

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 10, 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 the Thompson Family on the death of Emma Thompson in the State of Indiana. A moment of silence was held.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (5).
Absent: Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel (2).

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Tony Penna, Recreation 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 Special Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2022 and the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,
Mayor Janakovic (5).
Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, introduced Dave Williams, new Codes Enforcement Manager, and employee of five years with the City.

The City Manager provided an update on the RAISE grant. He reported that this \$25 million grant is for the renovation of the Inclined Plane/Transit Center/Train Station/Main Street. The three organizations involved include CamTran, JAHA and the City. He noted that per federal requirements, none of these organizations can spend a dollar until all four projects are cleared environmentally and historic preservation wise. Mr. Imhoff stated an RFP has been prepared for Section 106 Historic Preservation and Environmental Clearance, which would soon be distributed. All three organizations do have funding to pay for these services, which will be bid out shortly.

Mr. Imhoff reported he, Mr. Ritter and department heads have been working on the City Budget and reminded members of the first draft capital budget which was distributed last week. All general fund budget information and the capital fund draft will be distributed at the work session on September 7, 2022, for further discussion.

Mr. Ashcom will distribute all line items as he did last month. Small business and nonprofit assistance programs, which originally were excluded from previous federal Corona Virus relief funding, and that guidance will be changed to allow businesses to apply that have previously received funding as well as nonprofits. Applications will be prioritized on how long the business is closed and how much revenue was lost during COVID.

Additional marketing would be done on the home ownership program in an attempt to boost participation in that program. Weatherization funding is still available.

The City Manager updated Council regarding the sewer lateral program. He stated, after the budget amendment was approved to release that money at the last meeting, auditors identified a potential issue with the way the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were going to be spent. Mr. Imhoff noted there are new ARPA guidelines, which specifically revolving loan funds and funds repaid after 2026. He noted a meeting would soon be held with auditors regarding the matter.

There was discussion regarding the parking lot across the street. It was noted the property is ready to be bid out. The property acquired by the train station was currently being used as an overflow lot for Sargent's Stadium.

Mayor Janakovic reported that Senator Langerholc announced that he acquired a grant in the amount of \$750,000 for the Conference Center.

Reverend King noted the alleyway near the train station parking lot needed paved as well as the lot across from the YWCA. Mrs. Mock noted the alley along the Post Office also needed paved.

MAYOR:

Frank Janakovic, Mayor, reported that he attended the recent community health summit at UPJ along with some Council members and City staff.

The Mayor reported a very successful 2022 AAABA Baseball Tournament. He congratulated Mr. George Arcurio, the Carpenter and Martella teams as well as the crew at Sargent's Stadium.

The Mayor noted his attendance at the recent legislative breakfast, which was attended by Senator Langerholc, Representative Rigby and Representative Burns. He noted it was at this breakfast that Senator Langerholc announced the \$750,000 grant for the Conference Center.

Flood City Music Fest was a success. He congratulated JAHA for one of the best music fests in a number of years.

Murtha Fellows distributed \$12,500 to three nonprofit organizations.

Mayor Janakovic attended JWF's 35th Anniversary Celebration at PNG Park.

CITY SOLICITOR:

No Report.

CITY ENGINEER:

A written report was submitted for review.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Reverend King announced that United Methodist Human Services will be starting a free Getting Ahead cohort on August 31, 2022 at Christ Centered Community Church.

Vision Together will be holding a community update and volunteer celebration at Ace's on August 31, 2022.

Reverend King noted her attendance at the Community Health Summit at UPJ.

Reverend King viewed the mobile medical unit that will be visiting rural districts and housing communities to assist persons not able to travel to a regular doctor or dental appointment.

She reported that a walk-in crisis center would occupy the former Rent-A-Center located in the former Glosser Building. 9-8-8 is the number to call or text for a mental health crisis. Mayor Janakovic noted this is a national number.

Reverend King reported that Career Link and Goodwill be in partnership with the Johnstown Housing Authority hosting a community resource fair at the Oakhurst Homes Community Center on August 18, 2022.

Mrs. Mock reported the community garden is up and running and visited by many City residents.

Mr. Britt noted commended the two teams involved in the AAABA Tournament for making the town proud. He commended all those involved.

He commended JWF and Mr. Polacek on his successful business and for "keeping Johnstown on the map".

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 July 31, 2022, the total population of the public housing communities was 2,662. Section Eight voucher holders total 1,012, which amounts to a total combination of 3,674 families. Currently 49 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown are being assisted.

Mr. Arnone indicated that JHA has collaborated with the Cambria County Drug Coalition to offer free smoking cessation classes to both employees and residents.

He noted that the JHA was recently approached by Golden Onsite Dental to provide dental care services in the towers on a regular basis.

Mr. Arnone reported, as Council's representative to the GJWA, as of July 31, 2022, over \$100,000 had been received to assist 490 customers. 21 customers had water service terminated for nonpayment after 90 days and the extension period and \$9,000 was received to repay that.

Sewer reminders have been sent out to all customers regarding the surcharge if sewage work was not completed by the end of the year. 150 lead services have been renewed, so far this year over 15 leaks have been identified. The GIS department is working to identify material service lines throughout the system.

Mr. Arnone reported a special policy meeting was held by the GJWA in order to adopt two policies and to address slab on grade construction and the obligation to test properties upon transfer of interest in real estate. He read the policies into the record. Mr. Arnone commented that the new change has not affected any property owners in the City. He noted the Wire Mill had already done \$3.5 million worth of work and a contractor would have to go through 12 inches of concrete, which may cause the plant to just shut down and move out of the City. Mr. Arnone further noted that the Cambria County Library, St. James Mission Church, Christ the Saviour Activity Center, were other examples of slab on grade properties as well as any new construction downtown. He did state that properties with basements are obligated to have the sewage revision performed.

Mr. Arnone noted since GJWA acquired the sewage system, 1,400 pressure tests had been conducted and 57 percent of the properties were in compliance. He discussed the utilization of the CUES lock system downtown, which has been "working tremendously."

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

BILL NO. 12 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

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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 Reverend King
and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

BILL NO. 13 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF JOHNSTOWN 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, AND 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'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR VENDOR
PERMITS AND RELATED MATTERS.

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. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Mrs. Mock, Reverend King,
Mr. Arnone (5).

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10514

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND
DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH
LOCHER DEMOLITION & EXCAVATING, LLC. SERVICE IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$93,150.00 FOR CONTRACT #2022-05, CDBG
STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PROGRAM TO DEMOLISH TEN
STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

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, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt (5)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10515

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE FY 2022
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS
(HOME) PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS.

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

There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt (5)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10516

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 BLAIR CONSTRUCTION, LLC AWARDED
CONTRACT 2018-06 (RE-BID) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
SALT STORAGE BUILDING PROJECT.

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

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,
Mayor Janakovic (5)
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10517

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AND TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE A TEMPORARY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT WITH TOP DOG PRODUCTIONS FOR INTERIM EVENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED AT THE FRANK J. PASQUERILLA CONFERENCE CENTER ON A TEMPORARY/INTERIM BASIS FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 11, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 2023.

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, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King (5).
Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS:

Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan

City Manager Imhoff referred members of Council to a letter from the Cambria County Emergency Management Agency for further discussion. He noted that every five years Cambria County is required to update the county hazard mitigation plan and does so on behalf of the municipalities. Mr. Imhoff stated each municipality was now required to adopt the plan in order to receive federal disaster funding after a presidentially declared disaster. A resolution will be on the next agenda for approval. There was further discussion regarding signage in the City.

Reverend King suggested that each Council member's email address should be posted on the City's website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reverend King inquired as to what happened to the comprehensive plan. Mr. Dubnansky noted there are some updates that will be included throughout that plan and would be finalized this fall.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Public Works.

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported that some streets were added to the paving plan but initial streets included Brush Avenue, Duwell Street, Gregg Avenue, Hoffman Avenue and Seminary Lane in the West End; Hammer Avenue, Killian Avenue and Suppes Avenue in the Eighth Ward; a portion of Market Street, Lincoln Street, the upper portion of Main Street and Jackson Street.

Mr. Arnone noted a huge hole in the alley between the American Legion and Pediatric Care Specialists. Mr. Arnone on behalf of the Conemaugh Valley Veterans Association thanked Jared and Public Works for replacing the signs purchased by the Association for the Napoleon Street Bridge.

Mr. Campagna reported that minor restoration work is being completed on the Cherry Run Project.

There was discussion about the condition of a sidewalk downtown on Vine Street that had been previously patched but is now in need of attention. Reverend King talked about the debris on Ihmsen Avenue at the top of William Penn Avenue where the homes were taken down. Mr. Campagna noted the matter would be taken care of once the area is graded.

2. Police Department

Richard Pritchard, Johnstown Police Chief, reported the truck safety officer graduated successfully and completed a weights and measures class at the end of July 2022. Chief commented that the officer's first two times out he wrote \$1,000 worth of citations for faulty equipment on trucks coming through the City. Chief noted that the officer will be "off on his own" after he completes 35 mentored inspections with the Pennsylvania State Police.

Mrs. Mock talked to the Chief about where six cameras would be placed in the West End. Mrs. Mock asked the Chief to remind officers of the ongoing problem of cars on the sidewalks, cars in the yard, cars parked the wrong way and on the wrong side of the street.

Chief Pritchard mentioned the National Night Out held August 2, 2022 was a success.

3. Fire Department

Robert Statler, Johnstown Fire Chief, reported a good response to the free EMT training for which 60 applicants responded with 26 moving forward with the training. The Chief talked about the fire school location and the lien on that property. Other locations were discussed.

4. Community Development

John Dubnansky reported that two federal grant opportunities are being evaluated, one from the USDA Team for Reconnecting Communities and also the EPA Brownfield Grant as well.

He is working on a variety of business development projects throughout the City. He noted new ownership of the Red Cross Building downtown and is working with that property owner. Mr. Dubnansky noted Miller's would be doing exterior improvement to that property. Approximately 400 UPJ freshman will be present downtown on August 27 performing a variety of community projects.

Mr. Dubnansky noted the new brewery to be located downtown is having issues with some of its other locations but that he and JRA are in contact with the business offering help and support. There was further discussion regarding that property.

Mr. Dubnansky noted that Intuit would be doing a soft opening on September 1st, 2022.

Mr. Campagna commented that a significant amount of time would be spent in the Cambria City area next week taking care of weed eating and cleaning.

5. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager, reported that during the month of July 2022 there were 130 code complaints filed and acted upon, meaning citations were written. Those included re-cites and new complaints. From August 1, 2022, to present, 77 code citations were issued. He reported there was a total of 385 properties that needed grass cut. Of those, 198 were cut, and 187 still needed cut. The re-cuts just recently commenced. There was further discussion regarding the matter. Mrs. Mock suggested fines be assessed

against the habitual offender to recover some of the City's expense. Mayor talked about the outside contractors not getting permits for home repair in the City.

Mr. Williams reported that last month 46 permits were issued and so far this month 34 have been issued.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:26 p.m.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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