they get two notices that payment is due on different dates.

- Mayor Deemie stated it is also not good to not pay your taxes on time. He is aware of the issue and it has been taken care of and hopefully won't happen again. Just like the Facebook issue, it was a programming error and hopefully it won't happen again either.

Trustee Meaney brought up going through the bills and they all try to do their best. The sales tax revenue was down 6% and thinks that is awesome. That is a victory and we are going to make that up.

- Mayor Deemie added we are ok for now.

Trustee Meaney said he understands replacing personnel and paying all the bills, but suggested we ask the department heads to try and not spend so much out of the ancillary accounts unless they are an absolute necessity. If we can save a little now so when things get rough for us it'll make it easier for us. Then in a couple months if they need something we will be in a better position.

- Trustee Walker and Trustee Reynolds agreed with Trustee Meaney.

Trustee Meaney questioned the parking officer's duties. He notices the parking enforcement vehicle is all over the Village where there are no meters and where there is no signage that prohibits parking and where there are meters, they are flashing red. If the meters are flashing red, wouldn't his time be better spent taking care of the meters flashing red? Just about all the meters near the hospital were blinking red.

- Attorney Sacco asked if he chalks.
- Mayor Deemie responded David's job is to monitor parking throughout the Village. He repairs meters, replaces meters, collects the money from the meters. It is a civil service position, so whatever the civil service position calls for. He has seen him on his street also. He can tag them for parking on the sidewalk, parking too far away from the corners, driveways, etc. Mayor Deemie confirmed we do not chalk if there is no movement because he is a part-time employee. He covers the whole Village.

Trustee Reynolds suggested revisiting the electronic meters again when there is not so much going on. The electric system would tell him exactly where there are violations.

- Mayor Deemie asked the Board to re-look at the information we have.
- Trustee Reynolds said it seemed ParkMobile was the way to go, it just was not the same as what Binghamton has. He reminded the Board they had talked about leaving the meters so people still have the option to pay at the meter, but the ParkMobile would allow them to pay electronically also.
- Trustee Meaney inquired as to whether there is any funding through The Agency or CDBG that could be used to take the meters out and put a system in place.
 - Mayor Deemie answered there may be some sort of grant funding. CDBG funding is being pushed into other projects so it will be another couple years. It is something we can look into for cost and putting it into place.
 - Trustee Walker said the CDBG funding is over for the year.

Trustee Walker stated he traveled over by Jenison Park the other day and the sign says Jenison Park, Village of Johnson City adopted by the Rotary Club. Is that something we paid for or did the Rotary pay for that?

- Mayor Deemie explained the Rotary paid for and put the sign there about a year ago. It's a very nice sign. It is moveable, not permanent. They built the whole box they put it in. They also put raised flower beds around the pagoda with peonies in them too. There is a public survey out there right now. It is part of the GBF and part of the art scenario in Binghamton, Endicott and Johnson City.
- The JC Partners are looking at doing a similar type sign for CFJ Park because neither park has any signage to tell what park it is.
- Trustee Giblin added they planted the peonies and it looks very nice over there.

Trustee Meaney asked what is with all the large piles of stone and dirt on Broad Street? It has been there all summer. It looks like it is for a construction project. And the two houses north of that that have caution tape around them, are they coming down?

- Mayor Deemie responded it is Naima's property. He does not know why they are there. He is not sure if they are the ones the University bought or if they are the ones that Naima bought. It looks a lot better when they come down, but we are losing tax money on them.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/kc

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

10062020 ABSTRACT QUESTIONS

1. For my benefit, what is a Lug nut Flag? **Loose wheel nut indicators are** small pointed tags, usually made of fluorescent orange or yellow plastic, which are fixed to the lug nuts of the wheels of large vehicles. **The tag rotates with the nut, and if the nut becomes loose, the point of the tag shifts noticeably out of alignment with the other tags.**
2. Why does and employee need 12 pairs of safety goggles? **This was purchased by the refuse department and is a safety item that the Village is required to provide, not an individual employee purchase.**
3. Why are glasses considered under clothing allowance? **Glasses are an option considered under clothing allowance if an employee chooses, part of the AFSCME contract.**
4. Why are we buying a \$799.00 pressure washer for the water department? Did the old one break? **We needed to replace the broken pressure washer. We use this to clean mud and grime of work trucks and to keep the outside of buildings clean**
5. Why are we buying tools to put the roof on the high lift building? Are these tools going to use elsewhere after the roof is done? \$261.00 home depot. **The air compressor is for nailing shingles on the high lift building as well as the other tools. The water dept. is doing this to save the village money by not having to have it contracted out. We will be able to use the compressor as a back for other air tools when finished.**
6. Shouldn't part of the HVAC filters purchased under line A8760.4.412(maybe I read this wrong buy I don't see a budget line that reads A8760.4.019) anyway shouldn't the courts be included in this? How long will 32 cases of filters last? **No, it should not be A8760.4.412 – the A8760.4.019 is the FEMA Covid-19 line in the General fund (this line encompasses all General fund covid-19 expenses) this budget line was set-up to keep track of expenses that were purchased during the Covid-19 event. The backlog on these is long – these were ordered in April and received in September. This is to replenish the filters for the Police/court facility; these filters have to be changed frequently because of the virus.**
7. Is it normal to have to pay back taxes that have been reduced? \$2769.08 **Yes, unfortunately. This results from court ordered assessment reductions that often go back multiple years, as did this one for approximately 6 properties! These assessment reductions result in RPT tax refunds that are payable on demand per the court order.**
8. Could we please have a tally of what we have paid to Tre-Gen since the beginning of this year's budget. **\$118,191.23**

Please add these questions and answers to the work session agenda. Thank You

Respectfully

Trustee Walker

- 1) Why are we reimbursing \$24.71 for a woman's mini wallet in the water department? **The wallet will be reimbursed by the employee as it was not an acceptable clothing allowance purchase.**
- 2) Did we need to buy an air compressor for the water department? Could we have rented one for less money? **The air compressor is for nailing shingles on the high lift building as well as the other tools. The water dept. is doing to save the village money by not having to have it contracted out. We will be able to use the compressor as a back for other air tools when finished.**
- 3) Why is the Broome Bituminous bill broken down into 2 payments of \$16,003.32 and \$28,399.30 for the same invoice? **It is because it is split between two different budget lines Street Chips (A5110.2.010) and Street A5110.2.011 (prior yr Bonding). When submitting for reimbursement – it is cleaner if it has its own voucher with break-out.**
- 4) Why are paying Julys mobile data in October, in the police department? **Per Police Dept - Because that is when we received the invoice.**
- 5) On the Coughlin and Gerhart bill, what is 394 Main Street for and what is the notice of claim at Floral Park for? **Litigation items can be discussed in executive session.**
- 6) Why are we paying Auto Plus bills from 2018 and 2019 in 2020, in the fire department? -Fire Secretary response - **I have called them on multiple times and emailed. I even went to the local store myself trying to get the invoices. They no longer would supply them to me locally. I was finally able to contact someone last week that's new and she had them faxed to me with in minutes.**

I respectfully request that these questions and comments are attached to the minutes of the work session.

Thank you,
Trustee Meaney