



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

Village Board

Martin Meaney, Mayor
Deputy Mayor Clark Giblin

Trustee John Walker Trustee Adam Brown Trustee Mary Jacyna

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Johnson City Village Board held at Village Hall, 1st Floor
Training Room, 243 Main Street, Johnson City, NY on Tuesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Martin Meaney, Mayor
 Clark Giblin, Deputy Mayor
 Adam Brown, Trustee
 Mary Jacyna, Trustee
 John Walker, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cheryl Sacco, Legal Counsel
 Brittany Perkins, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Cindy Kennerup, Assistant Village Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Martin Meaney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mayor Meaney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Martin Meaney noted the fire exits and took roll call.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Meaney opened the public hearing to the attendees.

Chris Waters, *Adams Ave* – Raise for Mayor and Trustees. Why was Facebook post taken down?

Mayor Meaney responded the Facebook page is informational and when people put negative comments, we have the right to take it down. The salaries were presented to the Board and they all agreed.

Corina Johnson, *Cook St* – Increase in raises for Mayor and Trustees.

John Pritchard, *Elizabeth St* – Raises for Mayor and Trustees.

Liz Johnson, *Myrtle Ave* – 100% raise for Mayor and Trustees doesn't look good when you just got in office.

Mayor Meaney asked Ms. Johnson if she knows what the Mayor does? Mayor Meaney explained what he has done since he has gotten into office.

Tom Lamphere, *Riverside Dr* – Believes Mayor and Trustees deserve a raise, but 100% is not fiscally responsible and to taxpayers it's not fair. Compared to Village of Endicott, 100% v. over a period of time. Best thing that has happened to Johnson City is BU. Incremental increase would be much more palatable.

Patty Nalepa, *Elizabeth St* – Understands they need a raise, but thinks it should go to the people in the Village to vote on salaries.

Terry Davis, *Placek Dr* – Mayor and Trustees deserve the 100% raise. Village is going in the right direction.

Joyce Pushner – Schedule for road repair.

Mayor Meaney told her to call the Department of Public Works for a schedule. Mayor Meaney explained cost of paving streets, CBDG funding for entitlement communities, ARPA money, and DRI Grant.

Michele Casale, *Penna Rd* – Thanked the Mayor for everything he does. Thinks the Mayor and Trustees deserve a raise. 100% is unreasonable.

Corina Johnson, *Cook St* – Agrees there should be incremental raise. 100% is alarming.

Patty Nalepa, *Elizabeth St* – 13 vacant spots in Village. She asked what the Mayor is doing to bring businesses into the Village. What are we doing to create more revenue and jobs for the Village? People have to drive certain streets so they don't damage their cars.

Mayor Meaney said they have walked Main Street with developers and there is a lot of interest in bringing a business to Johnson City.

Chris Waters, *Adams Ave* – Communication needs improvement.

Tom Lamphere, *Riverside Dr* – Are there salary increases in the other departments?

Liz Johnson, *Myrtle Ave* – Why did we need a new DPW building?

Mayor explained the current DPW facility was flooded twice and it will be relocating to the old Country Valley Industry building.

Mayor Meaney closed the public hearing.

Trustee Jacyna said she is contemplating the comments and they will take them into consideration.

Trustee Brown thanked the attendees for coming and for giving them their opinions and thoughts. Confirmed the Board goes all out for Johnson City all the time. The Board is at a point that they are starting to revitalize JC, restoring it so people are proud to come to JC. There is new businesses, a new mall. This government does a lot for the community. The raise is deserved, but there is a way to satisfy on both sides, they need to find a raise that would work for both sides.

Trustee Walker explained the Boards he has been on the amount of time the Board spends at meetings and on the budget and the few people that come to see what the budget process is and see what the Mayor and the Trustees do.

Deputy Mayor Giblin revitalization is starting to come to fruition. It has been a five-year process. There have been some instrumental leaps. The revitalization is happening and the Board is all excited about it. He appreciates everyone coming. He doesn't know where he stands on the raises, he thinks they are justified and doesn't know what makes sense. He understands the 100% is a bad taste. They will take everything into consideration and go forward.

Mayor Meaney thanked everyone for coming and spoke on behalf of the Board that is nice to see faces in the seats. It lets the Board know that they are in tune with their Village. This is our Village and it is nice to see people come out, it is nice to hear people's thoughts and opinions. He asked people to continue to come. The Trustees haven't had a raise since 2007 and the Mayor's last raise was in 2000. That's a \$32,000 increase in the budget which equates to 0.29%. \$12,000 in the year 2000 is worth \$19,771 now. The Mayor brought it to the Board and they discussed whether they should do it all at once or in increments. They decided to move forward with it all at once. Town Councilman makes \$10,000 per year and the Town Supervisor makes \$20,000. Endicott is \$6,000 and the Mayor is \$12,500. Binghamton's Town Councilman is \$10,590 and the last time they raised their salaries they put an escalator in. Broome County Legislators make \$13,000 plus health insurance. None of us came in to make money. He quit a job he had to dedicate his time for this. He worked at Giblin's for 19 years. He retired from the Fire Department. We vote for the budget as a whole, not for the pay raises.

Mayor Meaney asked if anyone looked at the budget before they came to the meeting. Taxes are going up considerably because we lost \$3 million in revenue from the reassessment of the mall, we lost \$3 million in assessed value and yet nobody spoke to that. That is a big hit that we have to make up. This budget comes in at a really good number. Any pay raise that comes does not come into effect until the 1st. We should be upset with the reassessment, with the not for profits, not having good ways to generate revenue. Those are the things that the Board is upset about. They need help. At least have the not for profits pay a fee for service. It would be \$5 million in tax revenue. The state laws are archaic, we need to work at changing them. We need the residents help to contact our senator and assemblyperson and ask for legislation to allow this Village to have other ways to generate revenue than property taxes to allow the Village to raise revenue like a small city does. The City of Binghamton can preempt their sales tax revenue, Johnson City cannot. The City of Binghamton can have a hotel/motel tax, Johnson City can't. We provide a lot of the same services the City does, but we are limited on how we can generate revenue. Those are things we are going to be working for. We need to change the laws to make it better for us.

Mayor Meaney said they will take their concerns and phone calls to heart and they are here to do what is right for our Village.

Mayor Meaney explained the Code and Planning Departments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Brittany Perkins
Village Clerk/Treasurer

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