

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKSHOP MINUTES
Wednesday, February 16, 2022

City Council met in a public workshop session to hear development of City programs.
Deputy Mayor Michael Capriotti 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, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (6).

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; Chris Mock, Property/Building Codes Manager; and Tony Penna, Recreation Director, were also present.

CONFERENCE CENTER

City Manager Imhoff discussed the developing plan for use of the Frank J. Pasquerilla Conference Center. Mr. Imhoff relayed that the first concern was the collection of information and data to make an informed decision on how to proceed with use. Discussion ensued regarding the condition of the building and how various organizations use the space. Mr. Imhoff informed that the PA Wrestling Championship event held on March 4th will still occur.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Assistant Manager Ashcom gave an updated presentation to council regarding the changes to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the US Treasury Final Rule and a new proposal that adjusted expenditures of the plan accordingly. City Council discussed the new changes and indicated favor of continuing the plan under previously discussed funding amounts. Johnstown Redevelopment Authority (JRA) Director Melissa Komar spoke regarding the usage of ARPA funds to further fund JRA sewer lateral loan programs. Finance Director Ritter presented to council a list of anticipated general and capital fund expenditures and advocated for the retention of ARPA funds for the City to fund these future expenses. Discussion ensued between City Council and Mr. Ritter on aforementioned list.

CODES ENFORCEMENT

Codes Enforcement Director Mock gave a presentation on the codes enforcement process and how to improve the enforcement of codes into the future. After the presentation, City Council and Mr. Mock discussed the ways and means to empower codes enforcement in enforcement of City regulations.

PARKING AGREEMENT

Mr. Imhoff discussed crafting a new parking agreement between the City and Cambria County regarding usage of parking garages. Discussion ensued between City Council and Mr. Imhoff on terms. Mr. Imhoff concluded that more details will be provided at the March 9, 2022 meeting of City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Debartola relayed his support for City Council's remarks regarding the American Rescue Plan. He discussed his perspective on the plan and said as much funding as possible should go to residents of the City.

Deputy Mayor Capriotti adjourned the meeting following public comment.