

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 22, 2023

City Council met in a special meeting for the purposes of considering action on a subdivision of 320 Main Street (commonly known as the State Theater), a proposal for a non-congregate shelter within the City, and appointments to Johnstown Housing Authority and Loan Review Committee. The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Frank Janakovic.

The following Council Members were present for roll call:

Rev. Sylvia King, Mayor Janakovic, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone

Absent: Mr. Capriotti, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Britt

The following City staff members were present:

City Manager Ethan Imhoff, Assistant City Manager Alex Ashcom, Director of Community and Economic Development John Dubnanski.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Eric Reighard, Executive Director of the State Theater, spoke to City Council regarding the proposed subdivision plan for 320 Main Street. He provided Council an overview of the plan.

Brian Vuletic, a resident of the Lincoln Street Towers expressed opposition to the proposed shelter, as it would negatively impact the quality of life of residents at the tower. He expressed that it was counter intuitive to make much needed improvements to Main Street while adding a shelter a block away from it.

Robert Roshud, Jr., the manager of the Walnut Street Apartments, expressed opposition to the proposed shelter. He said it would negatively impact the residents of Lincoln Street towers and businesses in the area.

Scott Berkey, a resident of the Walnut Street Apartments, expressed opposition to the shelter as he has recently moved into his apartment and would be negatively affected by the shelter.

Jeffrey Matula, Jr. of 525 Vine Street expressed issues with the closure of public housing in Prospect. Mayor Janakovic directed him to speak during the non-agenda comment period.

The Fiscal Coordinator of the Women's Help Center, Michael Kane, asked City Council to reconsider the shelter proposal submitted by the Women's Help Center.

John DeBartola spoke on two agenda items. He expressed his displeasure with the proposal for a shelter within the City of Johnstown and was opposed to its establishment. He also spoke on appointments to City boards, commissions, and authorities. He suggested that City Council appoint new members to City boards so that new voices and actions may be considered.

Bishop Joseph McGauley expressed opposition to the shelter, arguing that both closing public housing and establishing homeless shelters would drive residents from their homes into homeless shelters.

Mason Matula of Oakhurst homes spoke regarding the closing of Prospect homes. He expressed a wish to return to prospect and wanted answers regarding the closing of the homes. Mayor Janakovic referred him to the Housing Authority.

AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution – State Theater Minor Subdivision Plan

Councilor Arnone motioned to approve the State Theater Minor Subdivision plan as was presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Mock. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Rev. King, Mr. Arnone, Mrs. Mock

Nays: None (0)

Resolution – HOME American Rescue Plan Funding (TABLED)

Councilor Mock motioned to remove the resolution from the table. The motion was failed for lack of a second.

The motion passed by the following vote:

NEW BUSINESS:

Authority and Committee Vacancies

Councilor Mock motioned to table the appointment of a person to a vacant position on the Johnstown Housing Authority. The motion was seconded by Councilor Arnone. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Rev. King, Mr. Arnone, Mrs. Mock

Nays: None (0)

Councilor Mock motioned to reappoint Melissa Komar and Kenneth Szczur to the Loan Review Committee, as their terms expired in August. The motion was seconded by Councilor Arnone. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Rev. King, Mr. Arnone, Mrs. Mock

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Frank Janakovic read a proclamation into the record regarding the 1923 Banishment in Rosedale.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON AGENDA ITEMS

Sahid Rohn of the Vine street apartments expressed his displeasure regarding the Johnstown Housing Authority moving residents from the Prospect homes.

John DeBartola thanked City Council for leaving the resolution funding the shelter tabled. He also thanked City Council for tabling the appointment of a member of the Johnstown Housing Authority.

Jeffrey Matula, Jr again voiced his displeasure at the closing of the prospect homes.

Bishop Joseph McGauley asked City Council to aid the residents of prospect in the reopening of the Prospect Homes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.