

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 14, 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.

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

A moment of silence was held for Jean Tanaka who had recently passed away.

Mayor Janakovic announced that an Executive Session was held following the last meeting with regard to personnel.

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; Captain Michael Plunkard, Johnstown Police Department; 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 August 30, 2022 and the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti and passed by the following vote:

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

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

None.

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Stated Meeting, continued

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, noted that next week an announcement would be made regarding the successful applicants for the City's ARPA funding under the food/childcare, community projects and business and internet categories.

Senator Langerholc will be conducting a public meeting at the Central Park Complex with regard to the RAISE grant. Updates would be provided as well as a round table discussion.

Mr. Imhoff reported that renovation plans of the Public Safety Building were reviewed at a recent staff meeting. He invited anyone interested to stop by City Hall.

The City Manager reported that approximately \$3 million would be allocated to the Police Department, which would be used towards increasing the department's capabilities and resources in addition to providing significant down payment on the Public Safety Building.

MAYOR:

Mayor Janakovic noted his attendance at the Sandyvale Wine Festival this past weekend.

He attended the recent Vision Together 2025 meetings and presentation.

Mayor Janakovic stated he walked the 10-block area of the recent Ethnicfest in Cambria City.

He noted his attendance at the recent ribbon cutting for Johnstown Elementary new playground.

Over 500 UPJ students volunteered at Sargent's Stadium and Central Park and all the students were given a \$12 voucher to spend at different restaurants throughout the city.

The Mayor stated he has been in contact with UPJ to look at more projects for students and professors downtown.

He attended a Highland Health concert at PNG Park, which was a huge success for the community.

A special thank you to the Lions and Rotary Clubs for the flags along Route 56 going out of town.

Mayor Janakovic noted his attendance at a recent Pittsburgh Gateway presentation, which was offered.

He attended a recent Founder's Day Dinner and met the Mayor of Lancaster.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, Solicitor, noted for the record that a public hearing was held earlier this evening for purposes of accepting public comment on City Council's consideration of Bill No. 14 of 2022 which proposes an amendment to the City's current 2022 budget in relation to the movement of certain ARPA funds which is pending final adoption later on this evening.

CITY ENGINEER:

A written report was submitted for review.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Michael Capriotti noted his attendance at most of the same events that the Mayor attended. However, commented that many of the UPJ freshmen are from locations outside the Johnstown area so that giving them access to the city and its attributes was excellent. He recommended that a proclamation be presented to a representative from UPJ commending the students.

Mr. Capriotti also attended the recent Highland Health fundraiser.

Mr. Britt noted his attendance at a few events and commented it was "good to see people out".

Mr. Arnone stated, as Council's representative to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority, he reported that the GJWA has received nearly \$200,000 from two programs to assist customers. Letters were sent to the remaining customers as a reminder to have back flow testing completed before the end of the year.

Mr. Arnone reported a problem was created and corrected as a result of the recent amount of rain received in 24 hours.

A new motor controller had been ordered for the Millcreek Pump Station and the Dale Pump Station.

Mr. Arnone reported, year to date, 209 lead services were removed and replaced in Coopersdale in coordination with that sewer project. He also reported, as of August 31, 2022, 473 pressure tests were completed for a total of 1,318 pressure tests completed since the GJWA took over the sewage system.

The GJWA has voted not to increase the sewer surcharge for properties noncompliant, which will continue to be \$25. Those who have a signed contract through 2023 can continue to waive the surcharge.

He reported that as of August 31, 2022, Snyder Environmental has completed 90 percent of the Central Business District and 50 percent of the miscellaneous projects throughout the system.

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 August 31, 2022, the total population of the public housing communities was 2,609. Section Eight voucher holders total 1,023, which amounts to a total combination of 3,652 families. Currently 49 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown were being assisted.

Johnstown Housing Authority is applying for a family self-sufficient grant through HUD, which would connect residents to local resources and support participants in job searches and advancements.

Reverend King was grateful to have Council's contact information on the website.

She noted that on August 31 Vision sponsored a financial entitlement workshop at the Flood City Fitness Academy. She thanked John, Alex, and Kathy from Flood City for being present. A representative from United Methodist Human Services was also present. Reverend King stated the next workshop would be held October 22, 2022 at Christ Centered Community Church.

Reverend King noted the death and wake of Mrs. Mock's mother, Julia Antonazzo, at the Ozog Funeral Home in Cambria City.

She noted that September is National Preparedness Month.

Reverend King reported that a praise service would be held on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at Central Park.

Mr. Arnone noted that the bridge on Bridge Street into Ferndale would be dedicated to a former Ferndale student who died in Vietnam in 1969.

Mayor Janakovic commented that September is also National Suicide Prevention Month.

Ms. Huchel noted 988 is the three-digit nationwide phone number to connect directly to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

She reported the Planning Commission is working with someone interested in opening a Spanish speaking church and there are plans for a Dollar General in Hornerstown.

As a member of the JRA she noted a workshop session was recently held with members of the State Theater group to discuss solutions to gain control of real estate at the location of the State Theater so that project can move forward.

Mayor Janakovic noted the Feeder Canal Building is undergoing renovations launched by the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Charter School.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

BILL NO. 12 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5322 ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 2021, AMENDED MARCH 9, 2022 AND APRIL 20, 2022, 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 Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King,

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Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone (6).
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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti and passed by the following vote:

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

BILL NO. 14 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 5321 PASSED FINALLY ON DECEMBER 8, 2021, AND AMENDED ON JULY 13, 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 Mr. Capriotti and passed by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10521

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH QUAKER SALES CORPORATION AWARDED CONTRACT 2022-04 MISCELLANEOUS PAVING PROJECTS (SUPPES AVENUE, HAMMER AVENUE, TILLMAN AVENUE, BRUSH AVENUE, DUWELL STREET, HOFFMAN AVENUE, EFFIE ALLEY, GREGG AVENUE, SEMINARY LANE, LINCOLN STREET, LOCUST STREET, MARKET STREET, JACKSON STREET AND MAIN STREET).

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

There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10522

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CORRECTING 2022 RESOLUTION NUMBERS AND AMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2022, APRIL 20, 2022, MAY 11, 2022, JUNE 8, 2022, JULY 12, 2022, AND AUGUST 10, 2022 TO REFLECT THE SAME.

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

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

Resolution No. 10523

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A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE 2022
CAMBRIA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

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

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

Resolution No. 10524

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
ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BISHOP MCCORT CATHOLIC
SCHOOL FOR USE OF SARGENT'S STADIUM AT THE POINT AND
ROXBURY PARK.

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

Jared noted the only increase would be with regard to advertisement at an agreed fee of 20 percent.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10525

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY
MANAGER TO SIGN A WINTER TRAFFIC SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA THROUGH THE
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE
WINTER SEASONS OF 2022-2023; 2023-2024; 2024-2025; 2025-2026;
2026-2027.

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

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There was further discussion regarding the resolution.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10526

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY
MANAGER AND/OR ANY OF HIS DESIGNEES TO ENTER INTO A
CONTRACT WITH EDMUNDS GOVTECH, INC. TO INSTALL NEW
ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND CONVERT DATA TO NEW SYSTEM.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. Reverend King seconded the motion.
Mr. Imhoff noted this new software would be more efficient and recommended
approval of the resolution.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10527

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AMENDMENTS
TO THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND
REGULATIONS.

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

Captain Plunkard explained that Act 120 is the certification necessary in the State of
Pennsylvania to be a municipal police officer. Applicants would be sent to the
IUP Academy for a five and a half months and there would be a set period of
time an officer would be required to work for the City; otherwise would have
to pay back the cost of the training. Captain Plunkard noted funding was
available from the state, and it would cost approximately \$14,000 for each
officer sent through the academy.

Captain Plunkard reiterated that an applicant must be Act 120 certified, but if a 120 candidate was already certified, that candidate would be bumped past the non-certified applicant. He explained the amendment would allow someone who is not 120 certified to test along with certified candidates and would allow for the hiring of 120 certified candidates with the option to hire non-120 certified and send them to the academy.

Ms. Benjamin explained the amendment is to expand the actual qualifications that you must have in order to get onto the eligibility list to potentially be hired. That the terms and conditions of the hire should they be chosen to be hired would need to be spelled out. That this amendment discusses how a candidate can be eligible and expanding the population of candidates that can be eligible. She noted this was just an initial change to expand the qualifications. There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Public Works.

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported a prebid meeting for the Stackhouse Park cleanup was recently held. The bid opening date for 10 to 12 plant holders is September 20.

He noted Quaker Sales will start a paving project September 21 doing the outlying areas that week and the in mid-October would pave the streets downtown during the overnight hours.

Mr. Arnone talked about a solar powered light pole being installed at Roxbury Park at a cost of approximately \$2,000. The project should be completed by Memorial Day.

Mr. Capriotti inquired about a cave-in at DuPont Street near 700 Place. Mr. Campagna noted his crew was working on securing some shoring for the 10-foot hole but the matter would be investigated further.

Mr. Capriotti talked about a leak that was addressed and patched by the GJWA at Linden and Lunen in the middle of the intersection. He indicated the patch was gone, and there was now a six or eight-inch hole. Mr. Campagna will investigate the matter.

Mr. Capriotti inquired whether a drainage problem had been addressed. Mr. Campagna noted the materials were available and ready to be installed

Mr. Britt commented about a house on Oak Street with overgrown grass and debris located on the property. He noted the grass was cut but the cuttings were not removed. He stated there was another property in Prospect with a similar situation. Street cleaning on Prospect Street was discussed.

Mayor Capriotti inquired about the activity at the City garage parking lot. Mr. Campagna noted that was for the new salt bin.

2. Police Department

Captain Michael Plunkard was present on behalf of Chief Pritchard.

Mr. Britt inquired about cars being parked on the wrong side of the street, which he noted had recently become more of an issue, including Main Street and some areas of Hornerstown. Captain Plunkard would ask that those and other areas of the City be closely patrolled.

Mr. Capriotti noted speeding concerns on Central Avenue near the high school. With the upcoming state highway safety grant Captain Plunkard noted additional officers would be placed near the school zone.

3. Fire Department

Robert Statler, Fire Chief, reported 23 applicants will start the free EMT training and will finish in the January/February timeframe.

Chief reported there was a recent fire in Conemaugh Borough, a shooting on Broad Street and an accident under the Stone Bridge. During these incidents, he stated there had been a lot of cooperation between the departments.

Council had previously approved a resolution for the fire school last year. Chief Statler discovered there was a \$150,000 lien on that property. He negotiated a price with The Progress Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to extinguish that lien.

River dredging for flood control by the Army Corps continues from Valley Pike to the War Memorial. The Stone Bridge to the Minersville area would be the next phase. The project would extend the whole way to Coopersdale over a five-year period.

4. Finance

Robert Ritter, Finance Director, thanked Council for approving the resolution for new software. He noted it would link the departments together. Time clocks would be added. Codes would have iPads for taking photographs, which would link to the software. Landlord information would be available and linked to the local income taxes. \$3 million from the general fund, \$3 million from the capital fund and \$10 million from the recovery fund are now in CDs, which would generate an additional \$450,000 in interest income. Rates were increased from .45% to 1.9% for the checking account balances, which would generate an additional \$400,000 in interest for a combined total of approximately \$850,000 in interest next year.

Mr. Ritter noted that hospitalization was projected to increase ten percent next year.

5. Community Development

John Dubnansky reported that Monday, September 19, is the tentative soft opening of the Johnstown Small Business Success Center at the Penn Highlands property on Main Street.

Pennsylvania DCNR will be visiting the City on Monday regarding funding for the Linden Avenue Park.

Next Tuesday HUD will visit City Hall to discuss current programming and to see some projects that were completed over the years.

Mr. Dubnansky noted an application had been submitted through the Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program for \$5 million in funding to go along with the RAISE funds that we do have.

He stated the paperwork would soon be submitted for the \$750,000 in funding for the Conference Center.

He noted new Brownfield monies were available. A Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant opportunity is available and information would be submitted. A small grant opportunity for the Fire Department is available through Firehouse Subs.

ARPA results would be announced next week. He discussed land bank information he had available. It was noted that a meeting would be set up in the near future to review the matter.

There was discussion regarding a joint meeting with the tax claims office. Mr. Dubnansky would set up the informational session with the City.

6. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager, reported that during the month of August 2022 there were 190 citations were written, including re-cites and new complaints. A total of 72 building permits were issued. Approximately 40 to 45 properties were either new cuts or re-cuts from the grass cutting crew, which was down to four.

Mr. Williams has a meeting set up with both district magistrates to discuss procedures moving forward regarding collections.

He stated a building code official audit through the Department of Labor and Industry went well.

Mr. Williams stated a meeting with Altoona was held. He is working with the Tax Bureau regarding the problematic properties.

There was discussion regarding the contract to demolish 12 houses.

Mr. Williams stated he had talked with Mrs. Komar regarding a meeting to discuss the land bank process. Reverend King would like to move forward with the matter. Mr. Williams commented the new software would help with tracking and following through.

Staggered hours for the codes department were discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Patricia Walker, 612 Fronheiser Street, Johnstown, addressed Council regarding property she owns at 608, 610 and 612 Fronheiser Street. She noted a meeting with the City Manager was held in April regarding a water problem from a broken pipe. She stated her carpets had been destroyed. There is now mold in the house and low water pressure. She talked to Brandon Palmer and the GJWA regarding the matter and both have done nothing. Ms. Walker would like things put back the way they were and asked what the City could do about the problem.

Mr. Imhoff explained that he, Jared and the City Engineer have been working on a list of items that need corrected. He stated the GJWA did not want to conduct the remedial work, which was causing the delays. He is negotiating with the GJWA to include that work with the list of items that need corrected.

It was suggested that Ms. Walker attend the GJWA board meeting tomorrow afternoon to have further discussion of the matter.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:34 p.m.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.