

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

City Council met in a stated session for the special council transaction of business.
Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (5).
Ms. Huchel was present via telephone to listen.

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Dave Andrews, Esquire, Solicitor; Sara Williams,
Executive Secretary; John DeBartola; and Mike Hamacek were also in
attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, discussed Agenda Item 1 Resolution. He had to call Mr. Martynuska's office to receive a brief one-line description allocating the funds to city-owned facilities. Mr. DeBartola requested that Council explain how much they were spending, where they were spending it, and why they were allocating it. He added that they have been waiting four years for the Central Park work to begin, and there is still no start date. All he has been given is excuses and roadblocks. This money was allocated from the federal government back in 2021 and now it was 2025 with no spending date. Mr. DeBartola asked Council to consider where they are using the money before they allocate it from the government.

Mr. DeBartola continued with Item 2 Resolution. He had heard from a Council members several applicants were already received. His concern was the last time this happened, in 2013, Council did not have four votes to pick a Council member. It ended up going to the Cambria County courts. He noted this position only has a shelf life until January, and the person accepting it would need reelected this year. Mr. DeBartola felt it was a real shame that Mr. Capriotti resigned. He noted Mr. Capriotti ran twice and was now getting an Assistant City Manager position with a salary \$15,000 above what the former Assistant City Manager was paid. He questioned how that was fair and ethical. He also asked if Mr. Capriotti quit his job at the prison, and if he was able to run for the new position. Mr. DeBartola wanted to know why.

Mr. DeBartola moved on to Item 3 Resolution. He did not know which Council member would take the position or if they were even running for re-election. He felt it was time there was leadership in the City. He noted reiterated his

reference to there being no start date for the Central Park project. He had heard that it would be done in April or June, but no one knows. He questioned who would have the leadership potential to be appointed to take the rein, because he opined that the mayor had not. He added that people need to be aware of how the City is spending the money and be assured that the City is not going to be using the money for interest income to balance out the budget. He mentioned this would create a surplus, because the City is broke. Mr. DeBartola added that whoever takes over next year will probably increase taxes, which is unwanted. He wanted Council to think about how the public perceives what is going on in the City. He thanked the Council for listening.

Mayor Janakovic commented that he was very proud of the Council leaders for all they have done within the City. He also noted, coming out of Act 47 and all of the other difficulties faced, he stated a fantastic job was performed by all involved.

Mike Hamacek, 1047 Church Avenue, Johnstown, 15901 addressed the City Council regarding the open Council position that he was considering running for. He is a lifelong resident of Johnstown, owns a business in Johnstown, involved in the community, and would like to become more involved. Mr. Hamacek noted the interesting, upcoming projects, such as the Main Street project. He congratulated the Council for getting out of the Act 47. He would like to be a part of the great leadership moving forward and wanted to be part of investing money into downtown. The Council confirmed Mr. Hamacek is City resident as he receives his mail at his office at 709 Railroad Street, Johnstown.

Mayor Janakovic informed Mr. Hamacek that the Council is accepting applicants for City Council.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105702

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN DOLLARS.

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

Mayor Janakovic called on Mr. Martynuska, City Manager, for comment. Mr. Martynuska gave credit to the Finance Director for her assistance with this project. She was able to identify unallocated funds. The funds will be used to provide repairs to City Hall, the public safety building, and the city garage.

Tuesday, January 28, 2025,
Stated Meeting, continued

3 of 5

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs.
Mock (5).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105703

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA SEEKING LETTERS OF
INTEREST FOR AN OPENING ON JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL.

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

Mayor Janakovic stated David Andrews, Esquire, Solicitor, will be of assistance to help fill out the current time that will run through January 20, 2026.

Reverend King questioned the City applications, as they are due on February 6, 2025. She also requested clarification on the open City Council position. It was determined that it will be a two-year term for someone to run for this upcoming municipal election.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone
(5).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105704

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR
UNTIL THE JANUARY 6TH, 2026 REORGANIZATION MEETING.

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

Mayor Janakovic nominated Reverend Sylvia King for the Deputy Mayor position. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock.

The motion for passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt
(5).

Nays: None (0).

Mayor Janakovic offered his congratulations to Reverend King.

GENERAL TOPIC:

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, provided comment to Mr. Martynuska with concerns that there was mention of how much money he plans on spending. Mr. DeBartola added that the resolution does not clarify exactly how much money was budgeted. He wanted to know how the money is being spent and stated the public has the right to know how every single dollar is spent.

Mr. DeBartola reported on looking at the Cambria County's prothonotary website. He stumbled upon Jack Williams's lawsuit against the City regarding the right to know issue. Mr. DeBartola mentioned Mr. Williams was looking for tax records on individuals who are and are not paying taxes in Cambria County. He would like to know why the City did not participate in the appeal. Mr. DeBartola added that Mr. Williams was not solicitor yet. He would like to know what they plan to do with the lawsuit. He added that if Mr. Williams is asking how much money the City is taking in and who is exempt from taxes, should not the public be made aware of who is exempt from paying taxes. Mr. DeBartola also mentioned that the county has the records from 2018, and under the right to know law, the City should have asked the county for those records. He was curious as to what will happen with Mr. Williams's lawsuit and added his surprise to see him back in politics. Mr. DeBartola would like to know what they are doing, why did they let this get to a lawsuit, and how is it going to be settled to the fulfillment of Mr. Williams.

Mayor Janakovic offered his thanks to Mr. DeBartola and mentioned that the matter would be handled by their solicitors.

Mr. Arnone informed Council that on Friday, January 31, 2025m between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., there will be an open house at Prospect. Everyone was welcomed to look at the properties and added the press would be in attendance. Residents will soon start to move into their homes, which should be around the second week of February 2025. The project is at 72.5% near completion and is due to be finished by the end of March 2025.

He mentioned the Prospect Community Building will be open for people having an open house party afterwards, and everyone is more than welcomed.

Mrs. Mock asked Mr. Martynuska if he could say how much money was received and added that she was aware that bids had not been advertised. Mr. Martynuska informed Council that there was approximately \$660,000. The

Tuesday, January 28, 2025,
Stated Meeting, continued

5 of 5

proper bidding procedures would be followed, which would consist of two RFPs for City Hall, RFPs for the Public Safety building, RFPs for the City garage, and other projects. The amount will later be determined on what will be spent for each building based on the figures from the appropriate bid. Mrs. Mock confirmed that is the reason why the figures are not out there yet.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5:14 p.m.