

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 9, 2024

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; Melissa Millard, Finance Director; Carmen Truscello, Fleet Manager; Tony Penna, Recreation Director; Shawn Matula; and Joseph Barr were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes of September 11, 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, Mr. Arnone (7).

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Shawn Matula, 360 Ebensburg Road, Johnstown, opposed the expansion of housing. He believed the school district is struggling with teachers and crime rates and noted people not taking care of their properties. He stated taxpayers do not need more low-income housing within the city and can use the money for the Towers, Solomon, and Coopersdale homes. He suggesting taking care of these matters before bringing more people into Johnstown.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER

Art Martynuska, City Manager, commented on it being a busy month and thanked the staff for their assistance. He noted budget meetings began with different department heads. He mentioned upcoming meetings with HUD consultants concerning some ongoing projects. He also noted moving forward with negotiations for the FOP, and next year's budget numbers will be reviewed and to move forward.

MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported on his attendance at the Slavic Festival in the Cambria City section. He attended the New Day Annual Dinner at the Richland Fire Hall.

He congratulated JARI and Linda Thomson on their 50th Anniversary celebration.

Mayor Janakovic noted a great turnout at the recent Recovery in the Valley in Central Park for those recovering from addiction. He noted recently providing a Brownfield presentation for Melissa Komar to a small group from all across Pennsylvania.

He reported his attendance at the Vision 2025 and Regional Partnership meetings.

CITY SOLICITOR

Dave Andrews, Solicitor, reported on recently being served with a copy of a tax assessment appeal for 142 Walnut Street, which is the former FNB Bank building. He stated the property is worth substantial money. He requested authorization from Council to enter his appearance for the City.

He noted the school district and county were also named, and he will get together with them to conduct an appraisal, noting the cost is shared proportionate by the amount of tax percentage received from the property. He mentioned the owner has counsel from Pittsburgh and noted the importance of making sure to keep that value up.

Reverend King made a motion to approve the Solicitor proceeding with opposing the tax assessment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock.

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There was further discussion regarding the matter.

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)

CITY ENGINEER

No report.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Deputy Mayor Capriotti had no report.

Mr. Britt had no report.

Mr. Arnone reported, as representative of the Johnstown Housing Authority, he provided a copy of the letter sent to all residents still in good standing with the Housing Authority, which indicated just under \$5 million would be spent on renovations. He also provided statistical information related to the population of the public housing community within the City of Johnstown. As of September 30, 2024, the total population of the public housing community was 2,366, and the Section 8 voucher population was 1,118, for a total of 3,484.

Currently, 46 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 date has been set for residents of Prospect to return. JRA collaborated on training and employment programs with partners JARI, Penn Highlands, and PA Career Link. He stated participants will receive professional training, have the opportunity to earn certificates, attend employee presentations, and visit local facilities. He noted the Housing Authority is grateful for the new collaboration with the United Way of the Southern Alleghenies to operate diaper banks at Oakhurst and Solomon Homes, limiting transportation barriers, and distributing products to families in need.

Mr. Arnone stated JHA is preparing for the Choice Housing Planning Committee process and will have an onboard meeting later in October 2024. He noted the Housing Authority will bring the Planning Grant Coordinator onboard to conduct the community outreach and development transformation

plan. He explained the resulting plan includes options to redevelop the Coopersdale public housing site, as well as opportunities for other property owners and businesses in the neighborhood. He further explained the HUD staff will visit Johnstown during the 30-month planning process to monitor the activities. He noted part of the community outreach will require residents of Coopersdale and the surrounding West End neighborhood to choose an early action project, which could be anything from a playground to helping a business. He mentioned that no specifics have been given as to what is allowable, but a HUD staff member will be assigned to assist throughout the process.

In response to a question by Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone indicated the \$500,000 grant that the Housing Authority received is for just the study. He further indicated the County Planning Commission cosigned and will have a presence on the Board during the whole process.

As the Greater Johnstown Water Authority representative, Mr. Arnone reported the Customer Service Department received 115 new service applications for property transfers, 23 inactive accounts were reactivated, 16 new service call renewals, 2 services repaired, and 1 new service during the month of September 2024. He reported 1,500 feet of mainline was inspected, and 3,500 feet of jetting was completed. He also reported, as of the end of August 2024, just under 72 percent of the City was pressure tested.

Mr. Arnone referred to a bill signed by President Biden requiring all lead supply lines to be changed within the next 10 years. He noted the state has not provided any directive, but the GJWA applied for grants to aid in the future.

Mrs. Mock reported an application will soon be submitted for the neighborhood grant. She noted having some good ideas and would probably start in the spring of 2025.

Reverend King reported Laura and her have been meeting with the Columbia Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes on a weekly basis through Zoom, and they were in town.

The Community Change Summit will take place on the upcoming weekend of October 12, 2024, at the Pasquerilla Conference Center. All were invited to attend the workshops. She mentioned the group will also be meeting with the United Neighborhood group as a whole at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024.

She also noted attending Recovery in the Valley.

Reverend King stated Mrs. Mock and her attended an event called the Longest Table. She reported on a new pastor at the First Presbyterian Church on Walnut Street, and the event would bring forth unity for people to connect.

Reverend King reported Tony and her have been working together to ensure leadership in each of the neighborhoods. She noted Chad, who was their neighborhood person for downtown, was no longer able to lead, and a new person was found to take over that leadership.

Reverend King announced there will be a Money Management Workshop every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Christ Centered Community Church at 531 Somerset Street in Kernville. She also announced a Community Resource Fair on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Christ Centered Community Church. She noted the event to be free, and dinner will be served. Nina will be available to provide information regarding all of the available city programs. All were encouraged to attend.

Ms. Huchel reported the Harvard Loeb Fellows were in town. A Columbia Studio Workshop for master students in urban design and urban resilience was also in town culminating in the upcoming Community Change Summit. She reported four different teams will be taking tours and having discussions, essentially trying to share information about matters that they may have struggled with in their experience. She stated the Harvard Loeb Fellows themselves are selected by midcareer professionals who have applied to the program. She also reported Loeb alumni would also be in town trying to learn about what it is like to be in a rustbelt city trying to transform their economy. She mentioned the Columbia students were here to come up with some sort of project to do in Johnstown, including looking at the flood walls or taking a look at brownfields.

Ms. Huchel noted her attendance at a couple of American Association of University Women events. One of them asked for a city update, and she agreed to talk about what was being done in the City. She noted a roundtable event was held to distribute information on funding public schools. She also reported on attending a workshop held by the Urban Recreation Roundtable, which is the national association that had a conference in Pittsburgh this year. One of their field trips was to come to Johnstown to see what was being done to reinvent Johnstown's economy.

Ms. Huchel referred to the feral cat and animal welfare situation, noting she has made progress. She has had meetings with regard to designing a grant program for people who want to participate in a cat trap-and-release program.

This program would get some money flowing back into the community for people who are participating and hopefully incentivize them to do more.

She mentioned Council would need to have further discussion, but organizations, including the Humane Society and Seven Hearts Project, are already engaged in the Trap-Neuter-Return program. Council would have to unanimously consent to an organization doing the same work.

Ms. Huchel, as a member of JRA, reported the land bank continues to be very successful. She reported on requests where people are getting property through the land bank and then faced with very high bills from the Water Authority. The City has placed liens that it will never collect from the original owner, so best to forgive.

Ms. Huchel suggested the Water Authority and Sewage Authority agree that water and sewer bills for property bought through the land bank be forgiven, and the City would forgive any liens on property bought through the land bank. She explained that it would help the land bank turn over more properties. A title search was still encouraged.

Mr. Arnone stated, if the Redevelopment Authority causes this to happen, he was pretty sure it will happen with the Water Authority. He mentioned that it would be for a property that has not paid and has liens for water and sewage.

There was discussion regarding the demolition of the Robert's building. Ms. Huchel noted the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority maintains a list of all demos.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ AND ADOPTION

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

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 ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote.

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

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

Reverend King made a motion to approve the ordinance. 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).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105678

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT
OF AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS
DESIGNEE TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO INCLUDE
THE CALCULATIONS OF THE MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION
FOR EACH OF THE CITY'S PENSION FUNDS FOR INCLUSION IN THE
2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

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

Mr. Martynuska addressed how paying down the pensions affects the Minimum
Municipal Obligation (MMO). He explained, when Council funded pensions
through various sources, it lowered the debt obligation on those pensions, and
pensions are more self-sufficient with interest monies and payments going in.
He stated this is what is calculated by the state to keep the pension fund on an
even level. He reported on an increase in state aid in next year's pension
obligations to \$6,219 per employee. He noted nonuniform employees will
receive \$6,200, and uniform employees will receive \$12,400, which will
pretty much absorb all of the MMO for next year.

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Ms. Millard reported this year the City contributed \$285,461 after aid, and she did not believe the City will have to contribute at all of 2025 due to receiving more in state aid.

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. 105679

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE 2025
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE JOHNSTOWN HOUSING
AUTHORITY

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

Mr. Arnone addressed the Johnstown Housing Authority Deconcentration Policy. He explained that JHA is trying to get out of the property business and wants the developer to build buildings that will have mixed incomes. He also clarified the Housing Authority cannot skip a lower income applicant and go to a higher income applicant, noting the applications are filed in a consecutive order. Being a Veteran is the only way to be moved ahead.

There was further discussion regarding deconcentrating, how it works outside of the income guideline, and whether the school district is involved in the matter.

Reverend King commented that the Housing Authority is helping to stabilize the residents by trying to turn places into communities with a store and a laundromat to make it more convenient.

Mr. Arnone explained, of the 120 families in Prospect, less than 50 of them are still in the projects. Others moved out of the system and into Section 8 homes. He noted the Prospect residents will be informed and kept abreast of the process.

Mr. Capriotti stated Prospect is the perfect opportunity for the Housing Authority, because they have a clean slate. This is where they should implement this plan and see how it works.

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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).

Resolution No. 105680

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY
MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE
AN AGREEMENT WITH LEVERKNIGHT ELECTRIC AWARDDING
CONTRACT NO. 2024-03 ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION AND
MERVAC AWARDDING CONTRACT NO. 2024-04 HVAC
CONSTRUCTION AT THE PASQUERILLA CONFERENCE CENTER.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. 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).

Resolution No. 105681

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF
JOHNSTOWN HEREBY DIRECTS ITS CITY MANAGER TO CONTACT
SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO
ADDRESS ANIMAL CONTROL IN THE CITY AND SURROUNDING
MUNICIPALITIES. AND FURTHER DIRECTS THE CITY MANAGER
AND THE STAFF OF THE CITY TO WORK WITH ANIMAL CONTROL
ORGANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF ANIMAL CONTROL
WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

Reverend King made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded
by Mrs. Mock.

There was further discussion,

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).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Reverend King addressed removal of the language "any/all." Mr. Andrews suggested going forward that language will be removed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Community Development - No Report
2. Code Enforcement

Dave Williams, Code Enforcement Manager, reported 25 building permits were issued, 143 code violations with 14 to 15 before the magistrate, and 20 rental unit inspections throughout the month of September 2024. He noted Codes also assisted Chief Pritchard and the police in regard to 12 abandoned vehicles and 1 tow. He stated 6 or 7 of the 12 abandoned vehicles were removed after they were placarded with the 48-hour notice. He will move on to a different area of town.

Mr. Williams reported 84 businesses were gone through by Codes and Finance for mechanical amusement devices to obtain a list of how many devices were in each establishment.

Mr. Arnone indicated it was brought to his attention that Pizza Deli Six Pack came in willing to pay their fee, but did not have the letter so their payment was refused. Mr. Williams explained a Codes officer will count their machines and send them an invoice.

Mr. Williams referred to the property liens, noting the properties are on a case-by-case basis but could move into different ownership for someone who is willing to pay around \$60 for lien satisfaction, where the City could lift that lien.

Mr. Capriotti stated a lot of time and effort was put into creating ordinances and empowering staff to start holding property owners accountable. He understood they are trying to get the properties back into a better state and occupied but should not be working against their own interest.

Mr. Williams commented that they would be in trouble if the property transfers at the county level and has a lien against it but they are not collecting that lien and the county is not receiving it.

Ms. Huchel stated they are just talking about land bank properties and should be exclusive only to the land bank properties. She mentioned there are times where they will never collect the money on that lien. Making it the responsibility of the new property owner is not fair to them.

Mr. Capriotti commented that the land bank properties are at an extremely reduced rate and did not think holding them accountable for any liens is much of a burden. He stated a list of properties that go on the tax sale was received and, all of the properties were reviewed in August. He noted any code violations or liens associated with that property from the City were written in, along with attaching all of the violations.

Reverend King commented that someone has to submit a plan of what they want to do with the property for land bank property. She noted the structures were either torn down or there is 30 years of back taxes and believed they should not change the land bank process because it is working.

Mr. Martynuska suggested creating a program internal to the City, where the city manager could do the same thing that the land bank is doing, and Council members agreed.

Reverend King requested an update on Mary Grace Lane. Mr. Williams reported not seeing anything before or beyond the gate enclosure. He also reported seeing a fifth wheel trailer, but no garbage or homeless encampments on a road near that area. Mr. Williams offered to drive around and check out any concerns.

Reverend King requested an update regarding Ash Street. Mr. Williams mentioned speaking with Mr. Britt and Mr. Capriotti. The property is zoned commercially and allows for commercial parking and activities, but not residential use.

Mr. Capriotti stated he could prove people are sleeping in the building.

Mr. Williams explained that he could go into a building registered as a rental property but could only give someone a code violation if it is commercial and has junk and trash on it. He mentioned that things are different once the City has access and referred to calls from Chief Pritchard and Chief Stotler, where medical or domestic calls in the building gave them access.

Reverend King noted the car dealership at the top of William Penn is a mess. Mr. Williams explained that it would be a property maintenance issue and not an inside issue.

Mrs. Mock reported a lot of people are squatting in abandoned houses, and she is receiving a lot of feedback from residents concerning Morrell Place and Cypress Avenue.

Mr. Williams explained that the individuals are charged with simple trespassing, and there is not much he could do once the property is condemned.

2. Police Department

Chief Richard Pritchard welcomed two new officers, Shante Jones and Kai Kimberly, along with four others graduating in November 2024. He noted also hoping to put four more in the academy in January 2025.

Chief Pritchard addressed the LPR project, noting waiting for prices on the whole installation. He reported District Attorney Neugebauer has committed \$9,000, and he would take from their forfeiture fund for Cradlepoint and other incidental things.

Chief Pritchard informed Council members to call 911 or the nonemergency number for squatters. He explained that squatters would receive a nontraffic citation if the building is condemned. He also explained that it could become a misdemeanor and arrest them once it is conveyed that they are no longer to be on the property.

Mr. Britt asked what could be done with the children on bicycles with no headlight or taillight for everyone's safety.

Chief Pritchard stated cyclists have to follow the laws of the road and could receive a citation. He offered to talk with Officer Cypher to start exploring a safety program.

Reverend King referred back to the homeless issue, noting she did not think criminalization of the homeless is the answer. She stated it would behoove them to talk to the county regarding opening the Martha & Mary House and be more aggressive, which would decrease squatting in abandoned homes. She noted they already have someone to run it, and deciding was the issue. She suggested Council meet to discuss this issue before the next meeting.

Mrs. Mock commented that there is a need for shelter for the homeless, but there also are some people who need to be cited and charged.

Mr. Arnone noted it to be his understanding that both entities filed together for that grant. He noted the Women's Help Center is going to take over the Martha & Mary property. He mentioned that the county just put a bid out for a new roof, but it was too high and may be the hold up with the property itself. He also mentioned they reapplied for the application jointly to be split between the two agencies. He further explained that the Women's Help Center would just be managing the property. The property would still belong to the county.

3. Fire Chief

Chief Robert Statler reported reported fire prevention will be going on at the library and a couple of daycares this month, along with equipment testing and yearly protocols.

Chief Statler stated the union did their Coaches 4 Kids and raised a little over \$12,000, along with giving out 500 coats. He mentioned one of the younger firefighters took the time to do the push for the fundraising also.

4. Finance

Melissa Millard reported having multiple meetings with department heads, and Public Works is the only department left.

Ms. Millard noted prior discussion concerning the MMO.

Ms. Millard mentioned being in the middle of a liquid fuel audit but looks like everything is going to be fine at the current time.

Ms. Millard stated training has gone well for Edmunds software, noting all departments will receive up-to-date training. She also noted customer support is available.

Ms. Millard mentioned meeting with their representative from Berkheimer regarding the business privilege tax and is working on a plan to be more diligent about getting those business privilege checks.

Ms. Millard provided an update on the new procurement officer, Karly, noting she has training set up for the end of October 2024 and is doing fine.

Ms. Millard suggested a budget workshop the first week of November 2024.

Ms. Millard also reported citizens at City Hall have been expressing their concern about animal control and offered to go to multiple municipalities to discuss funding.

6. Public Works

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, informed Council members that the paving project recently started with the initial milling, along with starting the leveling this year. He hoped to have the project completed in the early fall. Mr. Campagna stated Barnett Street should be completed soon and is scheduled to be reopened on October 30, 2024.

Mr. Campagna noted the Public Works Department will be conducting their leaf collection through their curbside service through leaf vac or through their doorway service, where yard waste and leaves could be bagged, boxed, or bundled for pickup.

Reverend King asked what could be done about vehicles driving too fast on Broad Street and wanted to make sure there is proper height signage for the bridges in that area.

Mr. Campagna suggested addressing the issue with the Police Department to provide some answers. Council members noted the appropriate signage is already posted.

Mr. Campagna introduced Carmen Truscello, the new fleet manager and mechanic.

Mr. Truscello hoped to get the fleet up and running and expected to make sure firefighters and public works people are safe. He noted a Forest Hills ambulance will be coming in for service.

Ms. Huchel requested information regarding a payment schedule.

Mr. Truscello explained that it is a work in progress. He mentioned the fee for PM services on an ambulance is \$175 plus the oil and filters and then by the hour for other issues.

Ms. Huchel commented that Public Works has a fee schedule but asked whether they should have something on paper, so it is not a random figure.

Mr. Campagna noted they could ultimately come up with some figures.

Mr. Truscello referred to flow testing, noting the fire department is going to save \$2,000 this year on flow testing. He mentioned they will be purchasing a trailer and doing the flow testing in house. He also mentioned they will be providing flow testing to outlying fire departments for \$350 and PM services for \$225 plus oil and filters. He noted wages for other issues is usually around \$100 an hour.

Mr. Capriotti asked Mr. Truscello to present Council with the difference in cost of maintaining equipment versus fixing things when they break.

Mr. Campagna mentioned that Mr. Truscello has customers lined up as far away as Monroeville.

Tony Penna, Recreation Director, reported the Minersville playground is about 99% completed. He noted the new playground on Forest Avenue was recently packed with kids and people having picnics.

Mrs. Mock suggested having the news cover a story about the playground.

Mr. Penna stated he is working on upgrading their recreation page with newer pictures and a place to contact people if they want to rent the facilities. He mentioned there has been discussion of a ribbon cutting when everything is done.

Mr. Penna also reported working on some of the contracts with different tenants of the stadium, including the Mill Rats, UPJ, AAA, and JCBL to assess some of their needs and wishes. He also mentioned discussions with Public Works to address issues with the concessions and seeing what that is going to cost.

Mr. Penna noted everybody met as a group at Roxbury to look at the possible Miracle League site that is moving together pretty nice. He mentioned many logistic issues will have to work out as far as parking and different items. He also mentioned there was a tentative visit to another Miracle League field, but it was postponed due to some personal issues with the team.

Ms. Mock requested an update concerning mold issues in the AAA room at the stadium.

Mr. Penna noted he has been discussing the water issue in the building with Jared, Donnie, and Joe, and has people visiting concerning the age and the way the stadium was built that need corrected.

Mr. Penna addressed his attendance at a Moxham meeting, noting they are asking for some help with the excavation of the old Cypress School site. He mentioned someone from out of town will be contacting him concerning the plans. He reported they are working on their own grant funding and have a plan for both seniors and youth. He is waiting to talk to the young lady from Johnstown who is working on this.

Mr. Penna also mentioned having preliminary meetings with the Kernville group, noting they are trying to recruit people from the community to join, along with New Day, to possibly get Kernville active. He noted Old Conemaugh Borough is also currently recruiting.

Mr. Penna noted also working with the scoreboard people concerning the scoreboard at the rink. He believed they could handle the structure and will talk with people from the Bandshell to make sure everyone is comfortable with where it is and where power comes from.

Mr. Penna reported pivoting projects right now to work on the playgrounds. He mentioned they are working with the school district to get permission to put some money into Fichtner Field for a Pony League with the overuse of Roxbury. He noted maintenance is already cutting the grass and possibly skimming the infield, which the school district would do, and then adding some loam to it to be able to play both Colt and Pony to alleviate some of the use problems at Roxbury.

Mayor Janakovic asked for an update as far as opening that field up to the public during the day.

Mr. Penna explained that it is still locked and agreed to revisit opening that during the day. He noted they are playing some soccer down there, but baseball gave that area life and believed it will benefit the businesses as well.

Mr. Penna reported working with EADS on three projects and is awaiting bids on the skate park. He referred to the neighborhood project for Wood Street and trying to correct and add to that as well. He referred to the DCNR parks and noted they will have neighborhood meetings in Peelor Street and Prospect to figure out how to make that a passive park. He mentioned the one on Cypress Avenue is complicated, because the school district owns it. He noted the City does not really own the one in Old Conemaugh Borough either, but were still tasked to do something there when it took that money.

Mr. Penna also mentioned some of the homeowners think they own that property. He noted the desire to make it a passive park in order to continue to

receive additional funding. He reported work is currently being done on the benches of Roxbury and Somerset Street and limited the top half where the possible Miracle League Field may be and not put any benches in and have to tear them out. He mentioned they will also work on the other parts of the point and work with the Roxbury Civic group on that.

Mr. Penna reported doing a big vegetation cutback at Crooked Place Playground in Old Conemaugh Borough and working actively with the tennis courts at Roxbury. He mentioned having a hard time getting bids and working on contributions to help that group because it is heavily used. He noting having \$47,000, along with them having a lot of money and working together, focusing on the bottom four courts by either patching them for 3 to 5 years or fixing them for 10 to 15 years.

Mr. Penna stated EADS is also working on possibly cleaning up the grassy area at Sargent's Stadium and putting some concrete there. He also noted a discussion of putting a TV screen in the front of the AAABA building to run the Hall of Fame pictures and memorabilia, along with moving a shed to the back. He noted meeting with EADS and all of the partners to get their feedback. He mentioned they had elaborate drawings with splash pads, but cut all of that back to make it functional space.

Mr. Penna addressed the contract with UPJ regarding the padding at the stadium, noting he will be trying to get Gabby down there. He mentioned conducting practices at Iron Horse but will be doing their games with them. He noted installing padding after they receive instructions on exactly what needs padding. He reported the netting has been completed, and the last pieces of the extension need to be put on.

Mr. Martynuska noted having a good meeting with the individuals with the Mill Rats, and a meeting will be held with all of the groups that use the point to discuss future plans. He mentioned the recent meeting went very well regarding how this year went.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Joseph Barr, 362 Moore Street, Johnstown, PA. He stated Shawn Matula and he are both residents and homeowners in the Prospect area. He asked why the residents were removed from the homes in Prospect, because he heard that some of the individuals living in those buildings were having maintenance issues, where shady defaulted maintenance individuals would come in and only do so much to keep the place from not falling in on them. He believed the Housing Authority came together to decide how to fix the problems they

were having with individuals filing suits against damaged property or damage to themselves because the maintenance was not being repaired correctly.

Mr. Barr noted the Housing Authority decided to resolve that issue by clearing them all out and removing them from the buildings, so they did not have any more individuals filing claims about damaged property or damage to themselves. He stated they did not remove one or two to fix one or two buildings but removed them all by paying them for removal services and relocating them to a newer residence.

Mr. Arnone offered to provide a written statement from the Housing Authority to answer those question specifically. He explained that plaster fell on one older woman. He mentioned he was there and saw her. He noted it happened again, and they knew it was an issue. He stated when the woman got injured on her leg that they as a board and the management realized that this could happen again. He noted HUD inspected the buildings and found default the buildings' installation, not by any default of the maintenance staff. He explained that they used too short of nails to nail the drywall up and is why they removed everyone, so they did not get hurt.

Mr. Barr commented that multiple residents were having issues and the only way to stop it was to remove them, all regardless of who was having maintenance issues.

Mr. Barr asked how they are regulating who occupies the new Prospect homes.

Mr. Capriotti suggested Mr. Barr attend the next Johnstown Housing Authority Meeting or address it with their executive director.

Mr. Barr referred to comments concerning squatting in unoccupied buildings in Johnstown. He mentioned that it is not just single buildings, but is complete blocks and sections. He pointed out Main Street where it meets the Senior Center and cuts over to the right. He reported the whole section is completely empty. He also pointed out that on the left side of Market Street, going down Market and Main Street from the corner of Market and Main all the way down to the smoke shop and the barbershop is completely unoccupied. He referred to the discussion regarding empty buildings and knocking buildings down and fixing things up. He noted Council members are talking about one or two buildings when the issue is complete areas.

Mayor Janakovic informed Mr. Barr that funding is limited, and they are dealing with that issue as best as they can throughout the city.

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Mr. Barr referred to Reverend King's comments regarding traffic issues on Broad Street and mentioned a project sometime in the past to divert the larger trucks.

Mayor Janakovic informed Mr. Barr that the project was supposed to go above Coopersdale and onto 403 but never occurred.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:51 p.m.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.