

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR THE 2018 BUDGET  
AND WAGE AND SALARY ORDINANCE  
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

It was noted for the record that all Council members were present with the exception of Mr. Johncola for health-related issues. No roll call was taken.

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, and Arch Liston, City Manager, were also present.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Jack Williams commented that the public hearing this evening was required under Home Rule Charter and other state statutes. He stated that on October 30, 2017, Council was presented with Bills 31 and 32, the 2018 Budget, and the 2018 Wage and Salary Ordinance, which was required to be reviewed by the Act 47 recovery coordinator before Council could take any action.

Mr. Williams stated that on November 8, 2017, the matter was tabled and remained tabled. He noted on November 14, 2017, a communication dated November 14, 2017, was received from the recovery coordinator, which on one page contained confusing language regarding 40 police officer positions that he stated was two above the funding limit.

Mr. Williams then referred Council members to a sentence in the recovery plan that states, "The 2018 budget is consistent with the seventh amended recovery plan." Mr. Williams inquired how it could be "beyond limits on one page and consistent with a second.". He questioned whether the City was compliant.

Mr. Williams commented that Mr. Liston's budget message on October 30, 2017, noted a balanced budget with no tax increase. Mr. Williams referred to this as "not factual" and referred Council members to Bill 31 and Bill 32 for comparison and further discussion. He noted the budget "must go back into administration to be brought into balance and then resubmitted to Council,"

Arch Liston, City Manager, commented the budget this evening was previously introduced on October 30, 2017, for the 2018 Budget. He noted the budget was double-checked and then reviewed by the auditor numerous times, as well as reviewed by Ms. Grass twice and was acceptable to them as a balanced

budget. Personnel discrepancies were discussed, and Mr. Liston noted the 2018 COPS grant was turned down. The Fire Department will be reduced to 31.5 until other funding sources are obtained. Based on all budget information introduced in accordance with the Home Rule Charter, the City Manager recommended the adoption of this balanced budget.

Mr. Williams disagreed with Mr. Liston and indicated the budget was not accurate . He referred to additional errors for further discussion.

Ms. Benjamin noted for the record that this public hearing commencing at 5:30 p.m. on December 13, 2017, was duly advertised in the Tribune-Democrat on November 30th of 2017. Seeing no further individuals present to participate in the public hearing, the public hearing was adjourned.

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.