

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 2, 2024

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Mayor Janakovic noted that an Executive Session was held with regard to personnel prior to the commencement of this meeting.

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; Ronald Repak, Esquire, Interim Solicitor; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Sara Williams, Executive Secretary were also in attendance.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Mayor Janakovic welcomed Honorable Judge Brian Subich who administered the oaths of office to Council members Charles Arnone and Michael Capriotti.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, Johnstown, addressed Council regarding three agenda items, including appointment of a City Solicitor, the City Manager employment agreement and the Board, Authority and Commission seats.

Mr. DeBartola commented that it's time for new leadership, that the municipal excellence award from the Governor does not validate the failures of the City. He commented that a Council member should not be on the Planning Commission board. He noted there should be new appointments to the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority. He opined that Mr. Arnone is "doing a good job" representing the City on the GJWA and should remain on that board. He opined that a Board of Appeals member has a criminal record and should not be appointed to any board. He had no issue with Mrs. Komar and Mr. Szczur on the Loan Review Committee but suggested "new blood".

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Mayor Janakovic nominated Michael Capriotti. Mr. Britt nominated Reverend King.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to elect the Deputy Mayor. The motion was seconded by Ms. Huchel and passed by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Capriotti received the following votes:
Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic, (4).

Reverend King received the following votes:
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Reverend King (3).

Michael Capriotti was re-elected as Deputy Mayor.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105641

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND ETHAN IMHOFF FOR A TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 3, 2024 AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE FIRST MONDAY IN JANUARY 2026 AT A YEARLY SALARY OF \$137,500 AS PER AND CONTINGENT UPON THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

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

Resolution No. 105642

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SELECTING A PROPOSAL FOR RENEWAL OF THE CITY'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PLAN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY/ALL AGREEMENTS AND NOTICES NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SAME.

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, Mr. Arnone (6).

Nays: None (0).

Abstention: Ms. Huchel (1) an employee of Arthur J. Gallagher.

Resolution No. 105643

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SELECTING A PROPOSAL
FOR RENEWAL OF THE CITY GENERAL LIABILITY AND PROPERTY
INSURANCE PLANS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024 AND
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY/ALL
AGREEMENTS AND NOTICES NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SAME.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstention: Ms. Huchel (1) an employee in the insurance industry.

NEW BUSINESS:

Interim City Solicitor

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve Dillon, McCandless, King, Coulter and
Graham as special counsel for City labor counsel and other related matters on
an as-needed basis. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock.

Mr. Imhoff noted he had sent a memo to Council last week regarding his interviews
with a few candidates. A Solicitor recommendation will be included on the
January 10, 2024 meeting agenda.

Solicitor Repak explained he is handling outstanding matters on the labor and special
counsel side to make it more cost efficient.

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).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Johnstown Planning Commission Appointment

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to nominate Ms. Huchel to a new four-year term on the Johnstown Planning Commission that expires January 31, 2028. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone.

There were no further nominations.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Ms. Huchel was re-appointed to the term.

2. Johnstown Redevelopment Authority

Mr. Capriotti made a motion to nominate Mr. Truscello to a four-year term on the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority that expires January 1, 2028.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Mr. Truscello was re-appointed to the term.

3. Greater Johnstown Water Authority

Mr. Arnone noted representing both Southmont and Westmont on the GJWA and provided a brief summary of Authority accomplishments over the past four years as follows:

We experienced little interruptions in the level of service during the pandemic. In September we purchased a new sewer collection system owned by the City of Johnstown allowing the City's financial recovery for pension debt, allowing the GJWA to improve the service. In 2021, GJWA purchased a combination vacuum jet truck to maintain its own sewer system and to offer affordable intermunicipal agreement for services to surrounding municipalities and authorities. The GJWA purchased the City of Johnstown's clean fill dump and

a bulldozer to maintain their salt. As a result of the purchase of the new sewer, the City of Johnstown customers were reduced by \$2 and it has stayed that way. As of May 2022 the Greater Johnstown Water Authority purchased the sewer collection in Westmont and has invested \$2 million into that system correcting it. In 2023 over \$4 million was invested into interconnecting two separate parts of the water distribution system to provide additional redundancy of water services from two separate treatment plants that had never been connected, completing all major construction projects, replacing the sewer system in the City of Johnstown, replacing the water tank in the Westmont system which will increase the pressure which had a problem due to fires. Also, in the new year we will be putting in a pump station in the Kernville section to get the water transferred and have a backup system in case there were interruptions. Miscellaneous things, 600 lead service lines have been replaced in three years. There have been on water quality violations over the four years, and no rate increases for four years.

Mrs. Mock nominated Mr. Britt. Mayor Janakovic nominated Mr. Arnone.

The motion to nominate Mr. Arnone to a five-year term on the Greater Johnstown Water Authority that expires December 31, 2028 passed by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Britt: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti (3)

Mr. Arnone: Reverend King, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mayor Janakovic (4)

Mr. Arnone was re-appointed to the term

4. Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

Reverend King nominated Jeffrey Wilson.

The motion to nominate Mr. Wilson to a new five-year term on the Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals that expires December 31, 2028 passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Mr. Wilson was re-appointed to the term

5. Loan Review Committee

Reverend King nominated Mrs. Komar and Mr. Szczur.

The motion to nominate Mrs. Komar and Mr. Szczur to new three-year terms on the Loan Review Committee that expires -on August 13, 2026 passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Mrs. Komar and Mr. Szczur were re-appointed to the terms.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, addressed Council regarding the Central Park Project and requested that Council "turn its decision around". He stated the ARPA funds used for the project has a wide variety of uses to benefit the public and that a match is not required because Johnstown is a distressed community.

He asked that Council move the money from the park project to other projects without affecting the RAISE grant or the Main Street project. He noted people do not want the statues moved, trees cut down, and do not want a splash pad and updating the sound system when there is a "failing police station." Mr. DeBartola referred to ARPA and RAISE as two separate funds being used towards the Main Street project and the Central Park project.

He asked that Council members reconsider their vote on the projects.

Mayor Janakovic City Manager Ethan Imhoff on his re-appointment as well as others appointed to Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

Mrs. Mock asked the City Manager to clarify the Central Park and Main Street Projects. Mr. Imhoff explained the money is necessary for both projects and that both RAISE and ARPA monies will be used for the Central Park Project. RAISE is more transportation related including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure which makes the Central Park sidewalks eligible.

He noted the original RAISE grant application identifies all of Central Park as the project area which makes it eligible for RAISE monies throughout the park.

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He noted a 50 percent design package was submitted at the end of 2023 and comments will be provided back to them, and that once there is 100 percent design is when which money sources are going to be attached to which pieces of the project.

Mrs. Mock inquired how the ARPA money "plays into the full project" which is more of a supplement than a match. Mr. Imhoff explained that the City could not do both projects with \$8 million of just ARPA money or just RAISE money.

Mr. Arnone explained that the electrical and water systems are two major problems with the entire project. He offered further explanation of these issues as well as others.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the reorganization meeting was concluded at 6:25 p.m.

Next scheduled Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

An Executive Session was held with regard to personnel following the conclusion of tonight's meeting.