

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 11, 2021

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the Public Hearing to order at 5:45 p.m.

The following members of Council were present:

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

Daniel Penatzer, Interim City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Bruce Graham, Gibson-Thomas Engineering; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director; and Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, were also present.

STATEMENT BY SOLICITOR BENJAMIN

Ms. Benjamin explained the public hearing was convened for purposes of accepting comment on the pending adoption of Bill No. 10 of 2021, which proposes certain amendments to the City of Johnstown Zoning Ordinance specifically in relation to the certain size of signs permitted in industrial and commercial districts and to permit the use of projected light displays in keeping with current trends moving towards the use of projectors for advertisement. These amendments also include clarification on sign use in historic districts.

The ordinance itself currently proposed as Bill No. 10 of 2021 was previously presented for first read during the course of City Council's meeting. It had likewise been brought before the City's Planning Commission and the Cambria County Planning Commission as recommended. This public hearing was being held for the purposes of accepting public comment prior to final adoption.

Ms. Benjamin read the title opening paragraph of the ordinance, which provides that the City of Johnstown, Department of Community and Economic Development has received several requests for the need to amend Article 7 of the City's Zoning Ordinance. In accordance with that, has implemented the following changes to separate out the section of the ordinance specifically addressing historical districts clarifying the specific signs that are permitted in historic overlay districts, providing that the total square footage of all signs on a wall in the community business and central business district will equate to a total square footage that does not exceed whichever is less of five percent service area of the wall or 400 square feet.

This also addresses the electronic manner of display and projected light displays in M districts, which are light industrial, industrial service distribution, and heavy industrial districts, as well as the community and central business districts providing that a projected light display that uses light to project any text, graphic or image onto any surfaces of a property in a manner that would display commercial messages permitted subject to certain terms and limitations outlined within the proposed amendment ensuring that there is no animation or other distracting flashes included within the display.

Ms. Benjamin stated the ordinance itself was duly advertised in the Tribune Democrat of this hearing and copies of the full ordinance will likewise will be available to the Tribune Democrat and to the Cambria County Library as required by the applicable rules set forth within the City's Code of Ordinances. At this time, it was considered ready for final vote to take place at the 6:00 regular City Council meeting. This hearing itself is being held solely for purposes of accepting public comment from members of the public, citizens and residents of the City of Johnstown or any Council members or members of the City administrative staff that wish to provide a comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Public Hearing concluded at 5:49 p.m.