

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 8, 2020

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the Public Hearing to order at 5:46 p.m.

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

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

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

John Trant, Interim City Manager; Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; John Dubnansky, Director of Economic Development; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Robert Johnson, Police Chief; and Bruce Graham, Gibson Thomas Engineering, were also present.

Opening Remarks by Mayor Janakovic

Mayor Frank Janakovic referred to Ms. Benjamin for explanation of the public hearing.

Remarks by Solicitor Benjamin

Ms. Benjamin explained the public hearing was being convened for purposes of accepting comment on proposed Bill No. 13 of 2020 as amended. She stated the bill was proposed to implement amendments to the City of Johnstown's 2020 Budget and read the bill as amended at the June 10, 2020 meeting into the record as follows:

BILL NO. 13 OF 2020, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 5280 PASSED FINALLY ON DECEMBER 23, 2019 CITY OF JOHNSTOWN BUDGET TO AMEND THE 2020 BUDGET TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL GRANT REVENUE RECEIVED AND RELATED EXPENDITURES WITHIN LINE ITEMS OF THE STATE GRANT FUND FOR DOJ COVID-19 GRANT; THE CDBG FUND FOR "CARES ACT" FUNDING; TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND TO THE CAPITAL FUND FOR RENOVATIONS TO 216 CLINTON STREET, FEMA AND PEMA COVID-19 RELIEF AND PURCHASE OF A CHILLER FOR CITY HALL; AND TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE UDAG FUND TO ALLOCATE AN INCREASE IN EMERGENCY DEMOLITION FUNDS, FOLLOWING PUBLIC NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Benjamin further explained that public notice of this hearing was published in the Tribune Democrat on June 25, 2020, and the public hearing was being conducted now for purposes of accepting comment. Council's vote on the proposed Bill No. 13 would occur during the course of its regular Council meeting taking place on July 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

She noted, for the record, that Bill No. 13 itself contains attachments reflected as Exhibits, which are attachments to the City's ordinance implementing its 2020 Budget. Those attachments do reflect the changes being made and likewise described within the title.

Ms. Benjamin indicated, at the first Council meeting at which this bill was introduced, Council did make amendments to adjust that title to reference transfers from the general fund into the capital fund, which are representing a change of the appropriations to the general fund and to add a certain amount as a change in appropriations to the capital fund.

She noted Mr. Ritter was present and could address any questions that may be raised regarding the changes to the budget. Most of the amendments were to reflect the impact of receipt of grant funding as a result of efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was stated Bill No. 13 of 2020 was made available for public inspection on the City's website and also at City Hall. Now would be the time to accept any comments or questions from staff or Council and then would defer to the public to offer comment on the bill.

Comments by Staff and Council Members

None.

John Trant, Interim City Manager, noted, for the record, it was advertised that the Council Chambers would be open for the public hearing, and there were four available seats for the public to attend in person and provide testimony.

Public Comment

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, was present telephonically requesting commentary elaborating on the renovations at 216 Clinton Street. He had questions regarding the emergency demolition fund and the Conrad Building.

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John Dubnansky, Director of Economic Development, noted there was a typo. The address is 126 Clinton Street and not 216. He stated renovations to this City-owned building, include new ceiling tiles, exhaust fans, building remodeling and painting of the facility to accommodate the five-year lease signed with Primo's Pizza.

He noted the increase of the UDAG funds is for the Conrad Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Public Hearing concluded at 5:59 p.m.