

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 12, 2022

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business.

Deputy Mayor Michael Capriotti called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Reverend King offered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the hearing held prior to the commencement of this meeting.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (6).
Absent: Mr. Janakovic (1).

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2022 and the Special Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel.
Mr. Arnone (6).

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Deputy Mayor Capriotti read into the record the following proclamation:

Whereas, Nunzio T. Johncola, at the age of 80 years entered into the comfort and grace of the Lord on October 3, 2022.

And Whereas, Mr. Johncola was loved by many, including his wife Nancy of 59 years, his sister, Catherine Hanson, his children Samuel and Stephen, and so many more within and without the Johnstown community.

And Whereas, Mr. Johncola provided a long and meritorious service in the City of Johnstown Public Parks Department for 34 years and served another 16 years as a City Councilman helping this community grow and thrive.

And Whereas, Mr. Johncola was an outstanding husband, father, employee, elected official and citizen committed to the service of placing others before himself.

Now, Therefore, I, Michael Capriotti, Deputy Mayor of the City of Johnstown, on behalf of City Council and the City of Johnstown offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Johncola. He was a pillar of our community and an exemplary of virtue to his family and this community. The City remembers his deeds, his selflessness and his dedication forever.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Elizabeth Benjamin, City Solicitor, announced that a proposed amendment to the agenda that was originally posted on the City's website and publicized in advance of the meeting is an adjustment to an ordinance presented for first read and identified as Bill No. 17 of 2022. She indicated the bill was adequately and accurately described in full on the agenda with respect to a proposed amendment to add yet another addition of funds to the Home Repair and Weatherization Program and was duly published on the agenda and posted on City Council's website.

She stated there had been an amendment to the agenda that was already reflected in the agenda as present here at the Council meeting to include the remainder of the title of the bill underneath the description of Bill No. 17 and serving to further identify it as an ordinance amending Ordinance 5321, passed finally on December 8 of 2021 and amended on July 13, 2022, September 14, 2022, and October 12, 2022 as the City of Johnstown Annual 2022 Budget to reflect additional income and expenditures of the General and American Recovery Funds following a public notice and a public hearing. The title of the ordinance was added to the agenda and for purposes of proceeding and allowing public comment to take place on the full agenda as amended, she requested a motion to amend the agenda to include the ordinance as recited.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to amend the agenda to include the ordinance as read. The motion was seconded by Reverend King and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel. Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,
Mr. Capriotti (6).

Nays: None (0).

Ms. Benjamin noted for the record that the amended agenda would be uploaded to the website in accordance with applicable law within 24 hours of this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, reported that on Friday, October 5, 2022, an RFP for environmental design services was issued by the Community Economic Development Department to hire a consultant to lead the City through the environmental preservations clearances that are required prior to spending any of the RAISE grant dollars.

He stated an advertisement was issued for volunteers to serve on City boards and commissions including Water and Sewer Authorities, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board. Appointments and reappointments to those commissions and board would be made at the end of the year.

A temporary management agreement was executed for the Conference Center with Top Dog Productions. The center is open for business, booking new clients and existing clients, and some events scheduled for the Conference Center include a Johnstown High School dance, Conemaugh Health System Employee Recognition Banquet, U.S. Foods training event, Cambria Regional Annual Chamber Summit, North American Hoganas Annual Christmas Party and JWF Employee Christmas Party.

New events include the John Fetterman campaign rally, an event hosted by Senator Langerholc, the Veterans Stand Down event and two wedding receptions, Laurel Auto Group and DRS Christmas parties.

Mr. Imhoff encouraged Council to consider extending the agreement with Top Dog through 2023.

He discussed renovation work that would be taking place at the Conference Center from \$400,000 of ARPA funds allocated to the Center and also a \$750,000 grant Senator Langerholc obtained for that purpose.

City Manager Imhoff updated Council with regard to the land bank. He indicated that the JRA Executive Director would be attending a Council meeting or workshop regarding the matter but did state that the School District did sign the agreement, and JRA has contracted with a local attorney to do some of the background work on the properties. Mr. Imhoff noted that as long

as those deeds come back clean the land bank would be acquiring the five properties for \$200 at a private sale from the Tax Claim Bureau. There was further discussion.

MAYOR:

None.

DEPUTY MAYOR:

Michael Capriotti, Deputy Mayor, reported that he and several members of Council and staff as well as Senator Langerholc attended a ribbon cutting for Big Dawg Built Kastle Boxing at its Fairfield Avenue location.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, noted that prior to the start of tonight's regular meeting a public hearing was held with respect to proposed budget amendment presented within Bill No. 15 of 2022 proposing the transfer of \$500,000 from the Home Ownership Program to the Home Repair and Weatherization Fund for which funds were all obligated by the end of September. She stated the public hearing was duly advertised on October 1st, 2022, 10 days in advance of its presentation for final action this evening and Bill No. 15 was likewise made available for public inspection as of that time and was subsequently approved as presented on First Read without any further amendment.

Bill No. 15 proposes to transfer \$500,000 from Home Ownership to Home Repair and Weatherization and later on in the agenda is the introduction of Bill No. 17 of 2022, which appeared to be adding another \$500,000 to the Home Repair Program and ARPA Fund. She noted these amendments are occurring in succession rather than being combined into one in order to make the funds available as soon as possible and to have the program activity be able to continue. She noted the initial \$500,000 proposed in Bill No. 15 is for adoption and final read and Bill No. 17 would be followed up on at a subsequent meeting.

CITY ENGINEER:

A report was included in Council member packets for review.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Ms. Huchel had no report.

Reverend King noted her attendance at a session regarding human trafficking at the Masonic Temple. She felt education regarding this matter would be beneficial to the community. She stated, if a home can be seized due to drug activity, maybe it should be seized due to human trafficking.

A Financial Empowerment Workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 at Christ Centered Community Church.

Mrs. Mock had no report.

As Council's representative on the Johnstown Housing Authority, Mr. Arnone provided an update of statistical information related to the population of the public housing communities located within the City of Johnstown. He reported that as of September 30, 2022, the total population of the public housing communities was 2,626. Section Eight voucher holders total 894 which amounts to a total combination of 3,610 families. Currently 48 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown are being assisted.

He indicated the Johnstown Housing Authority received enough COVID tests for each of their 1,500 apartments, three per household.

He noted the JHA has recently started a partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank for fresh produce for the residents of Oakhurst and Solomon Homes. Mr. Arnone noted he would be attending a hearing on the voucher program later this month at the Conference Center.

Mr. Arnone stated, as Council's representative on the GJWA, he reported that as of September 30 the GJWA has received nearly \$215,079 to assist 610 customers and \$19,152 that has assisted an additional 31. He reported that this year 200 lead services have been replaced and an additional 46 cut off.

He indicated that all reservoirs are full and spilling. Snyder is approximately 60 percent complete with the mainline rehabilitation. As of the end of September, the City was 59 percent pressure tested.

Mr. Arnone, Mayor Janakovic and Mr. Vitovich attended the funeral for Mr. Nunzio Johncola.

There was further discussion regarding the downtown sewer project.

Mr. Britt had no report.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

BILL NO. 15 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 5321 PASSED FINALLY ON DECEMBER 8, 2021, AND AMENDED ON JULY 13, 2022 AND SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 AS THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ANNUAL 2022 BUDGET TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL AND AMERICAN RECOVERY FUNDS FOLLOWING PUBLIC NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Yeas: Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (6).

Nays: None (0).

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ

BILL NO. 16 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4374 PASSED FINALLY DECEMBER 11, 1985 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 4417 PASSED FINALLY DECEMBER 31, 1986 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 4670 PASSED FINALLY JULY 13, 1994 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 4698 PASSED FINALLY DECEMBER 21, 1994 TITLED: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART EIGHT (BUSINESS REGULATION AND TAXATION CODE) TITLE FOUR (TAXATION) CHAPTER 870, AMUSEMENT TAX, TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATIONS AND UPDATES CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT LAW.

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

There was further discussion. Ms. Huchel noted concerns with regard to the impacts on nonprofits. Mr. Imhoff indicated language would be added to the second read with regard to that matter. There was additional discussion regarding the amusement tax.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (5).

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Nays: Ms. Huchel (1).

BILL NO. 17 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 5321 PASSED FINALLY ON DECEMBER 8, 2021, AND AMENDED ON JULY 13, 2022, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 AND OCTOBER 12, 2022 AS THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ANNUAL 2022 BUDGET TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL AND AMERICAN RECOVERY FUNDS FOLLOWING PUBLIC NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (6).
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10528

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LIGONIER CONSTRUCTION AWARDED CONTRACT 2022-03 FOR THE ELK RUN DEBRIS BASIN PROJECT.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. Mrs. Mock seconded the motion.

There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,
Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King (6).
Nays: None (0)

Resolution No. 10529

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AN AGILITY AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF SERVICES FOR A
FIVE-YEAR PERIOD EFFECTIVE DATE OF OCTOBER 12, 2022 AND
ENDING OCTOBER 2027.

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

Yeas: Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King,
Mrs. Mock (6).
Nays: None (0)

Resolution No. 10530

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND
DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO
TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE A
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE JOHNSTOWN AREA
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (JAHA) AND CAMBRIA COUNTY
TRANSIT AUTHORITY (CAMTRAN) TO DETAIL RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR EACH AGENCY WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE
WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) PROJECT.

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

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Ms. Huchel (6).
Nays: None (0)

Resolution No. 10531

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND
DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO
TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AWARD A CONTRACT
TO THE EADS GROUP FOR PRECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES FOR
AMTRAK'S JOHNSTOWN TRAIN STATION REHABILITATION
PROJECT.

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

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Ms. Huchel (6).
Nays: None (0)

Resolution No. 10532

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND
DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO
TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A GRANT IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$79,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FY 2022 BYRNE DISCRETIONARY
GRANT PROGRAM FOR CITY OF JOHNSTOWN POLICE
DEPARTMENT TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES.

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

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel,
Mr. Arnone (6).
Nays: None (0)

Resolution No. 10533

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT
OF AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS
DESIGNEE TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO
INCLUDE THE CALCULATIONS OF THE MINIMUM MUNICIPAL
OBLIGATION FOR EACH OF THE CITY'S PENSION FUNDS IN THE
2023 BUDGET.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. Reverend King seconded the motion.

There was further discussion regarding monies received from the state for the
pension.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Capriotti, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (6).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10534

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN ROCK SALT DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES COSTARS PROGRAM TO PROVIDE AND DELIVER TO THE CITY ROCK SALT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR THROUGH JULY 2023.

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

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (6).

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10535

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH LIGONIER STONE AND LIME, D/B/A DERRY STONE AND LIME, TO PROVIDE AND DELIVER TO THE CITY ANTI-SKID MATERIAL, AS2 ANTI-SKID, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022-2023.

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

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (6).

Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Imhoff commented the budget would be discussed at the November 2nd, 2022 work session.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Public Works.

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, discussed the downtown sewer project. Quaker Sales hopes to start the miscellaneous paving project on October 24.

He stated the new salt shed is approximately 90 percent installed and would be useable this winter.

Mr. Arnone discussed the condition of the alley beside the American Legion and requested that it be put on the schedule to be paved next year, and other alleys within the City be examined. Mr. Campagna noted the matters would be addressed in the spring.

Mr. Campagna noted that Main Street would be cleaned up and made safe in time for the Halloween Parade.

2. Police Department

Richard Pritchard, Police Chief, noted Halloween would be celebrated on October 31, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Officers will be present on the streets.

The Chief noted seven vacancies in the department. An ad was placed and the application process is still open. Four are currently Act 120 certified and could start as early as January.

The Chief noted he would be attending a block meeting in Moxham on the 20th.

Chief Pritchard commented on human trafficking with people entering into the country illegally on a daily basis. He noted an event this past spring in Central Park regarding human trafficking awareness. There was further discussion regarding the matter.

Mrs. Mock noted the West End Improvement Group has additional funds for cameras for installation in the West End community. A meeting will be held with the Chief and other regarding the best spots to install the cameras. Chief Pritchard will determine a time to meet concerning the matter. There was further discussion regarding a grant to also help with funding for the cameras.

3. Fire Department

Robert Statler, Fire Chief, reported an agreement for \$5,000 was reached with regard to the property on Oak Street. Fire training will commence in the spring. Public Works will assist the fire department in cleaning up that area.

Chief Statler reported that rental property inspections have started again. He noted that the Codes Department is on the fire department's reporting system and has access to its information.

Mr. Capriotti stated the family of Nunzio Johncola wished to express their thanks to the fire department and EMS for their professional and timely response to Mr. Johncola's emergency, which provided them additional time to spend with him.

4. Finance

Robert Ritter, Finance Director, reported the contract for the Enterprise software was executed, and starting soon, data would be converted to the new system for use in May or June next year. He noted all departments would be linked together with this new software.

Mr. Ritter noted that hospitalization was reduced from 11 percent to 6 percent.

Licenses would be obtained January 1 for different vendors in town and invoices would be sent out regarding the matter. The business licenses and mercantile and business privilege tax would be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Community Development

John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director, reported that information regarding the Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant in excess of \$1.2 million was submitted for in-car cameras, body cameras, and tasers over a five-year period. He noted that incorporated into the application is funding for retention of police officers. Local politicians were contacted for assistance regarding the matter.

Ten residential properties listed for demolition will be brought before Council at the next meeting for approval. An additional list of ten properties for demolition would be released in December. There was further discussion regarding the matter.

Mr. Dubnansky was asked to speak at the Rotary Club of Johnstown event October 19, 2022.

He noted working with the ARPA team as well as the owners of Cambria City Flowers with regard to its interest in projects in the Cambria City area.

6. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager, reported that 53 building permits were issued this month and approximately 152 code violations for which citations were issued, some re-cites and others new code complaints. Mr. Williams stated he is trying to "ramp up" code enforcements. Reverend King inquired if any involved Dibert Street. There was further discussion.

Mr. Arnone commended Mr. Williams on doing "a fine job".

There was discussion regarding a property owned by JRA.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Carol Murphy offered public comment regarding the clock in City Hall. Ms. Murphy is the great granddaughter of Charles Gundlach, who assembled, supervised the assembly, and repaired the clock until his death. She is seeking to give him the recognition he deserves. The matter would be reviewed further.

Ms. Murphy had concerns regarding trash left behind by abandoned businesses. Mrs. Mock would provide her further information regarding the matter.

Barry Britt, Ebensburg Road, Johnstown, addressed Council regarding public health in his neighborhood, noting rodents running in the area for which nothing had been done. Mr. Britt was referred to Mr. Williams for further discussion regarding the matter.

Jeff and Shawn Matula, 363 Ebensburg Road, had concerns regarding drug traffic, trash on a property and rats in that area. It was noted that any contact information for property owners would be appreciated. Mr. Matula thanked the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority for cleaning up the abandoned homes and the City for providing him a grant for a new furnace.

Patricia Walker, 612 Fronheiser Street, Johnstown, addressed Council regarding property she owns at 608, 610 and 612 Fronheiser Street. She noted receipt of a letter from the GJWA regarding a water problem from a line break for which she had addressed Council previously. Ms. Walker indicated GJWA would be digging up outside and repairing the break in the lines on the inside. She was

concerned that nothing would be done about the water coming in from the foundation into the basement-causing mold. She indicated Mr. Imhoff was to send a letter to the GJWA to stop charging the \$25 fee until the property was taken care of. Mr. Imhoff indicated the City does not have authority to make decisions regarding this project.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Arnone made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Mock seconded the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:24 p.m.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.