

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 8, 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. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel, Mayor Janakovic,  
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (6).

Absent: Mr. Britt (1) due to family emergency.

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Robert Ritter,  
Finance Director; Brandon Palmer, EADS Group; Jared Campagna, Public  
Works Director; Chris Mock, Director of Codes Enforcement; 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 May 11,  
2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti and passed by the following  
vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, Johnstown, addressed Council regarding the  
ordinance for first read, the Peddlers and Solicitors Ordinance Amendment.  
She wondered what the peddlers would do on the weekends when City Hall is  
closed. The Mayor commented that this is the public comment portion of the  
meeting, not a question and answer period. Mrs. Stanton noted that questions  
posed by residents were answered at previous Council meetings and that  
Council is being "selective on who they choose to speak with".

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, commented on two agenda items,  
including Ordinance for Final Read, Budget Amendment, Bill No. 10

regarding ARPA funds calling it a "great program". He was pleased to receive letters in response from JRA and Mr. Ashcom.

Mr. DeBartola commented on the Pasquerilla Conference Center and inquired what the plans were "to turn the Conference Center around" to make it profitable.

## REPORTS

### CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, noted his recent attendance at the Showcase for Commerce. He thanked JARI, the Chamber, and all those who were involved in the matter.

Mr. Imhoff, Mr. Ashcom, Mr. Dubnansky and Mayor Janakovic attended the State of the City Address.

The City Manager attended a recent Meet the Mill Rats Event and provided positive comments on the turf and press box at the stadium.

Mr. Imhoff thanked Public Works, Police and Fire Department for their extra efforts during the power outage, which turned out to be a Penelec matter. He noted a meeting is scheduled with Penelec for discussion of infrastructure and plans for improvement of infrastructure.

He reminded everyone of the Juneteenth celebration next week, and Thunder in the Valley the following week.

Mr. Imhoff noted that interviews have been started for Sara's position and that the deadline for applications is Friday. Sara will begin a new position with the police and fire departments.

A Council Workshop open to the public will be held July 6, 2022, and the regular meeting will be held on July 13, 2022.

The City Manager mentioned that Mrs. Walker was present for discussion of issues regarding her property on Fronheiser Street and the sewer project. Mr. Imhoff and Mr. Campagna met with Mrs. Walker and there will be additional discussion regarding that matter.

Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager, commented on grants available to the public including home weatherization, home ownership, small business and nonprofit

relief as well as community programs grant. He thanked the staff at City Hall for all their assistance of approximately 500 people who came through on May 13 for applications. Within the last four or five weeks, approximately 1,000 applications were distributed. He noted 16 completed weatherization applications, 5 partial home ownership applications, 6 small business and nonprofit relief applications and 5 applications for the community programs grant.

He answered questions from Council members.

MAYOR:

Frank Janakovic, Mayor, reported that he attended the Memorial Day Celebration at Sandyvale Cemetery.

He noted the free concerts series at Roxbury Park every Sunday evening throughout the summer.

Mr. Janakovic reported the Taste and Tour brought in 708 ticket holders.

The Sunday Market is being held in Cambria City.

The Farmer's market is held every Friday downtown around the park.

The Mayor noted he had the opportunity to attend the opening ceremony for Showcase for Commerce as well as the Murtha breakfast, which was also attended by Senator Casey, Congressman G.T. Thompson, Dr. Joyce and local legislators for discussion of funding, progress in our city and how we are moving forward.

Another successful Polkafest was held this past weekend.

He noted the Mill Rats home opener was also held recently at Sargent's Stadium.

Mayor Janakovic noted his attendance at the recent John B. Gunther luncheon to honor 15 graduates of that program.

He continues to work with Dr. Spectar to bring programs to downtown Johnstown. The freshmen from the college will once again do volunteer work in downtown Johnstown over the Labor Day Weekend.

Mayor Janakovic attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Council members had questions. Mrs. Mock requested a moment of silence for Linda Orlosky, Planning Commission member, who along with her son, daughter in law, and two grandsons were tragically killed in a boating accident in Georgia.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, reported that an Executive Session was held at the conclusion of Regular Meeting on May 11, 2022 for purposes of addressing current and pending litigation filed at Action No. 2022-1240 in the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County. An Executive Session was also held this evening immediately prior to the commencement of tonight's Regular Meeting for purposes of current and pending litigation, including the same action filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County at Action No. 2022-1240.

CITY ENGINEER:

Brandon Palmer, EADS Group, reported that Terra Works is progressing on the Fairfield Avenue storm water project. The next part will be on Virginia and working back towards J Street, side streets included. He noted the section above Strayer Street to Marbury Avenue would soon be paved. Paving will not be done during Thunder in the Valley.

He noted the Sam's Run and Cherry Run flood protection projects are anticipated to commence later this month by contractor, Charles J. Merlo Construction.

Mr. Palmer noted design drawing are still in progress with respect to the Elk Run debris basin (Stackhouse Park). Erosion and sanitation permits will be obtained and the project will hopefully be bid out in the next couple of months.

Drawings and specifications will be reviewed for the Public Works salt storage building later this month.

A paving project for a few streets in the West End will bid out in the coming months.

He noted that sinkhole issues were addressed on Fairfield Avenue.

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Stated Meeting, continued

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Mr. Arnone commented that the area around the elementary school in Hornerstown has been addressed.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Mr. Capriotti noted he had attended many of the same events as the Mayor and yielded his time to other Council members.

Mr. Arnone reported, as Council's representative to the GJWA, through the end of May 2022, 93 lead service lines had been renewed and was being coordinated through PennDOT on Hershberger Road. It was anticipated that the 2021 total led renewal would be surpassed in June of 2022. Mr. Arnone noted that with regard to sewer overflow, 49 residents pressure tested in the City and nearly 10,000 feet of main line was viewed on camera during the month of May 2022.

He reported that work continues to install the sluice gate and waste valves at the North Fork Dam to improve water quality in the reservoir. This work was being performed in preparation of the larger dam reconstruction now in the permit process with DEP, whose new director is working diligently to try to get this project started.

Mr. Arnone reported that as Council's representative to the Johnstown Housing Authority, he 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 May 31, 2022, the total population of the public housing communities was 2,692. Section Eight voucher holders total 982, which amounts to a total combination of 3,674 families. Currently 49 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown were being assisted.

He noted that Good Will is promoting their GED services. Basketball camps were being hosted this summer. A committee from Pittsburgh will bring in food sources and last month distributed in the Solomon Run and Prospect communities. Feedback has been positive with regard to Sargent's Stadium.

Mrs. Mock reported the recent Trash to Treasures sale at St. Therese was a success.

She reported the Community Garden had been planted.

She thanked the JPE and JFD for their interaction with the Johnstown Middle School students at the Memorial Garden on D Street.

Reverend King reported she has been spending more time at the Cambria County Library and encouraged everyone to see what it has to offer this summer for children.

A meeting was recently held with the School District concerning resources for children and places they can go over the summer.

She noted an excellent turnout for the Walk of Hope and commented that the funds stay local.

Reverend King reported she was honored to serve as guest chaplain for the day at the State Senate.

Reverend King announced that the Center for Population Health is conducting a community health needs assessment and had additional information available for anyone who was interested.

She reiterated the Juneteenth Celebration would commence this weekend with a music festival at PNG Park followed by a weeklong celebration in Central Park. A parade will be held on June 18, 2022, 12:00 noon, starting at Sargent's Stadium. A church service would be held on Sunday, June 19, 2022, to conclude the celebration.

Reverend King reported that Conemaugh Hospital School of Nursing for the Fall of 2022 will offer reimbursement and is also offering a \$3,000 stipend for housing and housing related needs. A \$15,000 sign on bonus will also be offered after completion of the course. She noted additional information is available at [conemaugh.org](http://conemaugh.org).

Reverend King reported that the Highland Area Health Center, under the direction of William Kurtz, would be launching a medical and dental ADA compliant mobile unit. The group will be present at one of the downtown farmer's markets in July to kick off the promotion.

She noted that on June 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. a Kernville Community Meeting will be held at Christ Centered Church.

Mr. Arnone commented that the water park on the former St. Columbus ground is full of kids having a good time.

Mayor Janakovic noted that a number of kids' programs will be held this summer. The 1889 Foundation has provided funding, which will be distributed by the

YMCA for the programs. The Mayor suggested this information be put on the City's website to inform the public.

Ms. Huchel wished members of the community Happy Pride Month.

She commended all those involved in the repainting of Main Street.

Ms. Huchel noted her attendance at the Mom's House groundbreaking in Roxbury.

She also noted her attendance at the Showcase breakfast.

Ms. Huchel commended the City Manager on his leadership during the recent power outage.

She reminded residents that the Tec Con Convention will be held July 15 through 17, 2022, for those interested in esports and gaming.

JRA continues to support community improvement projects including the Hosanna Project and the Center for Metal Arts. She explained that Hosanna was interested in a partnership with JRA to help them identify homes and homeowners that desperately needed general repairs, including weatherization and heating.

#### PETITIONS

None.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ

BILL NO. 10 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 5321 PASSED FINALLY ON DECEMBER 8, 2021, AS THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ANNUAL 2022 BUDGET, TO REFLECT ADDITIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES OF THE GENERAL, CAPITAL AND AMERICAN RECOVERY FUNDS FOLLOWING PUBLIC NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Mr. Imhoff explained there would be two adjustments to the budget amendment since the first read, including a change to the account numbers for the ARPA funds to reflect those first approved in the 2022 budget and a \$10,000 reconciliation in the Sargent's Stadium Turf and Lighting project. He recommended that Council accept the adjustment and then table the proposed ordinance until

next month so the amendment can be advertised and ready for adoption in July 2022.

Ms. Benjamin explained it would be a motion to amend Bill No. 10 of 2022 to reflect the additional amendments as presented by the City Manager and located in Council packets followed by a motion to table for the requisite period for public inspection and public hearing at the next meeting.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to amend Bill No. 10 of 2022 as noted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Mr. Arnone made a motion to table for purposes of advertising, public inspection and public hearing as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

**BILL NO. 11 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE PEAR PLACE FROM  
HORNER STREET TO SWALLOW PLACE IN JOHNSTOWN,  
PENNSYLVANIA, AS A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE.**

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

There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:**

**BILL NO. 12 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4390  
PASSED SEPTEMBER 10, 1986, ORDINANCE NO. 4670 PASSED JULY  
13, 1994, ORDINANCE NO. 4698 PASSED DECEMBER 21, 1994,  
ORDINANCE NO. 4937 PASSED APRIL 28, 2004, ORDINANCE NO.**



5148 PASSED MAY 14, 2014, ORDINANCE NO. 5198 PASSED APRIL 20, 2016, AS CODIFIED AT "CHAPTER 834 PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES, TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR VENDOR PERMITS AND RELATED MATTERS.

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

There was further discussion. Mr. Capriotti suggested the matter be tabled pending further detailed information.

Ms. Benjamin explained the amendment is with regard to the actual entirety of the ordinance and not a portion thereof and that one option would be to table the matter pending further discussion at the workshop in July.

Mr. Capriotti inquired if this would impact those holding garage and yard sales. It was noted this was with regard to the increasing amounts of events happening downtown, including the Farmer's Market, Showcase, and creating a more efficient process for issuing permits to those vendors.

Ms. Huchel made a motion to amend the proposed changes with regard to Sections 834.08, 834.09 where the references to daily permits had been stricken. There was no second to the motion.

Ms. Benjamin reiterated the amendment process and noted it was within Council's discretion on how to handle the matter.

Mayor Janakovic suggested questions be prepared and presented at the upcoming workshop and suggested that a vote be taken on the ordinance as read for first read.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone (4).

Nays: Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel (2).

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10508

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY

MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AND TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,586 THROUGH THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT (LSA) STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO BE USED TOWARDS THE CREATION OF A STORY WALK AT STACKHOUSE PARK.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10509

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE ONE (1) JCB 427 WHEEL LOADER.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10510

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ANY/ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY IN THE PURCHASE OF A 2023 2,000 GPM PUMPER INSTALLED ON A SPARTAN MOTOR METRO STAR CAB AND CHASSIS FROM 4 GUYS STAINLESS TANK AND EQUIPMENT, INC.

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

Chief Statler explained this truck would replace the current front line truck that runs out of the Horner Street Station. He noted the next piece of apparatus would

need to be replaced in the '25/'26 time frame would be the ladder truck at the West End Station. There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10511

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ACCEPTING THE BID PROPOSAL OF T&C SPORTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MULTI SPORT SURFACE WITH OPEN GRID TILES FOR THE HOCKEY RINK AT ROXBURY PARK AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT AND TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE THE TILES FOR A TOTAL FEE OF \$52,760.00.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. Reverend King seconded the motion.

It was noted the decking was permanent, and the drainage issue would be addressed.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pasquerilla Conference Center.

Mr. Imhoff noted that interviews would be conducted on June 6 for a prospective management company. A contract would be presented for review electronically ahead of the July workshop. The City Manager stated, in addition to Showcase for Commerce and the Tec Con events, a U.S. Foods event is also scheduled.

2. Tabled - Contract with First Credit Resources, Inc.

Mr. Imhoff noted that staff had met with the Police Department, Attorney Repak and a meeting is scheduled with Judge Krumenacker with regard to a legally tight process to tow cars from private property. There was further discussion. The matter will remain tabled.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Public Works.

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported a new surface and new apparatus in place at the Roxbury Park Playground.

A preconstruction meeting will be held June 15, 2022 regarding Cherry Run.

There was discussion regarding lower than surface manholes in the City that need addressed.

2. Police Department

Richard Pritchard, Johnstown Police Chief, noted the department is in the process of doing background checks on two candidates and that testing would be conducted around July 1, 2022.

He reported that Captain Miller completed his master's degree while working on School of Traffic Command from Northwestern University.

Chief said he was looking forward to upcoming events in the City. Security matters will be finalized on Friday with the Deacon for the Juneteenth celebration, followed by Thunder in the Valley. He talked about the new Polaris Ranger that was purchased for the event.

Chief Pritchard reported an arrest in a cold case from a while back and that progress was being made on other cases.

3. Fire Department

Robert Statler, Johnstown Fire Chief, discussed a recent power outage that affected the downtown area. He noted at the same time an issue with the generator at the Public Safety Building had to be addressed. There was further discussion regarding the Penelec's infrastructure in the downtown area. Chief Statler

commented that the County EMA command post was brought down during the emergency.

4. Community Development

No report.

5. Code Enforcement

Chris Mock reported the areas that are main throughways into the City were being identified first. The crew was working on a list in the West End. A complaint regarding the rodents at 1238-1240 Virginia Avenue was addressed, and no rodents were observed. He asked for documentation from a qualified exterminator to determine where the problems are on a case-by-case basis. Information was received regarding a property on Bedford Street.

He noted efforts are being coordinating with Public Works to pick up garbage that the remediation team has collected.

Mr. Mock noted a new codes officer will be starting on June 21, 2022. There was discussion with regard to monitoring the amount of work done every day by the remediation crews.

There was discussion regarding ownership of a property on Coleman Avenue. Mr. Imhoff noted the property is next on the list for demolition.

Mr. Capriotti asked that attention be paid to those intersections that have high grass, shrubs or bushes, and that those be cut back so views are not blocked for people having to pull out onto a busy street.

Mrs. Mock offered suggestions to help resolve the high grass issues.

6. Recreation

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, noted that Mr. Marshall from Johnstown Capital Partners had commented that "he wanted to be transparent" but that now the company is "MIA leaving behind blighted and condemned properties". Mrs.

Stanton stated she had filed a Right to Know Request regarding the three businesses known as Johnstown Capital Partners, JCP, LLC and Johnstown Capital Construction and that after 30 days, received a response that no records exist.

Lindsay Brumback, 1301 Virginia Avenue, commented on an email sent to many members regarding whether the string lights above Main Street were legal. She noted that per the City's Ordinance 5317 the string lights must be mounted to a rigid background, and the string lights above Main Street appear to be connected to a cable. Per a response received from PennDOT, the lights are not permitted in a PennDOT right-of-way.

The City Manager was requested to review that matter.

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, presented before Council with a request to acknowledge Gay Pride. He reminded members of the 1997 protest at the Casa Nova on Somerset Pike, the 2008 protest at Lucille's, the 2012 protest regarding the arrest of a gay person who was beaten up on the elevator, the 2013 request for a nondiscrimination bill and hate crimes bills, which was sponsored solely by former Councilman Taranto. Mr. DeBartola stated, in 2015, he asked for a proclamation for gay rights, which was given and then taken away after a scandal. In 2017, he asked for nondiscrimination and hate crimes protection, and in 2022, he noted that Lucy's Place was attacked by the City over strippers.

Mr. DeBartola commented that it is a shame not to recognize all the citizens in the community and to not acknowledge all Americans "is treason against our Constitution". He asked that a gay pride flag be hung on City Hall and that Council reconsiders giving a gay pride proclamation.

#### RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:40 p.m.

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

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.