

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 11, 2023

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business.
Mayor Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Reverend King offered the invocation previously. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Janakovic, on behalf of Council, expressed condolences and offered a moment of silence to the family of Elmo Laslo who had recently passed away,

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

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

Absent: Ricky Britt (1) due to illness.

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager; Brandon Palmer, were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2022, and Special Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Janakovic noted presentation of a proclamation to Beginnings earlier in the month on the celebration of its 25th anniversary for services to children, the court system and families in general throughout Cambria and Somerset Counties.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, reported that one week from tonight, January 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. a codes workshop will be held. Mike Bellvia, Pro Disposal, will be present and staff will review how codes violations are processed and prosecuted. An update on the codes court will also be provided.

He noted an opportunity to work with Michael Baker in regard to moving forward on the environmental and preservation reviews. Several proposals have been received for the Main Street design that staff will be reviewing in the next few weeks for Council's approval.

MAYOR:

Frank Janakovic, Mayor, invited all to attend the State of the City, which will be presented February 28, 2023, 8:00 a.m. at Aces.

The mayor noted his participation in the New Year's celebration and thanked all groups and organizations including Public Works, Marie, Rose and John for their efforts to make the event a success.

Mayor reported his attendance at the State of the County presentation on December 20, 2022 regarding all matters taking place in the County.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, reported a petition has been filed regarding the local services tax through the exit date of April 2023, that a hearing has been set in that matter for January 26, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. She will provide a further update following that hearing.

Mr. Imhoff noted a public hearing with the Department of Community and Economic Development will be held on January 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. regarding the City's exit from Act 47.

CITY ENGINEER:

Brandon Palmer, City Engineer, referred to his monthly report for further discussion. Mr. Palmer that he, Mr. Imhoff and Mr. Campagna did a site visit to the Walker residence on Fronheiser Street regarding the resident's water pressure concerns and a groundwater issue in the basement.

Mr. Palmer indicated the water service into her building had been replaced by the GJWA, and if there were any continued low water pressure, neither the City nor the GJWA was responsible.

It was felt that downspouts are not away from the house far enough, which may be causing the groundwater issue. Mr. Palmer indicated the homeowner was not open to any suggestions offered.

Mr. Palmer reported that Ligonier Construction had been working on the Elk Run Debris Basin in December. A final review will be done to make sure the project was completed satisfactorily. There was discussion regarding a maintenance schedule of the basin.

The City Engineer indicated the City's storm mapping is on the GIS.

An application for a PA Small Water Grant was submitted at the end of December for the St. Clair Run project, which has a 15 percent match.

Mr. Palmer noted that he, Mr. Campagna and Mr. Imhoff have been discussing MS4 requirements that will need fulfilled.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Mr. Capriotti had no report.

As Council's representative on the GJWA Mr. Arnone reported that 225 lead lines were eliminated in 2022. New lead copper rules will go into effect October 24, 2022.

A report will be submitted to DEP regarding all that the City has done, amount of money spent, piping completed. One major project down in the West End is still pending. It is hopeful an extension would be granted after receipt of information by DEP.

Currently by the end of 2023 residents must be hooked up or under contract, and the only way the GJWA will offer an extension is if DEP allows it.

All reservoirs are full.

Customers with high water consumption are now being sent direct notification through email, texts and telephone calls as a courtesy to inform them of their usage.

Snyder is 98 percent complete with construction in the Central Business District, 92 percent complete with the main pipeline, 88 percent complete with viewports and 78 percent of the conversions.

As of December 2022, the City was 60.1 percent pressure tested and approximately 3,700 still need to be completed.

Mr. Arnone provided an update on statistical information related to the population of public housing communities located within the City of Johnstown. He reported that as December 31, 2022, the population of the public housing communities was 2,595 and Section Eight voucher holders total 1,060, which totals 3,655 families. Currently, 49 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown were being assisted.

He commented that the Johnstown Housing Authority hopes in the new year to continue consideration for long-term housing replacement plans. Mr. Arnone offered further explanation of that plan.

The JHA is expanding the use of its new app and is excited about the opportunity to have a mobile medical clinic parked at various JHA communities on a regular basis to provide healthcare assistance.

Mrs. Mock had no report.

Reverend King commended the community for its support over this past holiday season. The Christmas giveaway and holiday dinner on Christmas were both a success. She reported a dinner was held for first responders on duty Christmas Eve. The events will continue to be held.

Ms. Huchel reported a piano and violin duo will be held at Grand Halle this weekend and the Johnstown Symphony will provide a Celebration of Music honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

She noted that the Welcoming Johnstown event organized last year celebrating all immigrant communities in Johnstown will be held again this year. Details will be provided in the future. All those interested in helping with this project are welcome to contact Ms. Huchel.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

BILL NO. 23 OF 2022, (TABLED) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS FOR MECHANICAL AMUSEMENT DEVICE AND LICENSING TAX TO BE CODIFIED WITHIN CHAPTER EIGHT (BUSINESS REGULATION AND TAXATION CODE) TITLE FOUR (TAXATION) OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS A NEW CHAPTER 804 ENTITLED "MECHANICAL AMUSEMENT DEVICES".

Mrs. Mock made a motion to remove from table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone.

Mr. Imhoff provided further information regarding how this ordinance would be enforced, the fee schedule and licensing. He noted since there are approximately 50 to 75 of these licenses, staff can make site visits to each establishment. A fee schedule is still being developed. Mr. Imhoff noted conversations about the skill machines are ongoing and suggested this ordinance be tabled for final adoption at the February meeting. There was further discussion regarding the enforcement date of March 1, 2023.

Ms. Benjamin explained it did not matter if it was retroactive or not, it was an annual fee. Once they are required to pay, they are required to pay whether it is by January or February. She noted that other areas of the amendment need to be clarified before adoption in February.

There was further discussion regarding the number of machines in establishments and whether there might be too many for staff to site visit. Mr. Capriotti inquired if there was some way information could be obtained from the state to get a more accurate number. Mr. Imhoff noted that after further investigation there was no state agency or comprehensive database to determine those types of numbers. Mr. Arnone suggested using those with retail licenses within the City.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone and passed by the following vote:

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

BILL NO. 25 OF 2022, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SALE OF A CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 6TH WARD OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ON NAPOLEON STREET TO THE GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY (THE "AUTHORITY") AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE ORDINANCE, AND ANY/ALL ACTIONS INCIDENTAL TO SAID SALE AS REFERENCED IN THE AGREEMENT ENTERED BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock.

Mr. Arnone stated the small piece of property is adjacent to the new building. The property would go into taxation.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ

BILL NO. 1 OF 2023, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, ORDINANCE NO. 4964 ADOPTED APRIL 13, 2005, AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5086, PASSED JUNE 21, 2011; ORDINANCE NO. 5119 PASSED JANUARY 23, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5139 PASSED NOVEMBER 27, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5191 PASSED DECEMBER 9, 2015; AND ORDINANCE NO. 5330 PASSED MARCH 9, 2022, BY REZONING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE 8TH WARD OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

Reverend King made a motion to approve.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Huchel and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Capriotti, Mr. Arnone, Ms. Huchel, Mrs. Mock (4).
Nays: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King (2).

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 10548

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE OR OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.

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

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

Resolution No. 10549

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A MINOR SUBDIVISION MERGING THREE PARCELS AT THE CORNER OF MESSENGER STREET AND WOOD STREET IN THE HORNERSTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capriotti.

Mr. Arnone explained the Johnstown Veterinary Clinic has cleaned up a big part of that neighborhood and would like to merge three properties into one lot.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Capriotti, Mr. Arnone, Ms. Huchel,

Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (6).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10550

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED AND TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY FOR THE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION OF CARPETING AT THE FRANK J. PASQUERILLA CONFERENCE CENTER.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Reverend King.

Mr. Arnone noted he had used the business to replace carpeting at his own business and they do an "excellent job". Mr. Capriotti commented that he can't in "good conscience" put money into the Conference Center until there's some sort of "break even" here. Reverend King suggested that the City receive monthly financials, which would show the Center is scheduling events and there is revenue. Mr. Imhoff will provide that information. Naming rights were discussed which might help recoup some of the costs.

Ms. Huchel called for the question.

Mr. Capriotti suggested dialog with organizations within the City with regard to what the Conference Center has to offer. There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Arnone, Ms. Huchel, Reverend King,
Mrs. Mock (5).
Nays: Mr. Capriotti (1).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Loan Review Committee Appointment

Resolution No. 10551

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN
APPOINTMENT TO THE LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE AS
RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY MANAGER.

Reverend King made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr.
Capriotti.

Mr. Imhoff noted two vacant seats on the loan review committee, that Jancy Kasper,
Regional Vice President of Northwest Bank, has volunteered to serve. He
noted there is a volunteer, Thomas Boyd, for the other vacant position, which
will be reviewed at the February meeting. Mr. Imhoff recommended the
appointment of Ms. Kasper to a three-year term that expires November 27,
2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Public Works - No Report.
2. Police Department - No Report
3. Fire Department

Chief Robert Statler reported approximately 3,200 incidents last year, including 48
structure fires, some EMS related and 10 involving mutual aid.

4. Finance - No Report
5. Community Development

John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director, noted there are several new staff
members that are currently being trained. He is working on a substantial
budget amendment with HUD dollars and a spending goal that needs to be hit
by mid-May, rededicating some funding to park improvement projects

including the Forest Avenue Playground Project and other park improvements.

RFPs are also being prepared for some stadium projects including the concessions contract that needs rebidding and paperwork is being completed for continuation of the RAISE grant. Mr. Dubnansky noted several Economic Development grant applications are being reviewed, which affect several potential new businesses over the next few months. Demolition projects were discussed. He noted an average of over 100 demos a year throughout the City.

Mr. Arnone was in receipt of topographical maps of the different parts of the City, and he would try to isolate the ones that are livable, questionable or should be torn down to have a "better picture" of what needs to be done. The Mayor suggested that Council be able to provide input also.

Mrs. Mock requested a meeting with Mr. Dubnansky, herself and Reverend King to discuss the playgrounds. Mr. Dubnansky indicated that Urban Designs is one of the groups that responded to an RFP.

6. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager, reported that in the month of December, there were 69 service requests or code violations, 42 building permits, 18 commercial contractor licenses and 136 plumber licenses issued. He noted the plumber's test is scheduled for the 19th. Cleanup will be held Thursday, January 19, 2023 when Codes will assist Public Works to clean up an area of the City, which this time may include the West End, Coopersdale, and Minersville.

Codes will register for the Great American Cleanup in April assisted by Public Works. Fliers will be put out as well as on social media regarding the cleanup.

Mr. Williams will start looking for summer seasonal help in the near future.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONAGENDA ITEMS

None.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:06 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Stated Meeting, continued

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EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD WITH REGARD TO PERSONNEL

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.