

**ORDER:**

Councilwoman Peters Called the meeting to order at 06:00 pm

**ROLL CALL:**

**Robin Mozley**  
**Chuck Highlands**  
**Nancy Peters**  
**Ron Smith (Absent with Cause)**  
**Curtis Antoniak (Absent with Cause)**

**ALSO, PRESENT:**

**City Clerk:** *Nathan Benjamin Jay Bish*  
**Chief Fiscal Officer:** *Ethan Keedy*  
**City Solicitor:** *Timothy Witt*  
**Chief of Police:** *Donald Johnston Jr.*  
**City Treasurer:** *Jacob Milliron*  
**Code Enforcement:** *Bill Whetzel*  
**City Engineer:** *Edward Antonacci*  
**City Foreman:** *Rich Ault*  
**Fire Chief:** *William Frye*

**ABSENT WITH CAUSE**

**Controller:** *Sheila Galando*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Please remain standing for a moment of reflection for the men and women in the armed services.

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Dawn Sherwood of the First Presbyterian Church of Jeannette

**EXCEPTIONS TO OPEN MEETINGS (65 Pa.C.S.A. § 707):**

September 7, 2021 12:30 PM and 3:30 PM for personnel issues

**AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Highlands to accept the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Peters and seconded by Mozley to accept the meeting minutes from the August 12, 2021 council meeting as presented

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**CITIZENS:**

Cornerstone Ministries Certificate of Appreciation was presented

**Carole Babish:** Head of the JBA and Chair of JRA, business leader her entire career, understand what business is all about. Is disappointed with how the Council treats the businesses in Jeannette. While hindsight is 20/20 a member of Council or city government could have attended a JBA meeting and explained the city's position on the \$ 50 registration fee. Council could have gotten JBA feedback regarding the fee and its eventual cost but didn't. Also is upset regarding the \$500 fee for use of the Amphitheater. Every dollar that is paid to the city is one less dollar that can be used for the children and the events.

**CITIZENS: Continued**

**Michelle Langdon:** Is a small business owner and member of the JBA. There was a mix-up with the garbage pick up this week. Robin Mozley took responsibility and provided a solution to the issue and that is what is needed from our Council. Mr. Ault interjected and took responsibility for the mistake as did Mr. Bish. The business privilege tax has been on the books for a very long time but there was no law to enforce the collection of the take. “Turnkey” taxes were brought in either in 2015 or 2016 to collect the business privilege tax and delinquent taxes. This organization provided a “narrative” to Council regarding the issues in collecting the tax but lost patience so they terminated the agreement. Last year the city adopted an ordinance that had the required provisions that “turnkey” was suggesting, to aid in the collection of the tax. With all that being said, the creation of a business registration fee that is too high is not the answer to the city’s issues. Suggests raising the business privilege tax to be more equitable for the businesses of Jeannette.

**Sharon Bush:** Inquired if the communications will be read at the meeting. Mr. Bish interjected and explained that copies of the communications are available for all to read but would not read the letters word for word due to the amount of time that would take. The reason for the inquiry was in regards to the letter from Janis Mangan is from the sacred heart rosary society asking for use of the amphitheater for a rosary rally for October 16<sup>th</sup>. Is supportive of the request and hopes Council approves it.

**Kathy Tanyer:** In conjunction with Forward Cities, they surveyed the businesses in Jeannette 45 percent of Jeannette businesses are sole proprietorships who do not make more than \$30,000.00 annually. \$50 may not mean a lot to some people but it does to the businesses. New assessments indicate that the City of Jeannette has a 22% poverty rate which is much higher than the state poverty rate of 12%. That would suggest about 2,000 people live in poverty in Jeannette. Please keep these constituents in mind when you vote for new fees. Sometimes transparency is lacking from the city and it is disappointing when it happens. Spoke with Mr. Bish weeks ago regarding communications as it seemed like decisions were being made at the work sessions, specifically the decision regarding Legion’s request to close the alleyway. Council is accountable to the voters, please remember that.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Letter from First Baptist Church  
Thank you letter from Historical Society  
Request from Historical Society  
Letter from Janis Mangan  
Leonard Galante Resignation Letter  
Letter from The D7 Community Development Organization

**OFFICERS REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Highlands to accept the officer’s reports as presented.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**BILLS:**

A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to pay the bills for the month.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Mrs. Mozley:** Gave the sanitation report, apologized for the confusion regarding the garbage pickup. Chief Fry gave the Fire Department report, Bill Whetzel gave the Code enforcement report.

**Mr. Highlands:** Rain and flooding issues present in the Fire Department as well as a rook issue. Estimates will need to be obtained.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Continued**

**Mrs. Peters:** CFO Keedy gave the finance report, there will be budget meetings this year that will be open to the public. Explained the city's position on the business registration fee and the comparison to other municipalities. Jake Milliron gave the Treasurer's Report things are going well so far.

**Mr. Smith:** absent with cause no report at this time.

**Mr. Antoniak:** Absent with cause. Mr. Bish gave the CDBG monthly report. Chief Johnston gave the monthly Police Report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Peters to accept the resignation of Leonard Galante from the Zoning Hearing Board effective August 26, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters

(0) NAY: None

Motion Carried

2. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to set the date of the Halloween Parade as October 28, 2021 beginning at 7pm and to set the date for Jeannette Trick or Treat as October 30, 2021 from 6 until 8 pm.

Roll Call Vote

(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters

(0) NAY: None

Motion Carried

3. A motion was made by Peters and seconded by Mozley to approve the CPIP Application 21-06 subject to review and approval by the City Solicitor and the submittal of all required documents.

Roll Call Vote

(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters

(0) NAY: None

Motion Carried

4. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Highlands to direct the Chief Fiscal Officer and Chief of Police to apply for the School Resource Officer, municipality Police Department Grant and to submit all relevant documents.

Roll Call Vote

(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters

(0) NAY: None

Motion Carried

5. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Peters to direct the Chief Fiscal Officer to apply for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Grant and to submit all relevant documents.

Roll Call Vote

(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters

(0) NAY: None

Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS: Continued**

6. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Peters to direct the Chief Fiscal Officer to apply for the Innovative Policing Innovative Grant and to submit all relevant documents.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

7. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to purchase a laptop for the Health Officer at a cost of no more than \$1,000.00 to be paid from the Capital Reserve.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

8. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Highlands to direct the Chief Fiscal Officer to apply for the FEMA / PEMA Grant and to submit all relevant documents.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

9. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Peters to conduct the final reading and adopt of **Ordinance Number 21-05**

***AN ORDINANCE OF JEANNETTE CITY, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELECTING TO AMEND ITS NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW; AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW AS AMENDED AND AS APPLICABLE TO MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES.***

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

10. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Highlands to approve the D7 Community Development Organization's requested use of the West Jeannette Ballfield on Saturday, October 30th, 2021 from 1 pm to 9 pm for a Halloween Event subject to approval by the City Solicitor, Fire Chief, and Chief of Police.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS: Continued**

- 11.** A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to approve the road closure request made by the First Baptist Church of Jeannette for September 30, 2021 from 5 pm until 7 pm subject to approval by the Fire Chief and Chief of Police.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

- 12.** A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to approve the road closure request from the Jeannette Area Historical Society for Thursday September 16, 2021 from 6pm until 9pm for the John Howard Memorial Service subject to review by the Fire chief and Chief of Police.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

- 13.** A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to approve the Peoples Gas Contract subject to review and approval by the City Solicitor.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

- 14.** A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Highlands to approve the ADA ramp for Sobel's Brewery at 500 Clay Ave Jeannette PA 15644 subject to approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

- 15.** A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to advertise for sale the former K9 Vehicle and surplus police vehicle equipment on Municibid.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

- 16.** A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to pay Antonacci Design Associates in the amount of \$ 1,075.00 for work on the 2020 CDBG Side Walk Project to be paid from the CDBG Fund.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS: Continued**

17. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to pay Antonacci Design Associates in the amount of \$ 905.00 for work on the Mapleton Waterline Grant to be paid from the Capital Reserve.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

18. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to pay Antonacci Design Associates in the amount of \$ 547.50 for work on the TASA Grant to be paid from the Capital Reserve.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

19. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to pay Antonacci Design Associates in the amount of \$ 9,452.50 for work on the Brush Creek Tree and Sediment removal Project to be paid from the Capital Reserve.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

20. A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to pay Antonacci Design Associates in the amount of \$ 865.00 for work on the Phase 2 Flood Remediation Project to be paid from the Capital Reserve.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

21. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Peters to pay KGD Contracting LLC \$ 14,476.23 for work on the 2020 CDGB Sidewalk Project to be paid from the CDBG Fund.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

22. A motion was made by Highlands and seconded by Mozley to pay Butz Masonry Excavation \$ 49,864.13 for work on the Brush Creek Tree and Sediment Removal Project to be paid from the Capital Reserve.

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Mozley, Highlands, Peters  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Mozley and seconded by Peters to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM

Roll Call Vote  
(3) YEA: Peters, Mozley, Highlands  
(0) NAY: None  
Motion Carried

**Nathan Benjamin Jay Bish**  
CITY CLERK