

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 30, 2017

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Janakovic, Mrs. Mock, Mrs. Stanton, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza,
Mr. Williams (6).
Absent: Mr. Johncola (1).

City Manager, Arch Liston, was also present.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to the 2018 budget. He thanked Council for putting together a budget. He asked that the budget process be addressed with an "open mind and open heart" in the hopes that the community will be informed and understand the budget process.

Paul Ricci, 130 Palm Avenue, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to Bill No. 32 on the agenda. Mr. Williams suggested that Mr. Ricci obtain a copy of the wage and salary ordinance that lists wages and salaries being proposed for 2018. He urged the City Manager to make the list available at no charge.

Mr. Ricci noted that as a candidate for City Council he will push for a "living wage" for city employees.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 BUDGET

City Manager, Arch Liston, presented the 2018 Budget. He noted the City ended the 2016 budget with a surplus of approximately \$86,000. He stated 2017 was not a good budget year. He noted the City presently employs 115.5 employees with public safety accounting for 66 percent of the total number. Public Works in the 2018 budget will be reduced to 22 employees and 8 administrative staff, including the finance department and manager's office. Community Development has 9 employees with the 7.75 FTEs funded through the Community Development Block Grant funding.

Mr. Liston noted healthcare retirement alone as \$1.1 million annually and retirement contributions for the four pension systems as \$3,258,974.

He further added that taxpayers cannot afford any increases in property taxes or other forms of taxation. The presentation was a balanced budget with no tax increases.

The City Manager stated, due to the prudent management of one-time revenues by former Finance Director Stephen Keith and all department heads, a conservative and responsible budget was being presented.

There was discussion regarding the City Manager's presentation of the budget. Deborah Grass, Act 47 Coordinator, participated in the discussion.

Mr. Williams noted that Council was not included and no budget workshops were held with regard to preparation of the 2018 budget. Mrs. Mock noted the responsibility of each department to work out its own budget, and then Council can review it and move forward. Ms. Grass commended Mr. Keith for supplying extensive information.

BILL NO. 31 OF 2017, AN ORDINANCE ESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF REVENUES TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR THE OPERATIONS FOR THE VARIOUS BUREAUS, DEPARTMENTS, AND THE PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018.

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

Mr. Williams commented he would vote no, that it was improper and illegal to include dedicated millages that will be subject to a court decision.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza (4).

Nays: Mrs. Stanton, Mr. Williams (2).

BILL NO. 32 OF 2017, AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE

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VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUS OF THE CITY OF
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR
BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018.

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

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mrs. Stanton, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza,
Mayor Janakovic (5).
Nays: Mr. Williams (1).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.