

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 11, 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.

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

A moment of silence was held in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

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

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Melissa Komar, Consultant; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; Melissa Millard, Finance Director; Nina Ndichu, Economic Development Director; Dave Andrews, Esquire, Solicitor; and Sara Williams, Executive Secretary were also present. Also in attendance were Rob Forcey, Executive Director, Vision Together 2025; Tom Simmons, and Lou Crocco, KSA.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2024, and Special Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

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

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION-

Mayor Janakovic read into the record and then presented the following proclamation to Derek Hough in honor of National Service Dog Month:

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We believe in the joyful transformative power of the human canine bond and inclusivity of all citizens. In the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability. Only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide and the need is growing.

Canine companions and their service dogs empower people with disabilities to lead life with greater independence by providing best in class training, ongoing follow-up services, and deeply committed community support.

National Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them. The City of Johnstown continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens and their service dogs are embraced.

Now, Therefore, I, Mayor Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor of the City of Johnstown, on behalf of City Council declare the month of September 2024 in the City of Johnstown to be known as National Service Dog Month. The City of Johnstown recognizes the importance of service dogs and the adults and children with disabilities in our community.

Therefore, on this 11th day of September, 2024, I hereby set my hand and cause this seal of Johnstown to be affixed. Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor of the City of Johnstown.

Mr. Hough, who is the leader of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of Canine Companions, a national organization who trains service dogs for people with disabilities, provided a few comments. He talked about Jessica Gardner, who lives in Johnstown as an advocate for the rights of service dogs, wanted to be at this meeting, but is receiving treatment at a Pittsburgh hospital.

Mr. Hough commented on service dog fraud, which has become a terrible problem. He will show the proclamation to Ms. Gardner, which he noted "would make her feel wonderful."

Mayor Janakovic commented that Ms. Gardner volunteered with an agency he is affiliated with downtown. He asked that Council members sign a card and send it to her.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Rick McQuaide, owner of 551 Main Street building, was present with the KSA Group, Lou Crocco and Tom Simmons, whose company is assisting him in filing a KOZ application on behalf of this building. He noted it being very difficult to

rent the building and asked Council to support the KOZ application, which has already been supported by the Johnstown School District and the County. The KOZ would help him to start with smaller tenants and then build upon those.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER:

Art Martynuska commented, "It's been a busy first couple weeks" and noted being grateful for everyone's help.

The parking agreement for the ITC has been completed and was in place and exercised at least one time during the presidential candidate visit.

He provided an update on the Planning Commission's ten property re-distributions.

He noted a report has been received from CJL Engineering and was under review.

Budget discussion meetings were recently held, as well as future spending of funds available from different funding sources. There are a number of buildings for demo, and Mr. Williams and his crew were commended for getting those together in a timely manner.

The City Manager commented that paving would be done with the use of fuels money. A list of places in need of paving was provided.

There was a tour of the Public Safety Building with Governor Shapiro, Representative Burns, Mayor Janakovic, Mrs. Mock, and others.

There recently have been a few meetings with the State Theater group. It was noted the building had received some damage during the last rain storm, and the details were being worked out for a structural engineer to examine the building. The agreement has been moved over from Conemaugh to the State Theater group and was being reviewed.

A meeting was recently held with Mr. Campagna and EADS Group regarding ongoing and future projects, which was shared with Ms. Ndichu regarding the possibility of funding some of the projects.

Mr. Martynuska reported being in police contract negotiations, and hopefully that can move forward without arbitration.

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He reported on a recent meeting with individuals from St. James regarding the possibility of the rebuild of their church by utilizing property between William Penn and Ebensburg Road. Resolutions on the agenda regarding this matter was noted.

MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic reiterated Governor Shapiro's visit to the Public Safety Building, and the renovations to the existing building or constructing a new facility were discussed.

The Mayor noted his attendance at the recent Sandyvale Wine Festival.

He reported helping to celebrate the Ethnic Fest in Cambria City and called it an "opportunity to catch up with people you haven't seen for years."

DCNR Secretary Dunn was recently in Johnstown and visited the splash park. She made a visit to Sandyvale to view the river walls for access to the river for recreation.

The Mayor attended the State of the Commonwealth at UPJ.

He noted his attendance at the Community Foundation Founders' Day at the Conference Center.

The City Manager commented being in the final phases with regard to the Conference Center/ War Memorial culmination.

Mayor Janakovic attended the Commission on Poverty and commended Reverend King in that regard.

He noted his attendance at the Community Health and Human Services Conference at UPJ.

CITY SOLICITOR:

Dave Andrews, Solicitor, reported an Executive Session was held regarding personnel before the public meeting from 5:10 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. He noted it being a busy few weeks since his reappointment and appreciated the confidence of Council.

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CITY ENGINEER:

Members were referred to the written report.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:

Ms. Huchel had no report.

Reverend King reported being the host to Auditor General Timothy DeFoor, the champion for financial literacy, who discussed financial literacy and offered support to help residents in poverty move forward. A new class will commence September 24, 2024, at 5:30 at the Christ Centered Community Church. Reverend King noted the Bureau Chief for the Department of Public Welfare will be in attendance to assist with clients transitioning from receiving benefits to working.

Penn Highlands' workforce development program will conduct an open house on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in the Solomon community to talk about that program and help, which would aid people transitioning as well.

Reverend King reported that she and Mr. Penna have had discussions regarding neighborhood groups and how to ensure that each group has good leadership.

Mrs. Mock reported the community garden is finished. The Department of Corrections helped with mulching, and the garden is available for people to come and partake.

Mr. Britt had no report.

As the City's representative on the GJWA, Mr. Arnone reported the customer service department received 97 new service applications for property transfers, and 9 inactive accounts were reactivated during the month. During the month of August 2024, there were 14 service renewals completed, 3 service line repairs, and 3 mainlines repaired.

As of the end of July, the City was almost 70 percent pressure tested.

Bids regarding construction of the Kernville Pumping Station will be sent out in the Spring of 2025.

As the City's Johnstown Housing Authority representative, Mr. Arnone updated statistical information related to the population of the public housing

communities located within the City of Johnstown, He reported that as of August 31, 2024, the public housing population is 2,331, and Section 8 voucher holders is 1,134, which totals 3,465. Currently 46 percent of those living in poverty in the City were being assisted. Mr. Arnone indicated the Prospect relocation has affected the population statistics.

He noted the first phase of construction repairs at the Prospect Homes has been completed in apartments that will be ready for families to move into. After contractors turn the units over to the JHA, internal maintenance staff will finish getting the units ready to be occupied. No dates have been set, but it was hopeful to be before Thanksgiving 2024.

Mr. Arnone reported that JHA was proud to be awarded the HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant in the amount of \$500,000, 1 of 22 to receive the grant. The chosen neighborhood was Johnstown's West End, and the JHA Coopersdale was selected to be considered for redevelopment. Approximately \$150,000 will be used towards activities, such as public parks, playgrounds, building renovations or to attract specific businesses. He noted the remaining \$350,000 will be used for consulting work to develop a plan. The JHA is awaiting word from HUD's Choice Neighborhood Team regarding the next steps. Additional information is available at the JHA office.

Mr. Arnone indicated that money management was taught through the JHA, and 17 have graduated. 30 to 40 individuals have already applied for the program.

He reported attending the Ethnic Fest in Cambria City.

Ms. Huchel encouraged all to attend Sunday on the Square on September 15, 2024, which is an event put on by the Gallery on Gazebo nonprofit arts organization. This year's artist pick is Frida Kahlo. A petting zoo will be located there along with food vendors.

Mayor Janakovic indicated there are serious rumors that the Vice President may be visiting Johnstown on Friday, September 13, 2024.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXEMPTIONS, DEDUCTIONS ABATEMENTS AND CREDITS FOR REAL PROPERTY, EARNED INCOME TAX, NET PROFITS, MERCANTILE AND BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAXES WITHIN A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREA IN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, DESIGNATED AS PROPOSED KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION ZONE ("KOEZ") IN ORDER TO FOSTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, STIMULATE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS AND PREVENT PHYSICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DETERIORATION WITHIN AREAS OF PHYSICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DETERIORATION WITHIN AREAS OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, UPON CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Ms. Huchel made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and failed by the following vote:

Yeas: None (0).

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

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

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

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

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

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105672

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

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AUTHORIZING, EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD TO APPOINT A LIAISON BETWEEN IT AND BERKHEIMER, THE DULY APPOINTED COLLECTOR OF LOCAL TAXES FOR THE DISTRICT, FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SHARING CONFIDENTIAL TAX INFORMATION WITH THE DISTRICT FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES.

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

Ms. Millard explained this just needed to be updated to the current finance director.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 105673

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF FLEET MAINTENANCE MANAGER POSITION TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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

The City Manager explained the fleet maintenance manager is the person at the City Garage that not only works there but also is in charge of the City's mobile fleet, whether motorized or nonmotorized. The position is funded by both fire and police from line items.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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Resolution No. 105674

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA, TO ADD THE POSITION OF
PROCUREMENT/RECORD RETENTION ANALYST TO THE FINANCE
DEPARTMENT AND APPROVE SALARY COMPENSATION.

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

Mrs. Mock suggested this position be a lateral move for the time being and
commented may be more appropriate than bringing someone from another
department with an increase in salary.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to amend Item No. 2 in the resolution to be a lateral move
with an annual salary for the position of \$45,000 after six months of
successful review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone.

Ms. Millard explained this is a blended position/revenue producer, which will serve
multiple purposes, and the candidate in mind understands the demands of the
position. She noted that currently each department is individually handling its
own bidding where it should be centralized, and she should be controlling and
overseeing the position but does not have the time. The records retention
officer portion of the position would control all records throughout the City,
which needs centralized digital filing on a public drive for all employees of
the City to access. She reminded members it was one of the intern's
recommendations.

Ms. Millard commented that Bob Eyer has come up with some revenue-
producing ideas to follow up on some collections of revenues that may be
being missed by the City.

Ms. Millard also commented that she has grant writing experience and will
teach the person in this position how to write grants as there is currently no
grant writer.

Mr. Martynuska explained normally there is a job posting internally, which
goes out for two weeks internally before being posted outside.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to amend the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr.
Arnone and passed by the following vote:

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

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock and passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 105675

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY
MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO
AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE JOHNSTOWN
WATER AUTHORITY.

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

Mr. Arnone explained this is the contract for water that we consume within the City.

The City Manager explained, if the City needs the GJWA's vac truck to help with sewer drains or whatever the case may be, this is a solidified agreement with an hourly rate.

Mr. Arnone explained hydrants are inspected yearly and replaces those that need replaced. He stated each hydrant costs approximately \$1,600. He noted that one employee is designated to paint and trim grass around all the hydrants. Mr. Martynuska also noted the hydrants are tested, and there has been discussion regarding the ability to eliminate or relocate some of the hydrants on Main Street to save costs.

Mrs. Komar commented that JRA has an intergovernmental agreement with the City and the GJWA for larger pieces of equipment during emergency situations which lessens the cost.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105676

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF AN AS-2 ANTI SKID FROM LIGONIER STONE AND LIME, d/b/a DERRY STONE AND LIME, 11 MARCIA STREET, LATROBE, FOR THE 2024-2025 CALENDAR YEAR.

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

It was noted the cost is \$25.75 per ton.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 105677

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT FROM AMERICAN ROCK SALT WITH DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES COSTARS PROGRAM. AMERICAN ROCK SALT WILL PROVIDE AND DELIVER ROCK SALT TO THE CITY FOR THE 2024-2025 CALENDAR YEAR.

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

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, 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 30 building permits issued throughout the month of August, 197 code violations with 15 before the magistrate, and 4 or 5 were waived for compliance. There were ten rental unit inspections in August 2024. As of September 2024 through the present, there were approximately 12 rental inspections.

He noted that Public Works had assisted Codes with the cleanup of two properties, the Mosholder Street and Park Avenue properties. Four to five tons were picked up in one day.

Control numbers were obtained for properties being sold on tax sale in September 2024. Approximately 450 properties were researched for code violations, and information was sent to the County.

Regarding the cleanups with Pro Disposal, Mr. Williams indicated ten dumpsters will be placed throughout the City as an additional cleanup. He will consult Mr. Campagna regarding the matter.

2. Police Department

Chief Richard Pritchard reported earlier at the Special Meeting.

3. Fire Chief

Chief Robert Statler reported on having a good discussion with Governor Shapiro regarding the Public Safety Building and both police and fire protection in the City.

The fence is up to secure the fire training site. He was hopeful the water line will be run before winter. Funds received last year have to be spent by February of 2025.

Chief noted looking at which hydrants on Main Street can be moved due to the high redundancy.

He has also analyzed structures, which have had previous fires over the past five years, and was pleasantly surprised to see many were repaired and reoccupied. Chief will push to get properties without any remodeling demolished. Rental property inspections continue.

4. Finance

Melissa Millard commented a planned capital budget workshop did not work out but suggested a better idea might be to plan a regular budget workshop to address both at the same time.

She was going to discuss the new finance position, but that had already been done.

Ms. Millard noted working hard on the budget but with a few blank spots due to the police union negotiations.

Ms. Millard suggested forming a finance committee with members of Council to sit on the committee to meet regularly regarding finances. The chair of that committee could update Council with regard to recommendations.

The Finance Director reported providing \$92,000 in ARPA funding, and thanks to the City of Johnstown's funding, the Easter Seals of Western and Central Pennsylvania, the Johnstown office has made tangible strides to impact the community as a major provider of speech and language services and empowering people with disabilities, families and communities to be full and equal participants in society. Screening for preschool children was also funded and was extended until the end of November 2024, which is acceptable by the Treasury Department.

She reported loans were in the process of being moved back upstairs as they are HUD funded. Mrs. Mock requested information on which loans were current and delinquent.

Reverend King indicated all Council members were to be on committees, but the matter was not brought up at the last reorganization meeting. It was suggested that the list of committees be located and reviewed for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Community Development

Nina Ndichu reported a Planning Commission was held on September 4, 2024, and noted information regarding an urban mural program was provided. She will provide additional details at a later time.

A GIS coordination meeting with Cambrai County and EADS will be held on September 17, 2024.

She provided an overview of the Public Safety Building issues and priorities as follows: Water leaks on the top floors due to an update roof, plumbing problems throughout, unusable basement space due to standing water, and noncompliant ADA accessibility features in the elevator and restrooms.

She referred members to their packets for further tabulation format of the problems.

Roof replacement to replace the 25-year-old roof is approximately \$175,000.

Garage door replacement with new improved energy efficient overhead garage doors approximately \$100,000.

Structural repairs to address concrete delineation and corroded steel on the first floor approximately \$800,000.

A new HVAC system approximately \$1.1 million.

Basement water infiltration approximately \$50,000.

ADA elevator accessibility approximately \$750,000.

ADA compliant restrooms approximately \$150,000.

Electrical system upgrade approximately \$1.9 million.

Plumbing system overhaul approximately \$828,000.

Total of priority one issues is approximately \$5.789. Priority two issues is approximately between \$4 million and \$4.5 million. Full rehabilitation of the Public Safety Building will cost between \$10.78 million and \$12.66 million. She offered to provide a copy of the full report to Council members.

A detailed comparative analysis will be conducted with the study done previously for a new building.

Ms. Ndichu suggested the building be gutted, and a new interior installed and doing a conservation project for the exterior part.

Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, Ms. Ndichu sent emails to all stakeholders in the City regarding data from different entities. She noted Loeb Fellows and Columbia students will be here in October 2024 and would be given projects

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to work on. A meeting is proposed for September 12, 2024, regarding the next steps.

Ms. Ndichu discussed a Title VI coordinator position, which was triggered by the RAISE grant that needs to be filled either full time, part time or could be someone that is an existing employee of the City. HUD funding cannot be used for the position. This employee will be responsible for monitoring and reporting, policy implementation, training and education, documentation and recordkeeping, and community relations.

RAISE grant update, Ms. Ndichu indicated a final bid package was received on the 16th of August, 2024. Permitting feedback from PennDOT included items that must be complied with before moving forward. Michael Baker environmental clearances for the project must be approved. An RFP was drafted for the construction administration process and was being reviewed.

A public art panel questionnaire had been distributed for those interested in sitting on the panel to bring art into Johnstown. An RFQ manager was also being considered.

Ms. Ndichu reported JAHA was behind and will be going to the RFP stage in the next few months. CamTran is ahead with a Title VI program and coordinator already in place.

A tentative date for commencing the Main Street Project and Central Park in the Spring of 2025.

She tentatively scheduled November 2 or November 16, 2024, as the date for a full day community event in Central Park. She hoped to have one company sponsor t-shirts and one do the printing that would be offered as merchandise for the City. Food vendors and trucks can set up tables, and a hide-and-seek hunt game will make it interesting for all ages.

Ms. Ndichu reported a HUD consultant was in town to offer CDBG training.

She drafted a tiered program for the Economic Empowerment Center, which was being reviewed by the City Manager.

The City of Johnstown has partnered with Penn State to come up with an action plan for our city.

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A grocery store grant opportunity is available for anyone, who is black or Latino. ARC grant was received for capacity building and software in the amount of \$50,000.

The Farmer's Market will be open until October 25, 2024. Ms. Ndichu discussed the Healthy Homes Initiative available under HUD to provide fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, self DIY kits for radon detection, and lead abatement. There is emergency money available for windows, roof, and furnace replacement.

Reverend King commented an evening community resource fair will be held October 15, 2024, and maybe the City can have a table at that fair making all aware of these programs available. The event will be held at Christ Centered Community Church.

Ms. Ndichu indicated a meeting held with regard to budget items comparing the CDBG, ARPA, and Capital Fund monies noted repetitive items in all three. She is working together with directors to make sure all money is used for pending projects.

The City Manager noted the same engineering studies done on the Public Safety Building will be done on the two fire stations.

6. Public Works

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, reported Barnett Street is closed from Menoher Boulevard down to Hopp Avenue in conjunction with PennDOT's slide repair and will be closed until approximately October 30, 2024. Emergency vehicles can still access the area.

Mr. Campagna noted a recent meeting with the paving contractor to conduct a site visit and map out all the roads. The project is scheduled to commence soon with an approximate completion date of October 11, 2024. The streets include Laurel Avenue, North Sheridan Street, Meridian Street, and a few alleys off of Spring Street and several alleys downtown.

Talks continue with Penelec to get the lights reinstalled.

The cinder block wall will be reinforced. Jersey barriers would need to meet PennDOT specifications. Signage at the top of Laurel Avenue will be installed.

He explained how curbing is installed.

It was noted the light at the intersection of Horner and Messenger Streets has a bad relay.

There was discussion regarding the raised manhole covers on Roosevelt Boulevard and other City streets. Mr. Arnone stated the GJWA has a machine that fixes this, and the City can have free use of the machine.

Mr. Martynuska commented that the County had purchased two interior drones, which the City may be able to use to obtain a video.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Barbara Zablotney thanked Council for supporting her in her efforts since her time as Ms. Wheelchair Pennsylvania. She provided photographs during her presentation and commented regarding the ADA Act in 2008 and 2010 design standards that went into effect and noted more accessibility that could be added to the Roxbury Playground.

Ms. Zablotney talked about a railing that was installed upside down, which she commented was a danger to disabled children. She provided an example of the railing mounted correctly. She suggested this as a possible fix to the existing railing at the park.

Ms. Zablotney discussed other concerns, another being a big curb at the side entrance by the tennis court and suggested the curb be flattened.

A large gap at the accessible parking entrance could possibly hit castor wheels and cause an accident. She reported accessible parking signs are missing.

Rusting has occurred, and the floor is peeling apart. A sign is in disrepair and falling apart. She talked about a miracle field being built for children in connection with accessible playgrounds.

Ms. Zablotney noted being the president and chapter leader of the South-Central Pennsylvania Chapter of United Spinal, which is partnered with the Christopher and Dana Reid Foundation, which provides grants for accessible playground equipment. She suggested there be a marketing strategy and maintenance plan for the playground.

Mr. Campagna commented that repairs done a few years ago should still be under warranty.

There was discussion regarding the formation of a committee regarding this matter.

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Ms. Zablony commended Council for their plans regarding the Public Safety Building.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.