

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Thursday, April 27th, 2023

City Council met in a special hearing for the purposes of receiving public comment on a zoning map amendment for Mom's House of Johnstown, Inc. The Special Hearing was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Frank Janakovic. Rev. King offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following Council Members were present for roll call:

Rev. Sylvia King, Mr. Britt, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone

Absent: None

The following City staff members were present: City Manager Ethan Imhoff, Assistant City Manager Alex Ashcom, and Executive Secretary Sarah Williams.

Solicitor Benjamin opened the hearing; she noted a large number of audience members present and recommended City Council motion to amend the agenda to limit public comment to three minutes so all interested parties may have an opportunity to speak. She recommended that if any speakers wanted additional time to speak that two additional minutes be offered after all individuals have the opportunity to speak. Councilor Mock motioned to allow the change, and the motion was seconded by Councilor Arnone. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel, Mayor Janakovic, Rev. King, Mr. Arnone, Mrs. Mock

Nays: None (0)

Solicitor Benjamin further noted for the record that the zoning map amendment request had been properly advertised as required by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code and City of Johnstown Code. She noted that the City of Johnstown Planning Commission met at a special meeting on February 16, 2023, and voted 5-1 to recommend denial of the rezoning request. She also noted that the Cambria County Planning Commission reviewed the application and found that it was consistent with the Cambria County Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Victoria Trescello of the Roxbury Civic Group spoke in opposition of the amendment, informing council that the Group did not support the change and was of the opinion that an R-1 designation was insufficient for the planned use of the site.

Eva Burnheimer of 25 Worth Street spoke in opposition to the requested change, as she was concerned about parking and traffic changes to the area.

Della Csesoki of 190 Worth Street spoke in support of the requested change, saying that the service of Mom's House improved the neighborhood and aided families with special needs children.

Allegra Slick, Director of Mom's House at 1325 Franklin Street, spoke in support of the requested map amendment, noting the service that Mom's House provides to the Johnstown community and families that reside within it.

Robin Kmetz of 125 Spring Street spoke in support of the requested zoning map amendment, noting that Mom's House aids struggling families within the City of Johnstown.

Michael Slick, husband of Allegra Slick, spoke in support of the requested zoning map amendment, noting the service of his wife to the City of Johnstown and the families that take residence within it.

John DeBartola, of 1197 Bedford Street, spoke in support of the requested zoning map amendment, and criticized City Council and City officials for not approving the request sooner.

John Stuart, of 168 Worth Street, neither opposed nor supported the requested zoning map amendment, but recommended tabling the item until more information could be gathered and disseminated to the public.

Upon seeing no others wishing to speak, Solicitor Benjamin offered to allow previous speakers two additional minutes to make comment on the zoning map amendment request. No other speakers returned to the podium.

The hearing was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.