

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business.  
Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel,  
Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (7).

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Brandon Palmer, EADS Group; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor; Chris Mock, Property/Building Codes Manager; and Tony Penna, Recreation Director, were also present.

Mayor Janakovic noted an Executive Session was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 for the purpose of personnel and litigation to include specifically Civil Action No. 2021-4352 as filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County.

A moment of silence was held for former City Councilwoman, Martha Banda, who recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Britt made a motion to approve the January 3, 2022 Minutes. Mr. Arnone seconded the motion.

Council discussed corrections to the Minutes.

Ms. Huchel made a motion to amend the Minutes of January 3, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote:

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

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

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

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 12, 2022. Mrs. Mock seconded the motion.

Council discussed corrections to the Minutes.

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to amend the Minutes of January 12, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote:

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

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. 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, Mayor Janakovic (7).  
Nays: None (0).

#### PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Janakovic presented John Miller with the following proclamation:

John Miller on October 23, 1972, began working at Bethlehem Steel in the City of Johnstown, Mr. Miller displaying great fortitude and endless dedication to providing the steel products our great nation needs to grow and thrive.

Mr. Miller served our great city, his family and this community and endured the harsh labor associated with the chosen field, worked tirelessly on weekends, holidays, double shifts, and more to provide a better life for himself and his family.

Mr. Miller retired January 7, 2022, after a long exemplary career of nearly 50 years, and may enjoy the fruits of his labor and much deserved peace and serenity.

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor of the City of Johnstown, on behalf of Johnstown City Council and administration, commend the fine service John Miller has given to his employer, his family, his community, and

our nation. His dedication to providing the foundations of a strong country and city are testament to our history as one of the great steel cities in the United States. His service and those of his fellow steelworkers embody the strength, grit and determination of which Johnstown is known.

We thank him and all his fellow steelworkers for their service and we commit to honoring this sacrifice and dedication forever.

## ROUND OF APPLAUSE

### PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, Johnstown, addressed Council regarding ordinances for first read, wage amendments and zoning ordinance. She noted that the wage and zoning ordinance amendments were brought to Council's attention only because former Councilman Jack Williams sent communications to the City indicating that Council would need to amend the Wage and Salary and Zoning ordinance if changes to either were made.

She asked that Mayor Janakovic inform everyone of the purpose of an Executive Session.

## REPORTS

### CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff was welcomed as the new City Manager. Mr. Imhoff thanked staff, specifically Sara and Alex, for their hospitality and getting him "all set" in the manager's office.

He reported the LST tax was approved for 2022 by the Court of Common Pleas.

A workshop would be held a week from tonight to discuss the Conference Center, ARPA funds and the codes process.

### MAYOR:

Frank Janakovic, Mayor, reported he recently participated in a Zoom meeting with Senator Casey, a representative from the Department of Transportation, the Federal Deputy Secretary and approximately 125 other participants for discussion of Johnstown and the RAISE grant.

He was present for the American Rescue Plan Zoom training that was presented.

Mr. Janakovic recently attended the regional partnership meeting.

He attended the Visioning Together 2025 meetings for an update on progress there.

Mayor Janakovic presented before elementary students in the Greater Johnstown School District for World Read Aloud Day, which he stated was a "great group of kids to have fun with."

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, had no report but offered to answer questions regarding ordinances and resolutions at the appropriate time on the agenda.

CITY ENGINEER:

Brandon Palmer, EADS Group, referred members to last month's report regarding the Conference Center. Mariani and Richards would be providing an estimate on items presented in that report. There was further discussion.

Terra Works will begin the Fairfield Avenue storm project in the March/April timeframe.

Permits were obtained for the Sam's Run and Cheney Run flood protection projects and would be bid out towards the end of the month for work to begin in the June timeframe.

Mr. Palmer reported that he and Mr. Campagna are currently reviewing information regard the City's storm system and what areas would need to be addressed. The Stackhouse Park drainage basin project would also be reviewed.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Ms. Huchel noted her report regarding events and meetings she had attended are included in Council packets, including the possibility of increasing the grant program for sewer lateral loan applications.

Reverend King noted her attendance at the Vision Stimulus Summit.

She and Mrs. Mock met with Tony Penna, Recreation Director regarding the resumption of neighborhood meetings as held pre-COVID.

Reverend King and Mr. Dubnansky met with the Women's Health Center, now the Community Health Center, regarding the homeless.

She noted that the NAACP and the Johnstown Symphony will hold the MLK program Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Centered Community Church.

Mrs. Mock had no report other than to note that students Hiram G. Andrews will be rehabbing the flowers boxes in the West End.

Mr. Arnone, Council's representative on the Johnstown Housing Authority Board, provided an update of statistical information related to population of the public housing communities located within the City of Johnstown. He reported that as of January 31, 2022, the total population of the public housing communities was 2,601. Section Eight voucher holders total 922, which amounts to a total combination of 3,523 families. Currently 46 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown are being assisted.

He noted that an environmental review process for planned Capital Funding improvements is expected to receive final HUD approval within the next few weeks, after which contracts would be awarded.

As Council's representative to the GJWA, he reported that as of January 2022 41 pressure tests were completed and 12 to date in the month of February. An overflow was reported to the DEP. Mr. Arnone reported that 500 new signed contracts for the sewer lateral replacement program had been received. Currently 3,400 customers are receiving the \$25 monthly surcharge, which is down from the previous number.

A detailed inspection was prepared for Hornerstown. Mr. Arnone indicated the goal is to have the entire system inspected every five years to ensure proper operation of the sewer collection system.

GJWA received \$15,000 from the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) group program and anticipated to continue for the next several months.

RDM has purchased and received a new directional drill rig to increase safety for service line replacements. RDM employees have attended a safety course to become trench box certified.

Mr. Arnone reported the Clean Fill Dump Site would be open in March.

Mr. Arnone noted his attendance at the funeral for former Councilmember Martha Banda.

Mr. Britt welcomed the new City Manager. He thanked Mr. Campagna for the new stop sign placed. Mr. Arnone referred to a stop sign placed on Oak Street that is not visible.

Mr. Capriotti reported that he also attended Mrs. Banda's funeral and commented that along with being a Council member, she had served the City in many other roles and was truly someone who made a "big difference in the City".

Mr. Capriotti suggested more focus on areas the City is responsible for as they relate to kids getting to and from school and bus stops during snowfalls. He stated some areas "were not touched" after the last snowfall.

#### PETITIONS

None.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ

BILL NO. 2 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING THE LOCAL TAXPAYERS BILL OF RIGHTS ADOPTED ON MARCH 24, 1999 BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS PERTAINING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS, DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND ADOPTING A FORM OF TAXPAYER PETITION AND ADOPTING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL PROCEDURES; AND AMENDING AND RESTATING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR IN THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX ORDINANCE.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to amend. Mr. Britt seconded the motion.

Ms. Benjamin confirmed it was a motion to amend Bill No. 2 of 2022 to include Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to Exhibit D, reflecting the information request time extension procedure notice, petition for appeal and refund form, and initial refund claim form as part of the Local Taxpayer Bill or Rights and referenced therein.

The motion to amend passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic,

Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel (7).  
Nays: None (0).

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

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

BILL NO. 3 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 468 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TITLED "JUNKED AND/OR ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES" BY AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS AND AMENDING THE ENFORCEMENT PROVISION.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. Mr. Britt seconded the motion.

Chief Pritchard will work with Codes regarding this matter. Chris Mock, Property/Building Codes Manager, had further discussion on the procedure that would be followed concerning enforcement of this ordinance.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

BILL NO. 4 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5322 ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2021, AMENDING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022.

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

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

BILL NO. 5 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN BY PROHIBITING PARKING IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL YARDS AND EXCLUDING CERTAIN TYPES OF BARRIERS FROM THE DEFINITION OF FENCE.

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

Mr. Dubnansky noted this had been previously discussed and concerns those parking vehicles on private lots and those installing certain types of fences as barriers around the property. There was discussion regarding whether vehicles pulling into a front yard over a curb is a codes issue or police matter. Chief Pritchard state, if it were a City ordinance, the police would enforce it. There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

BILL NO. 6 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10494

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE (S) TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED



FIFTY DOLLARS AND 76 CENTS (\$2,550.76) WITH CAMBRIA COUNTY CONSERVATION AND RECREATION AUTHORITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO VACANT PARCELS (77-003.101.000, 77-002.502.000) SITUATED ON MURDOCK STREET IN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, ON THE PLAN ATTACHED.

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to approve. Mr. Arnone 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,  
Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King (7).

Nays: None (0).

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Arnone suggested that additional sewer funding be provided to assist residents of the City. There was discussion regarding the supply of piping being available for the project.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Chickens - Christine Dahlin recently sought a relaxation of the regulations governing chickens. The matter was referred to staff for a recommendation. Staff disagrees with the premise of several points raised by Ms. Dahlin and will discuss with Council.

Mr. Imhoff opined that the ordinance regarding this matter would be appropriate for a city where properties were close to one another and not many properties in the City of Johnstown would be able to comply with the ordinance. He was concerned that relaxing regulations would result in a higher volume of complaints and Code officers would be spending time "referring" disagreements between property owners and should be concentrating on abandoned vehicles, garbage, et cetera. He recommend no further action on the matter. There was further discussion.

Ms. Huchel opined that Ms. Dahlin's information was well researched and her request was reasonable.

Mayor Janakovic commented that Council was looking at the "best interests of all citizens of Johnstown" and raising chickens has to be done within the parameters set by Council.

2. ARPA Fund Distribution - There was discussion at the December 8, 2021 meeting about the proposed application process for the ARPA funds. Council members King and Mock were asked to meet with staff in order to resolve some differences prior to further consideration by Council. Since that discussion, the U.S. Department of Treasury issued its final rules for how the funds may be used. The final rules and ARPA fund distribution would be discussed during the upcoming Council Workshop scheduled for February 16, 2022.

Mr. Imhoff noted this matter had been discussed by Council December 8, 2021 and is on the agenda for the workshop next week. He did note that, since that time, there have been some significant changes for expenditure of the funds that would need to be discussed with Council. No action was necessary at this time.

Reverend King suggested that Council take its time to discuss the matter to make sure it has all the "I's" dotted and T's crossed".

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Public Works.

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported that as of January 1, 2022, new work shifts, which provide 24-hour coverage, were implemented.

All Christmas items were removed from Central Park.

Currently employees are painting and installing flooring in City Hall.

Snow was being removed from the Central Business District around the parking meters to allow access to those meters.

Mr. Campagna discussed the timelines for the Sam's Run and Cheney Run projects. He stated the initial work commenced on Sam's Run in April of 2021, a survey was completed in mid-April, information was submitted by August of that year, and the final design was completed in January of 2022. Cheney Run design work commenced in September of 2021, a survey was completed in October and permits were received in January of 2022 with a spring construction date.

There was discussion regarding the raised pavement on certain streets. Mr. Campagna explained that the material used during the initial phase of the sewer project was a slab material that may over time reset but that some areas would need redone.

He opined that probably 100 percent of the major bridges in the City had been completely replaced. There was discussion regarding the permitting process as it relates to removing debris from waterways.

Adequate Public Works staffing particularly for snow removal was discussed.

## 2. Police Department

Richard Pritchard, Johnstown Police Chief, reported that 4 applicants would be tested soon. A sergeant's test would be given on Monday.

The Chief stated the crimes had been communicated to the FBI using the Uniform Crime Reporting standard, but that was changed to the National Incident Based Reporting standard (NIBRS) and was not supported by the current reporting software. He reached out to Visual Alert to resolve the issue, and if it could not be resolved, the Department would not be eligible for JAG grant funding. It would cost approximately \$50,000. Mr. Dubnansky stated there were a few funding sources that could cover the cost, and he would work with the Chief and Department with regard to the matter.

Enforcement of vehicles speeding through school zones was addressed. Signage indicating the number of cars, maximum and average speeds of vehicles would be installed in the area of Johnstown High School. There was further discussion.

## 3. Fire Department

Robert Statler, Johnstown Fire Chief, will provide information regarding capital projects at the next meeting.

He commented the month was "fairly busy" with normal and weather-related calls. The Chief indicated that he and the fire marshal determined that a car fire last month was set and an arrest was made.

The City's fire school is a regional asset in that the County's SERT team and police also use the training facility. He noted a recent meeting with the school district regarding programs at that facility.

Mayor Janakovic commended the Chief and the Police Department regarding a positive conclusion of the recent hostage situation in Oakhurst. JHA also recognized efforts made by the police department.

#### 4. Community Development

John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director, hosted a Main Street meeting for discussion of the overall scope of work and budget available. An agreement was made to move forward with an RFP regarding design and engineering services to help craft the type and scope of project for downtown.

He noted the City has several parks funded by federal land trust monies and would be working with the City Engineer, EADS and Public Works on development site plans for each of those sites. A comprehensive market development plan would be submitted to DCNR before the middle of April. A Zoom call with DCNR indicated support of the projects for approximately \$1 million worth of park improvements.

The Convention and Visitor's Bureau staff was working with the Roger Brooks consultant group with regard to planning a new promotion effort for the City, which would move forward starting on March 8, 2022, with a series of meetings.

Improvement of the City's social media accounts will continue. There was discussion regarding the Roxbury Park playground and hockey rink projects.

Mrs. Mock suggested that word needs to get out regarding additional programs available to the City's residents.

There was discussion regarding demolition of commercial structures, which Mr. Dubnansky commented would involve asbestos removal. Mr. Arnone inquired about the demolition of a home in the area of Union Street.

#### 5. Codes Enforcement

Mr. Mock had no further report.

#### 6. Recreation

Tony Penna, Recreation Director, reported that he and Public Works conducted a tour of the locker room facilities with the Mill Rats at Sargent's Stadium. He stated batting cages would be in each locker room. The showers would be heavily cleaned. A secured area for equipment storage would be added. A

sponsor is being secured to help with the cost. A tour of the facility would be offered to Council.

Other events at the stadium, including soccer and football, were discussed. A walk for healthy living event is being considered. A hockey league at Roxbury Park and free skates for kids is being offered by 1st Summit Arena. A partnership with UPJ or Penn Highlands Community College is being considered to get the playgrounds active again. There was further discussion regarding concerts being held at the stadium. A Pony League team has also been given consideration. Mr. Penna is currently comparing fees with Mansion Park and Richland.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, asked Mr. Imhoff to respond to a complaint he filed last month regarding the serious allegations surrounding the resignation of Officer Komar.

He had concerns as to why a project manager was being hired in a "secret backroom meeting" with regard to the RAISE grant and commented that illegal things are being done. Mr. DeBartola would like to know where and what the thousand jobs are that were reported to be available in Johnstown.

Lindsay Brumback, 1301 Virginia Avenue, had concerns regarding the demolition of property located at 1240 Virginia Avenue due to rat infestation. She indicated the original demolition date posted on the door was listed as February 2020 and a new demolition date is posted as April 2022. She inquired what would be done to ensure the rats living there would not be imposed onto neighboring residents.

Mayor Janakovic suggested she contact the City Manager or Codes to address the matter specifically.

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, commented that Council members are "clueless and oblivious to what's going on in the City". Ms. Stanton commented that she reported the flood channel matter to DEP and not the City, and the channel is located in the Eighth Ward and not Roxbury. She noted the risk of flooding exists when snow melts and inquired why it was taking long to clear out debris when the City already had permission to do so.

Ms. Stanton noted the hillside at the turnaround on Church Street eroded and was in danger of collapsing. She asked that the matter be investigated.

She inquired about the thousand jobs that were spoken about at the last Council meeting.

She also inquired why the City of Johnstown has not complied with the sewage mandates and why taxpayer money is being used to pay the \$25 noncompliance fee.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:42 p.m.

A Workshop is scheduled for February 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was conducted after the conclusion of the meeting with regard to personnel and litigation, including Civil Action No. 2021-4352 as filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County.