



Regular Council
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the Village of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for June 15, 2021 at 6:31 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest

Absent - None

Staff present - Jim Lenner - Village Manager, Jack Liggett - Assistant Village Manager, Abe Haroon - Chief of Police, Rusty Smart - Deputy Chief of Police, Johnstown Police Officers, Bailey Klimchak - Village Planner, Jim Blair - Zoning Inspector, Rick Fitch - Chief Operator Wastewater, Mike Gutridge - Service Director, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Josh Harrison + 1 - Monroe Township Fire, Eric Rodriguez and friends and family, Jeff Barr, Susan Suriano, Tom Suriano, David Selan, David Scolnik.

3. Invocation - Ms. Hendren

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Swearing In - Police

Eric Rodriguez took the Oath of Office and was sworn in as a full time Police Officer by Mayor Dutcher.

6. Action on Minutes

a. June 1, 2021

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to Approve; Cheryl Robertson seconded, and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

7. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

No comments from the public.

8. iWorq Presentation

Chief Wastewater Operator Rick Fitch and Service Director Mike Gutridge provided an overview of the iWorq work order and asset management system and how it is being utilized in their departments.

9. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 6/8/21 regular & 6/10/21 special; Next 6/22/21 @ 6:30 pm Hybrid
On June 8th a Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for an addition to the Flying Iron Axe Throwing business building the expansion will be used for entertainment space; a second application was for a Non-Conforming Use permit for a property on Track Street, that application was denied.
- b. **Safety & Service:** Met 6/1/21 updated last time; Next 7/6/21 @ 5:00 pm
- c. **Finance:** 6/15/21; Next 7/20/2021 @ 5:00 pm

Talked about Trailhead parking lot paving quotes, committee voted 3-0 in favor of moving forward with Law as the contractor; Mr. Lee said funding is there but have some dynamics with respect to the ARP funds coming Federally, funding source TBD but moving forward with the paving of the parking lot. Discussed the electric generators at the municipal building, need to make sure the police side of the building is supported; quotes coming soon. Talked about looking at a quote to upgrade diesel powered lift station to natural gas to ensure 24/7 uninterrupted operation. Committee has outstanding questions for the Finance Director; how the investment interests are negative at this point for this year, also looking for an update on opioid settlement money that is expected from the State but has not been received.

Ben Lee said he wanted to discuss the local lighting cost comparisons that have come out of multiple months of discussion with AEP in Safety and Service; ultimately Finance Committee voted 3-0 not to move forward with AEP's proposal, if and when the decision comes down that we need to move from the sodium lights to the LED lights we will work on contracting out the labor but mainly performing the work locally and not through AEP's program. Mr. Lee said he would like to give direction to Jim and Jack on letting AEP know if we were moving forward with their proposal or not. Doug Lehner said it is a good decision, that he has been hesitant since day one when they approached the village, and when we go to maintaining those in-house, he would be glad to share contacts from his day job and see if the village could piggyback off cost. Suggested we contract someone ourselves to put 5g nodes on the village light poles, could be a revenue generator and should look at that. Marvin Block said he also agreed with the decision, reviewed his calculation of costs and said we should counteroffer; Mayor Dutcher said we are not going down that road. Doug Lehner added that when we are certified as a city, we may want to look at joining Amp Ohio, they help municipalities who need help with high voltage and streetlights, they would come out and asses materials we need, we would buy and they could install them. Ben Lee asked that they do a motion for staff to give feedback to AEP.

ACTION: Ben Lee moved to not go forward with AEP's proposal and inform them as such; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- d. **Economic Development:** Met 6/3/21; Next 7/1/21 @ 10:00 am
Discussed water and sewer extension options for village property that goes down Sportsman's Club Road, it would abut a property owned by the Johnson family giving the village more opportunities to expand economic development in that area; committee voted 3-0 in favor of approving, estimates to follow. Although separate from the village, discussed the CIC, still have not received IRS tax exemption, Jim Lenner said it should be in hand in the next sixty days; a separate advisory board is needed for the incubator, will need an attorney, accountant or banker, IT, business owner and someone in real-estate.
 - e. **Park & Rec:** Met 6/10/21; Next 7/8/21 @ 10:00 am
The Johnstown Joint Recreation District is getting closer to getting off the ground with a Council vote for members tonight. The School Board was to vote on their members last night and the four appointees will select another person to complete a five member board. Pedestrian counter is close to installation; parking lot quote was approved in Finance Committee. The Active Transportation Plan was adopted by Council, Bailey to have ideas at next meeting on where we can get started with plan goals we could pursue.
 - f. **Tree Commission:** Met 5/25/21 updated last time; Next 6/22/21 @ 5:00 pm
 - g. **Events Committee:** Met 5/25/21; Next 6/16/21 @ 4:30 pm Virtual
Working on finalizing details for the Fireworks 2021 event and tying up loose ends.
10. Director Reports
- a. Finance Director
Finance Director absent tonight but her reports were included with the packet materials.
 - b. Chief of Police
Chief Haroon reviewed his report with Council.
Mr. Block commented on his recent tour of the Police Department, encouraged other members to do the same. Mr. Lee commented on his appreciation for the training and education focus as well as type of training Chief is bringing to the department.
11. Tabled Legislation
- a. **ORDINANCE 07-2021** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURES FOR THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN. Tabled March 2, 2021
Will remain tabled; staff continuing to work on.
12. Public Hearings of Legislation
- a. **ORDINANCE 20-2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 34-20, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS
Funds being used to buy equipment for the Police Department, Mr. Lee said this was not

appropriated during the budget last year, overlooked, this is just clean up.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public either for or against.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to Approve; Cheryl Robertson seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 – 0

- b. **ORDINANCE 21-2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 34-20, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

This would approve an additional Police Officer.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public either for or against.

Mr. Lee noted the first reading omitted the supplies and materials line and has been added for the second reading; the amount is the same and is what was considered and approved by Finance Committee. Cheryl Robertson said Finance Committee did have lengthy discussion about the addition of an extra Police Officer and they all approved it.

ACTION: Doug Lehner moved to Approve; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Marvin Block, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- c. **ORDINANCE 22-2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 921.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF JOHNSTOWN, OHIO IN ORDER TO SET WATER TAP AND CAPACITY FEES CHARGED BY THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Lenner said this does not change anything for village residents, it does increase the fee for a fire suppression tap from and eighty percent reduction to a fifty percent reduction and removes the locally bonded government provision so any other locally bonded government

project would have to pay the full capacity charge same as anybody else.

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to waive the second reading; Doug Lehner seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Mayor Dutcher said he would entertain a motion to move the ordinance as declared an emergency.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public either for or against.

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to Approve; Doug Lehner seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Ben Lee
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

d. **RESOLUTION 2021-21** A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED DESIGN REVIEW DISTRICTS AND STANDARDS AS PRESENTED

Mayor Dutcher said he understands some council members would like to table this and asked for a motion to table.

ACTION: Cheryl Robertson moved to table, just need more time to review; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0 TABLED

e. **RESOLUTION 2021-22** RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE JOHNSTOWN JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor Dutcher said this has taken a long time, some thought we would never get here; this will appoint Jeffery Barr and Susan Suriano to the Recreation Board, he thanked them for their willingness to serve the rest of the citizens of the Village of Johnstown and looks forward to it being a success serving the youth and all in our community, and that appointees will have the unwavering support of this Council and the Administration as they start their duties as Commissioners of the newly formed Johnstown Recreation Commission.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public either for or against.

ACTION: Carol Van Deest moved to Appoint these two representatives for the Johnstown Joint Rec District; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Mayor Dutcher again thanked Jeff and Susan for their willingness to serve and that they all appreciate them taking this responsibility. Mr. Lenner said the School District appointees are Keith Ryan and Ed Baldwin and the four of them will choose the fifth member; staff will help support the process of getting started with next steps, the village will be supplying in-kind contributions through an email system; he recognized Carol Van Deest's steadfast perseverance in getting this up and running and that it is appreciated. Doug Lehner said he was willing to help the new Board set up their 501c3 if needed. Jim Lenner added that he thinks this district will have generational effects on what will happen in Johnstown over the long term with our ability to provide opportunities for all ages.

f. **RESOLUTION 2021-23** TO AUTHORIZE THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LICKING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO PROVIDE WATER AND/OR WASTEWATER UTILITY TO THE VILLAGE OF HARTFORD AND/OR THE HARTFORD INDEPENDENT FAIR

Jim Lenner said Jack Liggett, himself and the mayor attended a Licking County Commissioners meeting last week, Commissioners will be in receipt of thirty four million dollars of ARP funds in the next two years; there is interest by the Commissioners to extend water to the Village of Croton and potentially to the fairgrounds. Mr. Lenner said he made it perfectly clear we were not putting our money into it and our residents will not be

footing the bill for the extension to Croton and if this goes forward, it will be a satellite that will have their own fee structure etc., there would be no debt; have a long way to go, not saying it will happen, will need to put staff time and effort into figuring out if it is a good deal and will take direction from Council.

Mayor Dutcher reiterated that they made it very clear that the rate-payers in the Village of Johnstown will not be footing the bill for this and said the Commissioners were quite explicit in their desire to use part of their thirty four million dollars they will receive from the Federal Government for this project and that we as a village are prepared to participate and sell water when the time comes. Next steps will be a meeting with Johnstown, the Village of Hartford, Hartford Township, the Fair Board, and the County Commissioners who will lead the meeting.

This resolution gives direction to staff that council is on board with the idea.

Ms. Van Deest said she was all for this, but shared her concerns on overwhelming the village staff and asked we would hire someone to help the village on this project. Mr. Lenner touched on conversation in Finance Committee for possible reorganization and bringing in additional help on the admin side, bringing on a full time or at least part time employee to free up more hours to devote to these larger projects; plans to have a proposal in front of council in the next thirty days to address.

Marvin Block said he is for it, but he would suggest figuring out what capacity it will take of our water and sewer plant and add that on, if we will have to have a bigger plant to take care of this it needs to be paid for, not just running the lines; added that it should be negotiated that when it is finished the control and ownership belongs to Johnstown.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public either for or against.

ACTION: Doug Lehner moved to Approve; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- g. **RESOLUTION 2021-24** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR TRIP PLANNING & TRIP OPTIMIZATION SYSTEMS

Jim Lenner said this is the first step of what has been rebranded INVEST Johnstown which will look at new ways to provide transportation to folks; this is being funded by a quarter

million-dollar intergovernmental transfer from Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) and it will allow us to hire a technology provider, someone that develops this type of application web interface that reduces barriers to mobility for anybody. The technology is going to give not only Licking County Transit but any mobility provider in the future a seamless place where they can plan, pay for, and execute different modes of transportation. Mr. Lenner said we are waiting on the final ok from LCATS and District 5, this RFP has been vetted through Drive Ohio and will create the technology pilot which will be focused on the businesses in the existing business park, partnering with the businesses, partnering with Licking County Transit, and creating the back-end system and then the front end user interface to get people to and from jobs; that is pilot one. Said full use case once funding becomes available (\$900,000 from Senator Brown's office) is to then make that use case full blown in the entire village and then two more use cases of getting people to and from education which would be CTEC, OSU Newark, and Denison. The third use case is non-emergency medical transportation working with Licking Memorial Hospital; all the programming is open sourced so once we develop it, it can be packaged up and delivered to anyone else who wants to use it. It was noted that the dates in the RFP are wrong at this time because it is unknown when District 5 and LCATS will ok this use of funds. Mr. Lenner said once we get the go-ahead from Licking County Transit, he wants to be able to go out for proposals from technology providers and not have to bring back to council.

Marvin Block said we are becoming a city and what a better opportunity to be on the cusp of something like this that is good for the community, said we are not doing this for us today we are doing it for the future and feels it is their job as council people to look out for the future of this village and all the people who live here today; said he is behind Mr. Lenner one hundred percent on it.

Carol Van Deest said this is probably one of the longest, most involved, detailed RFP's she has seen in a long time and hopes we can get a number of people to apply; Mr. Lenner said Drive Ohio has indicated that we should expect a world-wide response for this technology.

Public Hearing: There were no comments from the public either for or against.

ACTION:	Marvin Block moved to Approve; Benjamin Lee seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES:	Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Mayor Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 7 - 0

13. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 23-2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 34-20, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

This is for the annual Lexipole charge that was not included in the Police Department budget. Public Hearing July 6, 2021.

- b. **ORDINANCE 24-2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN

This is to rezone a parcel on US62 from Light Manufacturing to Commercial for the construction and opening of a new hardware business. Public Hearing on July 6, 2021

- c. **ORDINANCE 25-2021** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1187 OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND ESTABLISHING A DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Bailey Klimchak said this is in conjunction with the Design Review Districts and Standards and asks that while reviewing that document, to please review the recommended changes to Chapter 1187. Establishing a Design Review Board is something Council has talked about, this will accomplish that goal. Public Hearing July 6, 2021.

14. Other Business

1. Tomorrow at noon GROW Licking County will hold a special meeting to appoint their next Executive Director.
2. Council member invite to ride in the parade.
3. Letter going out tomorrow signed by the mayor being sent to Senator Hottinger regarding broadband to ensure funding remains as it was in the House version and not preempted our ability to have our own system.

15. Executive Session: For the purpose of discussing imminent court action with legal counsel

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to enter Executive Session with Evan Price, Jim Lenner, Teresa, Council Members and Jack, and they respectfully ask the mayor to forego this pleasure tonight; Benjamin Lee seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Marvin Block, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Dutcher

Passed 6 - 0

Mayor Dutcher recused himself and left the building.

Executive Session began at 8:22 pm

Council returned to regular session at 9:04 pm

No further business.

16. Adjourn

ACTION: Sharon Hendren moved to Adjourn; Cheryl Robertson seconded and

all were in favor.

AYES:

Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee,
Sharon Hendren, Carol Van Deest

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

Passed 6 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Next Council Meeting July 6, 2021