

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 14, 2024

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Capriotti, Mr. Britt, Ms. Huchel, Reverend King,
Mrs. Mock (6).
Absent: Mr. Arnone (1).

An Executive Session with regard to personnel was held prior to the commencement of this meeting.

Melissa Komar, Interim Co-City Manager; Robert Statler, Interim Co-City Manager/Fire Chief; Dennis R. Very, Esquire, Solicitor; Sara Williams, Executive Secretary; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager; Melissa Millard, Finance Director; Nina Ndichu, Economic Development Director; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; and Tony Penna, Recreation, were also present.

Art Martynuska was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2024, Workshop Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2024, and Special Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION-

Mayor Janakovic recognized the following departments: Community and Economic Development Department, Jenna Cramer for overall recognition for job duties including community involvement, Farmer's Market, Website Management, Proactive Professional Development. And Theresa Rowe, who has undertaken many duties beyond her usual ones, and has transitioned many roles within the Department.

There was also discussion with the War Memorial regarding a way to utilize the Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC) parking garage, which has a total of 591 spots. An agreement would provide for the War Memorial to be able to sell 500 of those spots during their events, with the City receiving 50 percent of all parking revenues.

Famous Inc. is an HVAC distributor, and this would be its 52nd location, starting in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, a fifth-generation family-owned business. Mrs. Komar indicated Famous and the War Memorial have already worked together for advertising at the War Memorial and other ways to work together.

Mrs. Komar reported the county was pleased with the contents of the agreement for the Conference Center. A land lease for the gravel area under the ITC parking garage would be used for their storage. It was noted the contract with the Conference Center is a five-year contract.

The Interim City Manager noted working in partnership with the County and the Authority for an application for blight elimination for the Sheesley property owned by CCRA on Horner Street adjacent to the fire training facility.

Mrs. Komar noted ten properties will be transferred at the next JRA Board meeting totaling 71. She noted the City originally funded \$150,000 to the land bank with \$147,000 left and a portion used to fund the code violations.

Regarding the RAISE grant, a meeting was recently held with Michael Kerr regarding questions about stormwater issues. Jared will provide an update during his report.

The CJL study of the Public Safety Building should soon be received.

Mrs. Komar thanked all departments for providing information to the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the City's social media and website to enhance them in a positive fashion.

MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported on recently spending an afternoon with Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island, who was very interested in JWF and other local industries. He was provided the opportunity for a walk downtown and found the Main Street Project very impressive.

CITY ENGINEER:

Members were referred to the written report.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Ms. Huchel noted her attendance at National Night Out advocating for spaying and neutering of pets. She stated the next meeting of the Johnstown Animal Welfare will be held August 27, 2024, at Donna Christopher's office.

She congratulated the organizers of Squonkapalooza held in Central Park. The AAUW local held a book sale fundraiser. Ms. Huchel noted the AAUW provides scholarships to young women in the City of Johnstown.

The Harvard Loeb Fellows will be conducting a study trip to Johnstown on October 10 through 13, 2024. Suggestions for housing and changes to the rust belt communities will be addressed.

Ms. Huchel explained that Johnstown Animal Welfare and other organizations help in animal control. Mrs. Mock suggested that money originally allocated for the Humane Society be used for spaying and neutering. Ms. Millard will check into that money as it may have been removed from the budget in 2024. Ms. Huchel suggested having a long-term animal control solution by providing an attractive package with funds that were originally set aside along with financial help from neighboring communities.

Mr. Capriotti noted the Humane Society does not currently have a contract with any local municipalities in the county, as they are "beyond bursting at the seams" with animals and also do not have enough staffing. Getting something in a line item not already in place would definitely need to be done for 2025. The Mayor suggested contacting other organizations to join in any capacity. Ms. Huchel will draft a letter regarding the matter.

Reverend King had discussion with regard to a health ministry initiative in conjunction with the Center for Population Health, whereby a health minister would speak concerning some type of health disparity in every house of worship.

She reported Hope for Johnstown had its final event for the summer at Roxbury Park with activities for children and the opportunity to build relationships with them. She applauded Quan Britt for his efforts.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUS OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1, 2024.

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

Interim Co-City Manager Komar explained the Wage and Salary Ordinance at the beginning of the year did not reflect all the changes made through contracts and new positions added, so those updates were added to the ordinance by Melissa and staff. Adoption was now being requested.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105664

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND ARTURO D. MARTYNUSKA FOR A TERM COMMENCING AUGUST 14, 2024 AND CONTINUING THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025 AT A YEARLY SALARY OF \$125,000, PRORATED, FOR THE DURATION OF CALENDAR YEAR 2024 AND \$130,000 FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR AS PER AND CONTINGENT UPON THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND A SATISFACTORY BACKGROUND CHECK OF THE CANDIDATE.

Mr. Capriotti 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 (6).

Nays: None (0).

Wednesday August 14, 2024,
Stated Meeting, continued

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LICENSE PLATE READERS FOR THE JOHNSTOWN POLICE
DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69,930.00.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105668

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY
MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY IN APPROVING
AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH PRO DISPOSAL, INC.
FOR THE WEEKLY COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND PROCESSING OF
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND
WITH BULK ITEM/WHITE GOODS PICKUP MONTHLY AND
PROVIDING TEN (10) ROLL OFF DUMPSTERS FOR COMMUNITY
SPRING CLEANUP AND TEN (10) ROLL OFF DUMPSTERS FOR
COMMUNITY FALL CLEANUP. AMENDMENT SHALL TAKE EFFECT
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 AND REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL AUGUST 31,
2029.

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

Mrs. Komar explained, whenever the resolution was approved five years ago, a five-
year extension was also approved. This would be approving the amendment
to a contract already approved.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105669

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE ITC
PARKING GARAGE TEMPORARY PARKING LEASE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, AS LANDLORD, AND THE

July 23, 2009, and March 28, 2019 dates were not included in member packets, but a hard copy was in front of each Council member. Mayor Janakovic will sign the resolution with all dates included.

Mrs. Komar explained this resolution is verbatim of what the state uses in order to dispose of documents, in particular the digital versions that are currently on the server.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Code Enforcement Manager, reported 176 code violations for the month of July. He stated there were 10 being reviewed at the magistrate level with 6 more for August 2024. He reported 40 building permits were processed and issued for approximately \$16,000 per the new fee schedules.

Mr. Williams commented that he along with Public Works toured the Prospect Homes with the project manager. He noted all new storm drains were installed into the inlets, which Public Works will proceed to clean out. Residents will be able to start moving back in in March of 2025.

Year to date, there are 470 total rental registrations. Grass crews continue to mow 5 to 10 lots per day. A third seasonal laborer was also hired. Mr. Williams and two members of his department, along with Public Works, have cleaned up approximately four to five tons of garbage along Chapin, Peter, Wood Streets, Von Lunen Road, Linden Avenue, and Jacob Street. Seven Right to Know Requests were completed for the month of July 2024. A matter discussed between Mr. Williams and Mr. Capriotti was resolved. The

4. Finance

Melissa Millard referred members to the Revenue and Expenditure Report included in their packets for further discussion.

She noted submitting the 2025 Proposed Capital Budget, and a budget workshop is scheduled for August 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Millard noted the review of the ARPA grant money recipients. Goodwill of Southern Alleghenies for the Moxham Food Pantry was completed on June 15, 2024, and a grand opening was held July 11, 2024.

The Bottle Works Pavilion was completed, another successful project.

The Learning Lamp on Bedford Street was still working on their project.

All grants will be reviewed with Council, and updates will be provided.

Information regarding the CDBG loans for business development was also provided in their packets. Ms. Millard will provide a list of current and deleted businesses per a request by Mrs. Mock.

Ms. Millard reported the second quarterly ARPA Report was submitted to the Treasury Department.

Mrs. Mock inquired about the \$3.5 million home improvement ARPA grant money that was distributed, noting that part of the agreement was, if a home is sold within a certain period of time, it would need to be paid back. She inquired if anyone was checking on these homes that had been sold. Ms. Millard will investigate the matter. Mrs. Komar noted that she is keeping track of that information at the JRA, but she will also investigate the matter.

Ms. Millard noted that additional workshops will be scheduled starting in September 2024 and will be broken down by department, followed by workshops for Council. She will provide dates.

5. Community Development

Nine Ndichu reported a Planning Commission was held on August 7, 2024, and GIS software approval was received to collect data. She noted receiving good feedback from organizations in the City.

A farmer's market will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every Friday through October.

A squonkapalooza, family friendly celebration of Pennsylvania's favorite folklore, the squonk, was recently held.

Ms. Ndichu remarked that new fair housing ads will be placed on the CamTran buses.

The HUD residential program is being revamped to include small projects such as ADA ramps, basements, and roofs, so the money is used faster. A contract just for lead work and one for renovation for rehabilitation will be drafted to serve the community better.

The RFP for shelters for homeless, victims of sexual and domestic abuse was reopened this year, and responses would need to be in by August 30, 2024.

She noted that Columbia student members of the Loeb Fellows will be coming in the fall and would like to use some space at the Convention Center.

6. Public Works

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported on a recent meeting at the Conference Center regarding HVAC improvements. The bid for that is to be in by September 15, 2024. A member of the War Memorial Board was also in attendance at that meeting. Operations at the center will continue as improvements are made. Lawn maintenance at the center was done by Public Works staff along with Milkie's.

He reported the inlet underneath the Stone Bridge worked perfectly during the last rain storm. The work was completed by staff at no additional cost.

A meeting was held with the GJWA for discussion of stormwater issues on Main Street. He noted the location of the sanitary line is below the water table and below the level of the river. Lining was not able to be done, but a system was done locking the joints. There should be no issues with that infrastructure. It was suggested that the City utilize some of the county's facilities and do a walk-through. There was further discussion regarding a USAR inspection. Mr. Capriotti reiterated there was discussion previously about making sure that money was going to be allotted for infrastructure on the Main Street Project. Mrs. Mock also reiterated that if there is a need for additional funds for infrastructure, that money would have to be "peeled off" the park funds. Ms. Ndichu noted RCAP complementary funds in the amount

Mr. Penna spoke about a Miracle League Field, a synthetic field similar to the playground at Roxbury, a rubber field for special needs children to play baseball. Mr. Lovendowski from SEADS has been meeting with the Mill Rats ownership regarding the matter.

He commended Quan Britt on his leadership in the community. Mr. Jim White has been handling quotes for painting and light poles at the tennis courts in Roxbury Park.

Vegetation was cut back at the playground in Old Conemaugh Borough.

He noted working with Special Olympics to bring it back and opined Sargent's Stadium could play a big part in that.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Joseph Warhol, 44 Clover Street, commented he found it interesting that there is no line item for animal control. He stated the house next door to him is filled with ground hogs, skunks, feral cats and was concerned that there was no one to call regarding the problem. He has asked the City repeatedly to do something about. Mr. Warhol noted money can be found for other projects, but none to help with the blighted property he has been complaining about for five years. He asked that something be done about it as it is a public and safety issue and someone tell him who to call about the animal control problem.

Mayor Janakovic asked that Codes check into the matter.

Melana Simms, 507 Gregg Avenue, addressed Council regarding the City's pony league. She and her husband are involved with the Greater Johnstown Youth League, and noted the field as a safe place for them. Once they turn 12, there is nothing else. She noted confiding in Joe Slis, who listened to her concerns, who along with Tony Penna discussed what could be done to make this happen. Ms. Simms indicated the kids are excited about a pony league and are constantly inquiring about it. She thanked Council for believing in the kids and letting the City fields become their "field of dreams."

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:49 p.m.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.