

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 14, 2023

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business.
Mayor Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Britt offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Mock requested a moment of silence for Sergeant Michael Beblar who had recently passed away. She read into the record the following statement:
Sergeant Michael Beblar, West Hills Police Department, passed away suddenly on June 13, 2023 at the age of 40. He is a member of SERT and has participated many times helping current JPD. He leaves two young sons and a fiancé. His father, Michael, Sr., is a retired JP officer and served the City well. A moment of silence and prayer for the family of Michael Beblar was conducted.

Mayor Janakovic also requested a moment of silence for Al Reynolds, a former member of City Council who had recently passed away.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (7).

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023; Special Council Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstention: Mr. Capriotti (1).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Janakovic read the following proclamation into the record in recognition of Juneteenth:

Our nation separated itself from the ties of Great Britain on July 4th, 1776 with the Declaration of Independence stating that we hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

On January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln who better aligned this nation with principles held in the Declaration of Independence signed the Emancipation Proclamation stating that all people enslaved within any state shall be then henceforth and forever free. Nearly three years later on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arriving in Galveston, Texas, under General Order Number Three, declared the end of the Civil War and the final end of slavery in the United States announcing the people of Texas are informed that in accordance with the proclamation from the executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

The City of Johnstown on April 20th, 2022, established Juneteenth as an official city holiday to celebrate the African/American community and recognize both their struggles and achievements in the pursuit of freedom, justice and equality.

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Frank J. Janakovic, on behalf of Johnstown City Council and our citizen thank the NAACP and all other groups involved for their tremendous service in hosting Johnstown's 2023 Juneteenth celebration, which is going on all this week. Johnstown City Council is ever grateful for the African/American community and their contributions in making our city excellent. We commit to creating a more united, equal and just home for all. On this day, I signed the seal and cause the Seal of Johnstown to be affixed.

Mayor Janakovic noted he would be presenting the proclamation on Monday, June 19, 2023. The parade was cancelled this past Monday, June 12, 2023. He congratulated those responsible for their hard work.

Mayor Janakovic read the following proclamation into the record in recognition of Pride Month:

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex, LGBTQI Pride Month is celebrated in June every year since 1999. LGBTQI communities in the City of Johnstown contribute to the advancement and success of our community at large. The City of Johnstown exists to serve, protect and work for the betterment of all of its citizens regardless of race, faith, sexual identity, sexual orientation or any

other characteristics inherent in the identities of the people. All individuals regardless of these characteristics have the right to be treated fairly and equally on the basis of their intrinsic value as human beings. They have a right to partake in a world of dignity, freedom, parliament and justice.

The City of Johnstown seeks to not only recognize the historical struggles of the LGBTQI communities across this nation but also recognize their achievements as persons, as citizens and as leaders of our community.

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Frank J. Janakovic, on behalf of City Council and our citizens, hereby declare the month of June 2023 as LGBTQI Pride Month within the City of Johnstown. We encourage all members of the public to reflect on the struggles the LGBTQI community has, does and will face to achieve their liberty and equality. We celebrate their efforts to better themselves, their friends, their families and our community. In Witness Thereof, on the 14th day of June, 2023, I hereby set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Johnstown to be affixed.

Mayor Janakovic noted the ceremony and parade will be held in July.

Phil Bayush, on behalf of the Laurel Highlands Newsletter, thanked the Mayor, City Manager and City Council for giving the proclamation and invited all to join them on Saturday, July 15, 2023 in Central Park where food will be served until 9:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Ethan Imhoff, City Manager, reported that Ideal Market has stated it would be closing its downtown grocery store, which would have an impact on economic development efforts and residents who live downtown. He noted the City is working with JARI and JRA to find another operator for that space, which is owned by JRA.

Mr. Imhoff reported that he would be meeting with HUD regarding the distressed community technical assistance program, which was announced when Matthew Heckles, regional HUD administrator, visited Johnstown. The program works to partner communities with financial struggles to federal

resources. Another program is the rental assistance program that JHA will be participating in.

He noted the first public introduction to the RAISE grant was held. A one-hour premeeting was also held with the Main Street committee and SCAPE Designs.

Mrs. Mock requested an update with regard to plans for the new Public Safety Building. Mr. Imhoff noted proposals for design of the building will be going out this month. An RFP for the HVAC system for which Senator Langerholc obtained \$750,000 towards that project. He noted the success of several events held at the Conference Center. New carpeting has been installed and new cosmetic upgrades will be made to the building.

A successful Jehovah's Witness event was held at the Conference Center this past weekend, which was attended by thousands.

MAYOR:

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported May and June have been very busy months. He noted his attendance at the Showcase for Commerce where over \$350 million was awarded in grants by vendors and corporations throughout the area.

The Polka Fest was recently held at PNG Park, which brought people in from all over the United States.

Mayor Janakovic noted his attendance at the Mill Rats home opener.

Over 300 people attended the recent Main Street committee meeting, which was open to the public.

The Mayor attended a ceremony at the Johnstown Flood Museum, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Approximately 1,000 tickets were sold for the Taste and Tour event, which was recently held.

The Mayor noted meeting with Senator Casey when he recently visited Johnstown.

He noted his attendance at the Chamber Board of Directors meeting and the annual Military Spouse Appreciation Ceremony.

He and several Council members attended a ribbon-cutting event at 404 Messenger Street, the old L&D Candy building that was renovated to hold meetings and events in the Hornerstown section of the city. He commended Dave and Donna Porcher for creating a place for people to come.

It was noted the Juneteenth Parade would be held next week.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, had no report during this portion of the meeting but would direct any matters that arise while going through the agenda.

CITY ENGINEER:

None.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Michael Capriotti, Deputy Mayor, noted his attendance at many of the same events attended by the Mayor.

He expressed thanks and appreciation to City Fire, Police and first responders from himself and Councilmembers on recent efforts to save the child who had fallen into the river.

Mayor Janakovic on behalf of himself and the offered condolences to the family.

Mr. Britt thanked Mr. Campagna, his crew and Laura and all who participated in repainting the street last Friday.

As Council's representative on the GJWA, 18 lead service lines were renewed in May for a total of 113. Work to install endpoint devices and meters in the Central Business District is one-third completed and will continue throughout the summer. Service line inventory is 50 percent complete and on track to be completed this year before the November 24, 2023 deadline. He noted that Snyder is approximately 98 percent completed with construction of the whole project, 95 percent completed with the construction of the project within the City. As of the end of May the City was 63.9 percent pressure tested.

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 May 31, 2023, the population of the public housing communities was 2,405, Section Eight voucher holders totaled 1,127 families

for a total of 3,532 families. Currently 40 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown are being assisted.

Mr. Arnone reported there are still no definitive plans for the Prospect Community noting different needs for different properties. A real estate estimate would be discussed with HUD to determine if funding is available or more drastic redevelopment is needed. JHA administration is meeting weekly with HUD Pittsburgh Field Office to discuss possible next steps. A meeting will be held with Quality Affordable Housing taskforce partners regarding choice neighborhood grant applications focusing on Oakhurst and Coopersdale.

As representative of the American Legion of Johnstown, Mr. Arnone reported that membership agreed to raise funds for the purchase an LED solar-operated flag for display at Roxbury field. A ceremony was held on Memorial Day, which will become an annual event. Mr. Arnone also reported that a new red, white and blue roof was installed on the American Legion building in downtown Johnstown.

Mr. Arnone stated the only work that needs to be completed on the Inclined Plane is just in the wheelhouse. He would like the observation platform to be open to the public.

Mr. Capriotti inquired of Mr. Arnone what residents would need to do to avoid a fee being placed on their water bills while waiting for a contractor to come in and do the work. Mr. Arnone noted an updated contract would have to be obtained indicating the work would be done by the end of this year. He would ask for further explanation at the Thursday June 15, 2023 meeting.

Mrs. Mock reported the West End Improvement Group's flower boxes were placed along Route 56 from Giant Eagle to Harold Avenue.

The community garden has been planted.

The group is working toward designs and planning for the grant for the City Neighborhood Project.

She noted that flowers and rosebushes have been planted at Roxbury Park.

Reverend King noted her attendance at many of the events that the Mayor had already spoken of. She reminded all of the Juneteenth celebration going on this week in Central Park. An all-day concert will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at

PNG Park and a parade would be held on Monday, June 19, 2023 in downtown Johnstown.

Reverend King reported a block party was recently held in the Solomon community and similar events are suggested for other neighborhoods in the City.

She invited all to visit Studio 404, the new event center in Hornerstown.

Reverend King thanked City police and firemen for their recent rescue efforts of the ten-year-old boy and asked that all remember the family of the young child.

Ms. Huchel also noted her attendance at many of the recent events but noted one highlight in conjunction with the JAHA anniversary was the restored silent film of the Johnstown Flood recently shown at the State Theater. She also attended the Main Street SCAPE meetings, Polka Fest, the Pride kickoff at Lucy's, the Walk of Hope at the Greater Johnstown High School and repainted End Racism Now on Main Street along with other volunteers. She also was in attendance at some Juneteenth events and heard a solo saxophone player in Central Park.

With regard to JRA, Ms. Huchel indicated that staff continues to work to administer grants and loan programs and is reviewing responses to requests for proposals for the operation of the Dornick Point Plant.

Mayor Janakovic further mentioned that he attended a Press Conference at the Trojan Stadium recognizing 125 years of football in Johnstown. The Mayor told the story of an opportunity he had to attend the 1958 championship game at Pitt Stadium in, which Jerry Davitch participated.

PETITIONS:

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

BILL NO. 4 OF 2023, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLANS ESTABLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF CITY UNIFORMED AND NON-UNIFORMED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PENSION AND

RETIREMENT BENEFITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE
LAW.

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, Mrs.
Mock,

Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone (7).

Nays: None (0).

BILL NO. 5 OF 2023, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, VACATING WAGONER
PLACE FROM HAY AVENUE TO SUPPES AVENUE AS A PUBLIC
THOROUGHFARE.

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

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

Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone (7).

Nays: None (0).

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ

BILL NO. 7 OF 2023, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND
APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF ANY/ALL CERTAIN REAL ESTATE
INTEREST (S) EXISTING WITHIN A TRACT OF PROPERTY LOCATED
IN THE 17TH WARD OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN LYING ALONG
AND BETWEEN THE STONYCREEK RIVER WALL AND INCLINED
PLANE TO THE CAMBRIA COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND
FURTHER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS
OF THE CITY TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT
THIS SALE AND TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS INCIDENTAL TO SAME.

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

Mr. Arnone explained ownership of the property is unknown. CamTran is requesting full access and ownership of the property.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (7).
Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A MINOR
SUBDIVISION LOT MERGE CONSOLIDATING SEVEN PARCELS ON
HORNER STREET IN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN (TABLED).

Mr. Imhoff explained the reason for the resolution to remain tabled is there has not
been any reply from MSP Properties, which has recently sold the Dollar
General to a California-based property called Exchange Right.

Resolution No. 105610

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER
OF RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE R-19598 INTO THE CITY OF
JOHNSTOWN FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF RICHLAND.

Ms. Huchel made a motion to recommend against approval of the license transfer.
The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock.

Attorney Benjamin explained the motion is to disapprove the resolution and deny the
petition, that a nay vote means not in favor of the request and a yea vote
means in favor of the request. A nay vote would mean a written adjudication
would be issued to the petitioner.

Ms. Huchel made a motion to vote on the resolution and approve as read. The motion
was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: None (0).
Nays: Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti,
Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King (7).

Resolution No. 105611

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO URBAN DESIGN VENTURES, LLC, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO THE CITY'S HUD PROGRAMS.

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

Yeas: Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (7).

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105612

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO LEASE TO OWN A 2024 10-TON FREIGHTLINER 114SD PLUS TRUCK CHASSIS FROM BERMAN TRUCK GROUP AND A 10'6" ALUMINUM DUMP BED WITH SNOW EQUIPMENT FROM A&H EQUIPMENT.

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

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel (7).

Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr.. Imhoff requested that Council make a motion to approve the following Conditional Use Application:

GOODWILL OF THE SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES' REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL PHILANTHROPIC USE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 540 CENTRAL AVENUE, PARCEL NO. 87-007-128 AS PRESENTED AT THE MAY 10, 2023 PUBLIC HEARING FOR PURPOSES OF

CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING THE MOXHAM FOOD PANTRY SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH WITHIN THE CITY ZONING CODE AT SECTION 1260.164 AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO ISSUE A WRITTEN DETERMINATION CONFIRMING THE GRANT OF SAID REQUEST ON BEHALF OF CITY COUNCIL.

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

Yeas: Ms. Huchel, Mrs. Mock, Reverend King, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Capriotti, Mr. Britt, Mr. Arnone (7).

Nays: None (0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Public Works

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, noted being busy helping the American Legion with the installation of the flag pole at Roxbury Park and painting downtown. He reported a recent meeting with Gregory Construction, which will start river dredging from the Inclined Plane to Cambria City and was scheduled to start May 31 and end around the middle of August of 2023.

He reported paving bids were received today for approval at Council's July meeting.

Mr. Arnone noted several dead standing trees in Roxbury Park and asked that Mr. Campagna address the issue.

Mr. Capriotti requested contact information be made available at City Hall for residents unhappy with the condition that the gas company has left their properties in after performing work. Mr. Campagna suggested placing People's contact information on the City's website. There was further discussion regarding that matter.

2. Police Department

Chief Richard Pritchard reported that he had the honor of speaking at the recent wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial.

The Chief commented that police cars are now lit in cruise mode for residents to see police presence in the community.

He reported three new recruits will start in the academy on the 19th and will finish up sometime in December. One new officer, Dominick Lam, was recently hired.

Chief Pritchard reported the 2006 prisoner transport vehicle is being refurbished by the Johnstown High School body shop. He noted several updates to the vehicle, including the installation of cameras in the prisoner compartments.

In response to an inquiry by Mrs. Mock, the Chief discussed the status of the license plate reader system being a part of the JPD and referred to the PlateSmart technology being used in Allegheny County. He noted a meeting would be held with Watkins in the future regarding the program.

Mr. Capriotti requested more enforcement of the ordinance regarding people parking on their front lawns and driving on curbs and sidewalks on street sweeper night. Mr. Arnone commented that the company has made a strong suggestion that more boots be placed on vehicles, which is the most effective way to have fines paid. The Chief had further discussion regarding the protocol for enforcement including the implementation of a magistrate code. There was further discussion regarding enforcement of the ordinance as it pertains to abandoned cars and also changing the ordinance to allow police on private property if there is danger to the public.

3. Fire Department

Chief Robert Statler reported the training site is moving forward and the foundation work would begin after Thunder in the Valley by the firemen and Public Works, after which a contractor would install the building.

Chief talked about the accidental drowning in the river near Horner Street and the multiple other calls during that same incident. He noted the help and assistance of outside fire companies through the mutual aid agreement, including the East Taylor dive team.

4. Finance

Robert Ritter provided an update with regard to the Enterprise software. He stated a "few glitches" have been corrected. He noted that once all systems have been set up a training for all the departments would be held.

Mr. Ritter, Mr. Williams and Mr. Stiffler had a recent meeting with the Enterprise Software company to review the codes process after which another training session would be held. There was further discussion.

5. Community Development

John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director, reported the RAISE projects are moving forward. All meeting materials utilized for the May 31 open house and comments received are available at the Gallery on Gazebo site. The next public meeting will be held July 19, 2023 at Central Park for a first look at some conceptual ideas.

He noted that Council had previously approved allocation from the HUD Home ARPA funds in the amount of \$750,000 for the development of a non-congregate concrete shelter, which has been released in application form with proposals due by the end of the month. Staff will do an internal review of those proposals and make recommendation to Council.

He discussed a grant approval for Made in Johnstown, a local nonprofit, which will be occupying the old Rite Aid on a long-term lease. Mr. Dubnansky explained there would be a variety of vendors there creating, making and selling products. He stated a tenant is also being sought for the old Press Bistro site.

Mrs. Mock inquired about adding additional demos to the \$250,000 from HUD. Mr. Dubnansky explained waiting for the RFP to be released in July or August to see pricing. Mrs. Mock suggested review of the numbers again.

6. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager, reported that in the month of May there were 270 service requests issued for code violations and 40 building permits.

He noted averaging approximately five to ten properties per crew per day for grass cutting, property maintenance.

Mr. Williams noted two properties vacated for remediation next week and two properties currently with the magistrate.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONAGENDA ITEMS

Wednesday, June 14, 2023
Stated Meeting, continued

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Tereah Anderson, Connor Towers resident, spoke with regard to wanting to help the community as far as education and entertainment. She described herself as "self led" and a digital designer who likes to create things. Ms. Anderson would like to help kids as well as elderly and "likes people to be happy".

Reverend King commented that the Connor Towers would be the best place to start to focus on the elderly. Mr. Arnone suggested Ms. Anderson talk to the building director regarding the matter. Mayor Janakovic suggested Ms. Anderson research the Made in Johnstown nonprofit for further opportunity.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:46 p.m.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.