

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 13, 2024

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

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

Mayor Janakovic noted an Executive Session with regard to personnel was held prior to the commencement of this meeting. A Budget Workshop was also held.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

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

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Dave Andrews, Esquire, Solicitor; Sara Williams, Executive Secretary; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Melissa Millard, Finance Director; Jennifer Burkhart, Accounting Assistant; Nina Ndichu, Economic Development Director; Officer David Price; Tony Penna, Recreation Director; and Robert Forcey, Executive Director, Vision Together 2025, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER

Art Martynuska, City Manager, referred Council members to his budget message for 2025 to review. He thanked staff who assisted him with the budget process.

He noted a Veteran's Day Parade and Halloween Parade were held, both of which he called "well done."

The City Manager looked forward to working with Council and staff on all projects.

MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic commended Ms, Ndichu and all involved in the recent Unity in the Park presentation.

He and a few Council members attended the JWF Industry's ribbon cutting on Cramer Pike with Mr. Polacek and his staff.

Mayor Janakovic noted speaking during campaigns throughout the City, including President Clinton.

He noted his attendance at the Halloween Parade and thanked all who sponsored, supported, and participated in that parade.

Mayor Janakovic attended a visit by Dr. Cindy Martin, U. S. Deputy Secretary of Education, at Eastside Elementary School in October.

He also met with Senator Casey prior to the election.

The Mayor noted his attendance at the Cambria County Housing Summit at Aces Lounge in Cambria City to address homelessness and housing stock throughout Johnstown as well as the county.

He did a welcome introduction for about 30 Harvard Loeb Fellows, a group of mid-career urban planners from all over the world, who study how cities rebuild themselves. They chose to come to Johnstown.

Approximately 50 students and 10 faculties from Columbia Urban Design Program were welcomed to Johnstown, to learn about the Rust Belt and revitalization strategies and providing pointers.

Wednesday November 13, 2024, 3 of 14
Stated Meeting, continued

The Mayor and JRA's Executive Director Komar are optimistic that two local entrepreneurs hoped to open a small grocery and food shop on Main Street across from Central Park.

CITY SOLICITOR

Dave Andrews, Solicitor, reported there were two tax assessment appeals in litigation that the City is contesting. One is JPN Holdings (the Atrium building), and a pretrial conference is scheduled for this Monday, November 18, 2024 with Judge Kiniry. Another one is the Rasheed Deeb appeal, 142 Walnut Street, the old FNB building, and an initial conference is scheduled for December 20, 2024, with Judge Kiniry.

CITY ENGINEER

No report.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Deputy Mayor Capriotti noted his attendance at the Unity event and the Halloween Parade.

He will provide further comment during the meeting motions.

Mr. Britt reported his attendance at the JWF event as well as Veteran's Day events downtown.

Mr. Arnone thanked the City for a job well done on the Veteran's Parade and considered it the "best one we've ever had." The American Legion group passed out flags. The group gave away \$100 worth of candy during the Halloween Parade.

Mr. Arnone, as representative of the Johnstown Housing Authority, provided statistical information related to the population of the public housing communities within the City of Johnstown. As of September 30, 2024, the total population of the public housing community was 2,403, and the Section 8 voucher population was 1,101.

47 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown were being assisted. The Prospect relocation affected the population statistics. He reported no set dates on when families will be invited back to Prospect, but there had been no time delays as contractors are working on interior finishes.

He reported JRA recently received a Best Practices Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authority (PAHRA) for collaborative training employment program with partners JARI, Penn Highlands, and PA Career Link, the first such award received by JHA since 2006.

JHA was awaiting a response from HUD regarding steps for the choice neighborhood planning grants, which may include a physical site visit by the end of the 2024. Expected to be considered during the process are ideas prepared by the students who visited from Columbia University recently to discuss resources in our area and explore new initiatives for the City of Johnstown.

Mr. Arnone, as representative on the Greater Johnstown Water Authority, reported the customer service department received 111 new service applications for properties. 26 inactive accounts were reactivated during the month of October 2024. There were four service renewals and three main line services completed. Five out of six variations of lead service letters were recently sent to 9,700 customers. He noted that President Biden mandated that in 10 years, all lead line services needed to be removed to the home's meter. There was no expense to the property owner or the City of Johnstown. GJWA is making a grant application regarding the matter. Staff from the GJWA will verify whether or not it is a lead line.

Pressure testing is currently at approximately 70, 71 percent.

Mrs. Mock reported the West End Improvement Group held a successful annual basket party.

Next on the agenda the group will be working on a neighborhood improvement grant.

Mr. Arnone noted the Minersville Playground was completed. A few pieces of playground equipment was purchased with leftover money. He commended the group on a beautiful job.

Reverend King reported having the opportunity to attend a banquet in honor of Ms. Linda Thomson.

She noted her attendance at the JWF ribbon cutting, the Veteran's Day Parade, the Unity event, and the Harvard Loeb Fellows session.

Reverend King met with the United Neighborhood Group and discussed completing a neighborhood analysis for each neighborhood. Reverend King and the Poverty Commission met with the local Department of Public Welfare.

She noted being honored to recently receive a community award from Vision.

Reverend King noted attending a community resource fair.

Ms. Huchel reported on also participating in the Loeb Fellow Columbia event. Current Loeb fellowship and Loeb alumni were in attendance, so not just mid-career professionals but those who are top housing experts in the country. Remote meetings are scheduled. Columbia students reviewed some projects and provided ideas.

She noted the Johnstown Symphony had a great season opener and captured the steel industry with music. A candlelight concert will be held this Saturday, November 16, 2024, in the Grand Halle.

The Johnstown Animal Welfare Society recently held a successful basket party. Volunteers are always welcome to help make services accessible to the community. The City budget may allocate funds devoted to animal welfare, and a program would be needed regarding who is qualified to receive those funds.

She also commented the Unity event, the Veteran's Day Parade, and Halloween Parade were a great success.

Ms. Huchel, as a member of JRA, reported transitions of land bank properties continue. She noted that outstanding water and sewer liens may provide circumstances that JRA is forgiving the liens, but the GJWA may not be.

Inframark, operations and maintenance for JRA, is considering the installation of a SCADA system, which helps to automate the chemistry of the sewer and would save money on chemicals and repairs.

Ms. Huchel noted her attendance at a recent Woodvale meeting regarding some upcoming demolitions in that neighborhood and making sure some properties can be saved before demolition.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ AND ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AN ALLEY KNOWN AS CROATIAN ALLEY
ADJACENT TO 612 BROAD STREET IN JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AS A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE.

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

Mr. Arnone explained the alley is between the Croatian Hall and the park on Broad Street. An individual came out the door on the alley side and almost got hit by a car, which is why they want to make it a non-traffic area.

The City Manager noted Council was misspelled on the document.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

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 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025.

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).

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF REAL
ESTATE TAXES ON PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF
JOHNSTOWN AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF
CERTAIN DISCOUNTS AND PENALTIES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1,
2025.

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

Mrs. Mock commended Ms. Millard, Finance Director, and staff for a job well done on the budget and noted there would be no tax increase for this year.

Wednesday November 13, 2024, 7 of 14
Stated Meeting, continued

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE TO PARTIALLY VACATE AN ABANDONED ALLEY
BETWEEN 152 AND 160 WESS STREET IN JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AS A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE DOLPHIN PLACE BETWEEN 1321 AND 1323
TENNESSEE AVENUE IN JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, 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: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt, Mr. Capriotti, Mayor Janakovic (7).

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105682

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY
MANAGER AND/OR ANY OF HIS DESIGNEES TO ENTER INTO AND
TO EFFECTUATE A CONTRACT WITH WHOLESALE ENERGY
COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCOUNTED ELECTRICITY.

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

This is a continuation of a previous contract.

Wednesday November 13, 2024, 8 of 14
Stated Meeting, continued

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105683

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY
MANAGER AND/OR ANY OF HIS DESIGNEES TO MAKE
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WOOD STREET PARK AND SKATE PARK,
THE SKATE PARK ON J STREET AND THE POINT STADIUM
OUTFIELD. THE CITY HAS REVIEWED AND WISHES TO ACCEPT
THE PROPOSAL OF THE EADS GROUP FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING
FOR THESE PROJECTS.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt 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. 105684

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A LOT MERGER
OF 3 EXISTING PROPERTIES ALONG IOLITE AVENUE.

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

Ms. Huchel noted the lot merger received approval from the Planning Commission.

The motion 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. 105685

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR ANY OF HIS DESIGNEES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD PRITCHARD SUBMITTED ON OCTOBER 23, 2024 WHICH WAS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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

Attorney Andrews explained the City Manager is authorized to accept the resignation and City Council can ratify that action but it's not required.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 105686

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSTOWN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT TO USE SARGENT'S STADIUM FOR THE JOHNSTOWN MILL RATS TEAM IN THE PROSPECT LEAGUE.

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

It was noted this is for the 2025 season.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 105687

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ASPIRE GRANT AND DEVELOPMENT TO

PROVIDE GRANT SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY
MANAGER TO TAKE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE
SAME.

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

Mrs. Mock suggested it might be more appropriate if it was a percentage of the grant received agreed upon by both parties. It was noted some grants will not allow to split a percentage.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to table. There was no second to the motion.

The motion to approve as read passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: Mrs. Mock (1).

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Community Development

Nina Ndichu, Community Development Director, reiterated the presence of the Columbia students and Loeb fellows in the City, who sent presentations regarding housing, art, and a waterfront accessibility hybrid system for public housing. Anyone interested in seeing those were asked to contact Ms. Ndichu.

November 1, 2024, a meeting was held with all department heads regarding recommendations for gathering additional data. A table was set up at the Unity event on November 2nd, 2024, and approximately 200 survey responses were received from community members. The survey is available in City Hall if anyone is interested. There are weekly check-ins with the team every Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

A professional assessment was received on August 15, 2024, regarding the Public Safety Building. The estimated cost is approximately \$10.78 million to \$12.66 million. Quotes received for construction of a new three-story building were between \$16.7 million and \$20.2 million due to space limitations, FEMA requirements, and topographical issues. Her recommendation is still "we can do something for this building," and suggested some renderings or designs to envision how this building would look.

Mayor Janakovic suggested meters for the parking lot across the street from the Public Safety Building.

Ms. Ndichu noted assessments were done for the two fire stations. The Ash Street Fire Station cost of rehabilitation would be between \$130,000 and \$195,000. The West End Fire Station rehabilitation would be approximately \$590,000 and \$845,000. There was discussion with regard to moving that particular fire station to a new location that already has the inside build, so the cost may not be that high.

Ms. Ndichu reported meeting with WSP to review the current status of the RAISE grant project. The consultants have met with JAHA and finalized a project description, which is being reviewed by FTA to provide feedback. The project may be delayed until Summer. An RFP will be sent out for construction administration part of the project early in 2025.

She reported 100 people submitted for the RFQ. Anyone interested in sitting on the art panel should contact Ms. Ndichu. High school and UPJ students will be invited to become part of the project.

A Title VI coordinator is still needed as part of the RAISE grant project. It is necessary that CamTran and JAHA have a Title VI program. The coordinator position will perform monitoring, reporting, policy implementation, any required education and training, documentation and recordkeeping, and community relations. It can be attached to someone who has already been hired by the City.

Ms. Ndichu noted her attendance at a Community Transformation Workshop in Iowa where strategy of transforming the downtown area focusing on economic mobility was discussed. Community serving and place making are two strategies, which will tie in with the RAISE grant goals.

Many residential programs, on hold since 2019, have been reinstated, including the Healthy Homes initiative to make sure everyone has access to

radon mitigation, lead abatement, carbon monoxide detections, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and asbestos removals. She referred to a list of homes completed or under construction.

She reported coordinating with the Center for Population Health to ensure that lead abatement services are available for the community and is working with the Greater Johnstown Landlord Association regarding the matter.

Ns. Ndichu reported receiving feedback regarding the Home ARP and stated funds cannot be awarded just yet as additional technical assistance needed to be provided to Victim Services and the Women's Health Center for them to receive their packages in compliant with HUD rules. Feedback will be provided after an upcoming meeting.

She discussed state-funded facade programs. She reported Unity in the Park hosted by the City was held on November 2, 2024, and attended by 300 people. She thanked stakeholders, those from Vision, and sponsors for their support. More sponsors are anticipated for 2025.

The Economic Empowerment Center is a program Ms. Ndichu developed for entrepreneurship focus. She explained how the program assists with coaching and making sure the process is transparent, effective, and fair.

Ms. Ndichu discussed working with Penn Highlands on the Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) program on data collected by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority.

There was further discussion regarding the Title VI job description. Mr. Capriotti inquired if there was some criteria that says this falls on the City as one of the RAISE grant recipients. Ms. Ndichu noted the City is the grant recipient, and an entity like CamTran is a subrecipient.

2. Code Enforcement - No Report
3. Police Department

Officer Dan Price reported four cadets were going through the academy and will graduate the end of November 2024. An additional academy will start in January 2025, and three cadets will enter at that time.

Officer Price noted department staff has been working events in the City including the Halloween and Veteran's Day Parades, and the Clinton visit. He stated, in December, officers, along with the fire department and the Cambria

County SERT team, will participate in the Johnstown First Responder Christmas on December 17, 2024. Donations are being accepted.

4. Fire Chief

Chief Robert Statler reported work on the training site continues with negotiating with the Cambria Somerset Authority regarding the waterline.

Hose and pump apparatus have passed testing, and rigs are kept in good shape with good maintenance, which costs less to maintain them.

He noted that Levergood Street is currently closed due to the facade collapsing on Buck's Hobby last week. The building will be assessed by the owner. Mr. Capriotti commented that barricades are not stopping pedestrian traffic in the parking lots. Chief Statler suggested the facade be removed, but we, as the City, cannot step in and do anything. The owner has 30 days to comply.

5. Finance

Mayor Janakovic noted a budget workshop was held prior to this meeting.

6. Public Works

Tony Penna, Recreation, reported, after meeting with the City Manager, it was concluded to propose an RTF for the stadium for a management agreement.

He noted being fortunate to take care of the turf all these years but indicated the turf life is approximately 10 years.

Mr. Penna referred to the Mill Rats contract for review. He noted, after meeting with the City Manager, this is a one-year contract and changes would be necessary going forward.

He stated one of the confusing pieces with the Mill Rats is AAABA took over some of the advertising that week. A meeting was held with Bishop McCort, UPJ, and the Mill Rats regarding having the AAABA grandfathered in.

Mr. Penna noted two big major areas of concern, the padding which can be done in phases in a completely brick stadium. A second concern is the pitch clock, which is not required yet but may be coming in the future. He noted it is a clock that the umpire can manage, and there is a subscription involved in that. He has been looking at different models, which are pretty pricy.

Mr. Penna opined there will be interest regarding a management agreement and asked City Council and the City Manager to determine if it was a matter of interest.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Robert Forcey, Executive Director, Vision Together 2025, referred members to information regarding a tax rebate program. He stated the Main Street Manager position can be funded through this program, and an advisory committee, including the City, JRA, Discover Downtown, Visit Johnstown, and JARI, will help manage this position. The committee came up with a job description and started recruiting for it. He noted 15 different resumes have been received so far, and a hiring committee will help review resumes.

Mr. Forcey mentioned houses will be built with a goal to have the first one built by June of 2025.

He referred to three different grant programs, including the Home Repair Grant, \$50,000 a year for six years; Facade Grant program, \$50,000 for six years; and a New Business Recruitment Grant program.

A wayfinding sign program mentioned in the Roger Brooks International Study was actually put into place in 2005. He suggested working with local vendors to replace the signs in town.

He noted contracting with a local landscaping company in the amount of \$15,000 a year, which will mow identified blighted property lots.

He commented that nine companies contributed to the program, \$3 million over the six years, \$500,000 per year. Some of the businesses want to remain anonymous.

Mr. Forcey indicated quarterly meetings are obligated to be held. He noted subrecipient grants are not permitted per DCED, but the grants are good for the entire City of Johnstown, but qualifies if defined in the City limits.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

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

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.