

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 13, 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.

Mr. Britt offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Janakovic expressed condolences to former Mayor Don Zucco on the loss of his wife. A moment of silence was held.

Mayor Janakovic announced that an Executive Session regarding personnel matters was held after the workshop held last week.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King (6).

Absent: Mrs. Mock (1) due to family matters.

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Rick Krouse, Acting Codes Director; 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 June 8, 2022.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Police Chief Richard Pritchard presented the Chief's Achievement Award to Captain Chad A. Miller and read the following proclamation:

Captain Chad A. Miller attended the Northwestern School of Staff and Command while attending Liberty University working on his Master's Degree.

Captain Miller completed the School of Staff and Command with straight As and then he was able to graduate with distinction from Liberty University and received his Master's of Public Administration Degree.

And for his dedication and efforts in making a better captain, making a better department, I congratulate him.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Fire Chief Robert Statler presented the Fire Department's Citizen's Award to Louis Richardson and read the following into the record:

On June 26, 2022, Mr. Richardson noticed a fire at a residence next door to his house. He was able to get to the front door, saw the victim of the fire inside the residence, entered the residence before the fire department arrived and was able to get her out of the residence. Chief Statler stated was actually nice to see somebody step forward to help somebody in the community.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, provided an update on the Conference Center. He stated an RFP was issued for management services for the center last fall after Crown American notified the City they would exit the contract. Mr. Imhoff indicated that only one bid was received and reviewed by staff and determined not to be financially viable. The RFP would be reissued later this week. He stated the Tec-Con event would be held this weekend at the center.

The City Manager and Mr. Ritter completed the capital budget process and are putting the "final touches" on that budget, which will be submitted to Council in August. A Review of the departmental budgets will be conducted with each department head.

Mr. Imhoff noted that conversation has been held with the Act 47 team regarding the possibility of restoring the extension of the LST tax. A meeting

will be held with Representative Rigby, Representative Burns, Senator Langerholc, Mayor Janakovic and himself on July 19 regarding that matter.

MAYOR:

Frank Janakovic, Mayor, reported that he participated in the Eucharistic Procession from St. John Gualbert to Central Park.

He attended the Rolling Mine ceremony held at the foot of the Inclined Plane to commemorate the 112 miners killed in an explosion in 1902, which was followed by a ceremony at St. Casimir's Hall.

The Mayor attended the JAHA and Highmark free concerts that last two Saturdays.

He noted his attendance at the ribbon cutting for Empire Lawn Care, which relocated to the Coopersdale section of the City.

A meeting was held with Congressman Joyce to discuss options available at the federal level for the City including any grant monies.

The Mayor made two presentations, one at the Gay Pride Celebration and the other for the Juneteenth Celebration, both at Central Park.

The Mayor noted his attendance at the Classic Elements ribbon cutting on Main Street and the initial Community Health Assessment for Cambria and Somerset Counties, which Reverend King and Mr. Imhoff also attended.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, noted for the record that two public hearings were held earlier this evening, one regarding Bill No. 10 of 2022 as amended proposing amendments to the 2022 budget, which appears as an ordinance for final read later on in the agenda, and one regarding the matter of the application of a liquor license transfer to the State Theater from Ashville Borough, which appears later on in the agenda as a proposed resolution.

CITY ENGINEER:

None.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Mr. Capriotti noted he had attended the Gay Pride Proclamation in Central Park and Thunder in the Valley. He also spent time at a few outreach centers in the area.

Mr. Britt thanked Mr. Campagna for his help with the painting. He thanked Mr. Ashcom for helping some homeless people in the park by providing a temporary location for them to stay. He noted his attendance at the Juneteenth Celebration as well as Thunder in the Valley.

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 April 30, 2022, the total population of the public housing communities was 2,669. Section Eight voucher holders total 975, which amounts to a total combination of 3,644 families. Currently 48 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown were being assisted.

Mr. Arnone indicated that JHA advertised for capital fund projects, including Loughner Plaza and Oakhurst Playground expansion. He noted that JHA continues to fund a program with the Johnstown-Greater Pittsburgh community food bank this month. Distributions will be made in Prospect, Coopersdale and the towers.

He noted his attendance at a conference in Hershey and brought back information, which he related to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Arnone noted his attendance at the dedication of the Washington Street Bridge to honor SFC Buchan.

Mr. Arnone reported that as Council's representative to the GJWA, that \$147,646 has been received to assist 447 customers, and through that, the Authority has received \$8,664 assisting 33 customers. Throughout June 2022, 127 lead services were renewed and 19 replaced, for a total of 146. All lead services along Hershberger Road and PennDOT paving were completed.

The Authority noticed high levels at the reservoirs, water quality at the North Fork and Dalton are high, and there was a noticeable increase in iron and magnesium at Salt Lick. Testing of streams will continue until the source is found.

Estimation of end points in the Central Business District will be viewed in August, which will eliminate estimate readings and provide an actual reading every month.

Snyder is approximately 78 percent complete with the pipelines, 2 percent complete with the viewpoints. As of June 2022, the City is in compliance with 58 percent pressure tested.

Mayor Janakovic commented on the success of this year's Thunder in the Valley event.

Reverend King announced that the Center for Population Health will be conducting a community health summit in August at UPJ.

She reported that there are various youth groups throughout the City willing to work on community projects.

Reverend King noted a COVID clinic would be held at Solomon Homes on July 15, 2022, and at the Oakhurst Homes on July 27, 2022.

She reported that JARI is offering training for EMTs. Debi Balog can provide additional information regarding the training program.

Ms. Huchel reported concerts continue at the Roxbury Park Bandshell. She noted her attendance at the Pride Proclamation.

She thanked staff for arranging the Tec Con event.

Ms. Huchel reported that an event will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Gallery on Gazebo to invite the community out to start thinking about real estate possibilities downtown, which is cosponsored by ReMax.

Mr. Capriotti noted that EMT classes sponsored by JARI were scheduled to start August 22, 2022, and it takes five months to complete.

Reverend King stated there were many opportunities in healthcare. Conemaugh will pay for tuition and offers a stipend for housing. She also stated the City should make a push for the home ownership and home repair programs.

Mayor Janakovic also noted the need for healthcare workers in mental and behavioral health.

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.

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

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

None.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10512

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE R-16919 INTO THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FROM THE BOROUGH OF ASHVILLE.

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

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Ms. Huchel,
Mr. Arnone (5)
Nays: None (0).
Abstention: Mr. Capriotti (1) as he is a member of the board for the State Theater.

Resolution No.

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INSTALLATION OF BIKE LANES ALONG IDENTIFIED CITY THOROUGHFARES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME.

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

Mr. Imhoff explained that most of the bike lanes are with the Path of the Flood Trail and portions were painted along the road on Franklin Street and applies to the National 911 Memorial Trail, which connects those sites and passes through downtown Johnstown. He further explained that PennDOT would install the lane markings, and the City would maintain those markings.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tabled-Contract with First Credit Resources, Inc. to Handle Abandoned Vehicles and Private Property Impounds.

Mr. Imhoff noted there has been discussion with the police department, Judge Krumenacker and Attorney Repak regarding a legally acceptable process and recommended that a contract with First Credit be approved. He stated notices would be mailed to the property owner and the vehicle owner, and if those notices were ignored, the final step would be that a notice would be placed on the vehicle itself.

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

There was further discussion regarding a fee schedule. Chief Pritchard explained that if Codes has a problem removing a vehicle, the police would respond and assist in the matter.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Public Works.

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported that the Cherry Run project has started, materials have been excavated, and a portion of the footer had been poured.

Final restoration of Fairfield Avenue has commenced and estimate completion by Tuesday of next week weather permitting.

Mr. Arnone requested that two signs that tell the story of the Harry Plows Bridge be placed at the site.

2. Police Department

Richard Pritchard, Johnstown Police Chief, noted the department will be commencing truck safety inspections in the City. A member of the Police Department had taken and passed classes in Harrisburg. Weight scales will be utilized to keep overloaded trucks from coming through and destroying the roads.

Chief Pritchard noted that National Night Out will be held August 2, 2022. There will be police presence in the park including a booth with a lot of crime prevention pamphlets, information on how to avoid scams.

3. Fire Department

Robert Statler, Johnstown Fire Chief, reiterated discussion regarding the free EMT training which hopes to get younger adults interested in emergency services. He noted there is space for 20 City residents, that if not enough are interested, then it would be open to those residents outside the City. The program would be run through Conemaugh Hospital in August. Chief Statler noted EMT training is a requirement for City firefighters.

4. Community Development

John Dubnansky reported the review process of applications commenced with regard to the American Rescue Act, and staff will be reviewing small business and nonprofit assistance applications as well.

He noted that business development in the City continues, averaging three to six opportunities weekly, and three business loan programs were available. Mr. Dubnansky stated, over the past two years, over \$2 million was given in loan programs, and the programs may have to be paused for at least a year until payments start coming in.

Mr. Dubnansky will be providing Council with RAISE grant documentation and information within the next couple of months for approval. He noted an RFP would soon be released to hire a consultant for each project partner to move those projects forward with regard to environmental and plan work, which is required by FTA in order to access the \$24-plus. There was further discussion regarding the matter.

5. Code Enforcement

Rick Krouse, who assumed the responsibility of Acting Codes Director on June 28, provided a brief summary of codes activities since then.

He reported there are currently 928 active service requests, 91 code complaints have been received, 123 properties have been cited or recited, 14 condemned, 21 vacant properties cited, 57 cited for grass, 22 for various exterior issues, 9 for garbage. He further reported that 28 lien verifications were completed, 4 properties were posted for Act 90, and 2 rental inspections. Since May 1, 2022, 165 properties were cited for grass violations. Since May 18, two remediation teams have cut over 120 properties.

Mr. Krouse indicated there are currently two codes enforcement officers, both with under six months' experience.

6. Recreation

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

LaQuan Marshall, 215 Franklin St., CEO Johnstown Capital Partners, appreciates the relationship developed with the City and stated his group is in the process of developing 215 Franklin into two condominiums and the Downtown Yogurt

Company. He stated other operators would be coming into the City, with the next project being a restaurant, which will be located at 500 Main Street. Mr. Marshall commented that the community really supported Downtown Yogurt at Thunder in the Valley with the Chamber commenting that it was the highest engaged post in Chamber history reaching over 40,000 people.

Mr. Marshall noted at property at 248 Vine Street, the old dentist's office, was renovated to a single family home and will be offered for sale.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:58 p.m.

Executive Session.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.