

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Janakovic called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m.

Reverend King offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Janakovic noted for the record that Executive Sessions were held on February 21, 2021, February 22, 2021, and at 5:00 p.m. today, March 10, 2021. A public hearing was held at 5:45 p.m. prior to the commencement of this meeting.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (7).

John Trant, Interim City Manager; Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Bruce Graham, Gibson-Thomas Engineering; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Deborah Grass, Act 47 Coordinator (via video); Chad Miller, Interim Police Chief; and Robert Statler, Fire Chief, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of January 13, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2021 and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (7).

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, offered comments regarding the resolution to approve and authorize additional terms for payment to Mr. Trant. He stated there have been nine leaders in ten years and that it's a problem that Council needs to address. He read the resolution regarding the matter into the record.

Mr. DeBartola inquired why someone to fill the City Manager position could not be found. He was against changing the City residency requirement for the position.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER:

John Trant, Jr., Interim City Manager, and Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, provided a presentation with regard to the budgeted funds for the 2021 paving project now that the City has a capital plan that is funded. Street paving throughout the City unrelated to the sewer project was also discussed.

Mr. Campagna noted this is the first time since the early 2000s that the City has actually had a capital plan to provide paving throughout the City. He stated the following list is based on road conditions, public use, and those left over from the sewer project, which include Wesley Alley, which is an alley heavily used behind the Visitation Catholic Church; 900 Place and the alley adjacent to that; a portion of Cleveland Street; Frederick Street to Park Avenue; and Von Lunen Road in the Moxham area.

Mr. Campagna stated bids would go out for construction in late summer, early fall. He explained that Franklin Street, Roosevelt Boulevard, Broad Street are state-owned roads and the City is not responsible for paving them. Route 403 from Ferndale to the 1st Summit Arena (War Memorial) and Franklin Street in front of Conemaugh are also state owned.

Mr. Trant referred Council members to a letter from PennDOT for further discussion. He noted the City would still be investing through the sewer fund regarding paving in the Central Business District and the projects underway in Old Conemaugh and Fairfield Avenue. Mr. Trant explained that the DEP letter is the absolute final in the sewer sale process and alleviates the City from any liability associated with the sewer permits. He further explained that the full permit transfer to the GJWA could not happen until DEP approved the updated 537 Plan which has now been completed.

Mr. Campagna discussed the ADA compliance for the downtown area for which the City's portion is in the amount of \$1.7 million for both the paving and ADA compliance.

MAYOR:

Mayor Frank Janakovic noted his attendance at the recent Vision Together 2025 board meeting where the transfer of funds to the blacksmith project was discussed. He stated the blacksmith shop would be the national headquarters and would create approximately 80 jobs.

He noted his attendance at the recent oath of office for four full-time officers and one part-time fireman.

Mayor Janakovic reported a meeting with Mr. Polster and Mr. Lazari for discussion of a creating a committee for artwork and City murals. He noted that students from Johnstown High School painted the wall on Roosevelt Boulevard and are interested in painting a 30-foot mural in that area.

The Mayor recently attended the Jari Growth Fund board meeting.

He noted his attendance at a Zoom meeting with local legislators, Mr. Dubnansky and Deputy Secretary Granger to discuss funding for the train station and the Main Street project.

CITY SOLICITOR

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, reiterated that a public hearing was held at 5:45 p.m. this evening immediately prior to the commencement of this meeting with regard to Bill Nos. 1 and 2 of 2021. She stated the hearing was duly advertised and the two bills were made available for public inspection so that Council could proceed with final adoption of those ordinances this evening.

CITY ENGINEER

Bruce Graham, Gibson-Thomas Engineering, reported the acceptance letter from PA DEP removes the liability from the City and onto the GJWA.

He is working with Mr. Campagna with regard to the street paving. Mapping the ramps had been completed with regard to the ADA ramps for the Central Business District. Mr. Graham noted that PennDOT requires an individual survey and design work for each ramp. He noted that additionally, a general bill practice is being done for each of the municipal ramps.

Mayor Janakovic suggested the ADA ramps be done at the same time as the paving. Mr. Graham noted those should happen almost simultaneously.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mr. Capriotti had no report.

Mr. Britt had no report.

Mr. Arnone as Council's representative to the Housing Authority, provided an update on statistic information related to the population of the public housing communities located in the City of Johnstown. He noted that as of February 28, 2021, the total population of public housing communities was 2,528. Section Eight voucher holders in the City totaled 840, for a total of 3,368, and assisting 48 percent of people living in poverty.

He noted that on March 1, 2021, the Housing Authority opened its waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section Eight) and there is no scheduled closing at this time.

Mr. Arnone noted that Mike Alberts, who has been with the JHA for over 15 years, is serving as Acting Executive Director of the JHA. Mr. Arnone stated he is very knowledgeable about everything and the Board has every confidence in his ability to do the job.

Mr. Arnone, as a representative of the GJWA, stated, with the last major sewer project beginning in the spring in the Central Business District, the sewer collection system was showing signs of significant improvements. The heavy rain events in February and beginning of March did not cause any reported sewage backups, but the system did experience its first overflow in the West End of the City.

PennDOT's project from Valley Pike to Southmont Boulevard has commenced. The gas and water lines are simultaneously being replaced and work on the water lines are expected to be completed by mid-April with the remainder of the project being completed by the end of the construction season.

Mr. Vitovich reported that Public Works has installed new flooring on the second floor of City Hall. He suggested that with the milder than normal past winter the City may have saved some money with regard to plowing and salting of streets and sidewalks.

He stated potholes were being cold patched, and the sweepers were out cleaning the streets. He commended Mr. Campagna and staff for their hard work.

Mr. Campagna reported the steps are being replaced, the concrete was being repointed on the façade, and the roof would be replaced at City Hall. He further reported that the HVAC system had been completely restored at the Public Safety Building.

Mrs. Mock had no report but stated there would be discussion regarding the rink at Roxbury Park later on in the meeting.

Reverend King had no report.

1. Planning Commission Minutes dated February 3 and February 11, 2021.
2. The February 15, 2021 letter from the Civil Service Board.
3. The February 25, 2021 letter from Daniel Kennedy of Amphype Signs.

PETITIONS:

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ:

BILL NO. 1 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5306 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5307 ADOPTED JANUARY 13, 2021 FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUS OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, TO REVISE THE PAY RATE OF THE CODES MANAGER/BCO POSITION.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone (7).
Nays: None (0).

BILL NO. 2 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 5305 PASSED FINALLY ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AS THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ANNUAL BUDGET TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL FUND AND TO ADJUST THE BEGINNING BALANCE FOR THE CAPITAL FUND TO REFLECT ACTUAL BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2020, FOLLOWING PUBLIC NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (7).
Nays: None (0).

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READ:

BILL NO. 3 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXEMPTIONS, DEDUCTIONS, ABATEMENTS AND CREDITS FOR REAL PROPERTY, EARNED INCOME TAX, NET PROFITS, MERCANTILE AND BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAXES WITHIN A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREA IN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN DESIGNATED AS A PROPOSED KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY ZONE (KOZ) IN ORDER TO FOSTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, STIMULATE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS AND PREVENT PHYSICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DETERIORATION WITHIN AREAS OF CAMBRIA COUNTY, CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT JURISDICTION, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, UPON CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Dubnansky commented the list of KOZ designations was placed in Council packets for review. There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (7).
Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10408

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL TERMS FOR PAYMENT TO JOHN K. TRANT, JR., D/B/A STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR INTERIM CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR,

FINANCE DIRECTOR AND/THEIR DESIGNEES TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS
NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SAME.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Ms. Benjamin explained this resolution was introduced for purposes of authorizing additional payment for hours already incurred previously that were over and above the limits imposed by Mr. Trant's contract in relation to special projects that the City has encountered over the past year. It's approving payment for work already incurred as verified by the submission of invoices and accounting.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,
Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic (7)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10409

A RESOLUTION OF THE CIT COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM CITY
MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY
TO EFFECTUATE A LEASE AND LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH
JOHNSTOWN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF
PROVIDING CONCESSIONS AT SARGENT'S STADIUM AND ROXBURY
PARK.

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti.

Mr. Dubnansky explained concession services are controlled by the Prospect League baseball team from May 1 until the middle of August every year for the next five years. This would fill the gap for the remainder of the year from football season to early spring season at the stadium and hopefully at Roxbury Park as well.

He noted an RFP was released for this service back on February 11, 2021, and the only proposal received was from the Johnstown Family Entertainment. Multiple vendors are being considered for both locations.

Mr. Dubnansky further explained that the City had received a grant previously in the amount of \$55,000 for the installation of 20 picnic tables, cement platform behind home plate, a large canvas tarp to provide shade over the 800-plus seats behind home plate and the expansion of the baseball press box. The Mill Rats

official start date is May 1, 2021, with the first game being scheduled for May 27, 2021. Collegiate leagues will also be able to utilize both locations.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti,
Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King (7)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10410

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE LOAN
REVIEW COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERIM CITY
MANAGER.

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Trant referred Council to a reappointment letter in their packets naming Katie Kinka to fill the vacant position.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (7)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10411

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AMENDMENT TO
THE FY 2019 CDBG PROGRAM TO REFLECT ALLOCATION OF CDBG-
CV ROUND 3 CARES ACT FUNDS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Dubnansky explained the City received \$149,428 of additional CARES Act funding last year which will come through the CDBG program. Those funds will be added to the million dollar Small Business Relief Program.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (7)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10412

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM CITY
MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY
TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL OF AND EFFECTUATE AN AGREEMENT
WITH LAUREL ASPHALT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESURFACING THE
HOCKEY RINK LOCATED IN ROXBURY PARK.

Mr. Britt made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Dubnansky applauded Mrs. Mock and Reverend King on their fundraising efforts
for this hockey rink raising a little over \$80,000-plus. He noted an RFP was
released on February 11 with one proposal well under budget received from
Laurel Asphalt.

Mrs. Mock noted that a couple formerly from Johnstown and now living in
Greensburg are donating funds for a scoreboard.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King,
Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone (7)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10413

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM CITY
MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND TAKE ANY/ACTIONS NECESSARY TO
EFFECTUATE AN AGREEMENT WITH HOPE FOR JOHNSTOWN, INC.
FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURE
VIOLENCE PROGRAM WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt.

Mr. Dubnansky explained Hope for Johnstown was started at Penn Highlands College
in 2018 which was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted the

City did receive phase two funding back in the fall of 2019 to pay for this program, which was ready to get underway.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (7)

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10414

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL OF AND EFFECTUATE AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHOLAR SIGNS, LLC (SCHOLAR) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING AND INSTALLING A VIDEO SCOREBOARD AND CONTROL SYSTEM WITHIN SARGENT'S STADIUM, CONTINGENT UPON SOLICITOR REVIEW OF ANY/ALL AGREEMENT TO BE ENTERED BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

Mr. Britt made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

There was further discussion regarding the bids ranging from \$70,000 to \$90,000 and scoreboard location. Mr. Dubnansky noted March 22, 2021, is the due date for proposals for the artificial turf. Lighting would be discussed at the April meeting.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (7)

Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

MOTION

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to reappoint James White to the City Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti,
Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King (7)
Nays: None (0).

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONAGENDA ITEMS

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, asked how the City would be spending the \$30 million stimulus contribution from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 noting that City Council "hasn't been good managers of money in the past".

He suggested the money be spent on helping Johnstown to revitalize itself by doing "what really needs to be done to make Johnstown a better place" by creating jobs and helping the residents of the community. Mr. DeBartola suggested a stimulus check be given to the tax paying people who have been supporting the City all these years.

Bruce Newkirk, 527 Vine Street, Johnstown, Chairman, Johnstown Civil Service Board, noted the Board is seeking an alternate to its Board and asked Council to consider Sue Bopp for the position. A letter requesting the consideration of Sue Bopp previously given to Mayor Janakovic may have been misplaced and would be resubmitted. Mr. Newkirk stated the next Civil Service meeting is Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Janakovic commented, four years ago, the City had an annual deficit of \$1.2 million. Four years later, at this point in time, each year has ended in the black. He complimented Council, Mr. Ritter, and staff at City Hall.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2021