



Regular Council
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for January 18, 2022 at 6:38 PM.

2. Swear In Doug Lehner

Doug Lehner took the oath of office and was sworn in as Council Member by Mayor Chip Dutcher.

3. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green

Absent - None

Staff present - Jack Liggett - Assistant/Interim City Manager, Abe Haroon - Chief of Police, Dana Steffan - Finance Director, Jim Blair - Zoning Inspector, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Jerry Seville, Walter Raub, Janet Piper, Charlie Campbell, David and Chyrel Cool, Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb, Representative Mark Fraizer

4. Invocation - Mr. Lee

5. Pledge of Allegiance

6. Licking County Energy Aggregation - Commissioner Bubb, Palmer Energy

Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb came to present on Energy Aggregation and take any further questions on the program.

7. Action on Minutes

a. January 4, 2022

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to Approve; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 – 0

8. Correspondence

a. Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Legislative Notice: The Hot Spot Coffee House has applied for a D5L liquor permit. There was no objection by Council and no request for a hearing.

b. Ohio House of Representatives - Congressman Balderson

Congressman Troy Balderson sent a letter congratulating Johnstown on becoming a city. A United States House of Representatives Proclamation was enclosed.

c. American Legion Post 254

American Legion Post 254 sent a thank you letter for Johnstown's support of the Gifts for Kids program

9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Ohio State Representative Mark Fraizer

- Provided some detail on legislation in the Ohio House; HB123 Community Investment Bill, HB120 Nursing Home visitation and access during a pandemic.
- Has been working closely with Johnstown on water and wastewater. Unfortunately, Johnstown did not receive any funds for projects desired. Noted some new loans and grants coming, provided a list to the Mayor.

Councilman Block thanked Representative Fraizer for supporting Johnstown.

10. Executive Session - To consider the appointment of a Public Official

Mayor Dutcher said they would be entering the Executive Session to interview applicants for Planning and Zoning.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to enter Executive Session to consider the appointment of a public official with members of Council and Planning Commission applicants individually; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 – 0

Council entered Executive Session at 7:08 pm and returned to Regular Session at 8:45 pm

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to amend the agenda and move Resolution 2022-05 up to item eleven; Doug Lehner seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

11. Mayor Dutcher announced applicants chosen to fill vacancies:

- Jon Merriman will be reappointed to a new four year term
- Charlie Campbell will be appointed to a four year term
- Walter Raub will be appointed to the two year unexpired term

At last meeting, Ryan Green was appointed to a four year term as the Council Representative. Mayor Dutcher thanked all who expressed interest and took time to apply.

RESOLUTION 2022-05 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

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

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

Passed 7 - 0

12. Council Committee reports

a. **Park & Rec:** Met 1/18/22

Marvin Block was appointed as Chairman. Committee recommended Resolution 2022-04 to Council for passage, Joint Use Maintenance Agreement of the TJ Evans bike path.

b. **Finance:** Met 1/18/22; Next 2/15/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

Ben Lee reviewed discussion and actions by committee. Talked through final carryover from last year to this year, additional monies in General Fund, decision to move \$60,000 from General Fund to Budget Stabilization Fund with the next appropriation ordinance to move closer to the goal of getting the Budget Stabilization Fund back to \$500,000.

Review of two CIP items, dump truck purchase and loader/skid steer, asked for validation of full Council for an additional \$6,000 for equipment purchase combination that could be shared between street and sewer departments.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to go forward with an additional \$6,000 from Street Department funds to pay for equipment; Cheryl Robertson seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Discussion on water well field and early stages of moving toward construction of the new plant. Some preliminary exploration is needed and could be started now, cost is \$35,000, committee in favor and asked for validation of full Council.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to go forward with the \$35,000 expense for the new well exploratory logging; Cheryl Robertson seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Mr. Liggett clarified that the \$35,000 did not include any parts.

Other committee discussion on the Duncan Plains water line extension quotes; RITA annual review; HR assistance, County Public Safety Information Sharing Network; SSI upgrade; and the purchase of a drone by PD.

Council discussion on the drone purchase and lack of knowledge of it by Finance committee and Council. Chief Haroon said that Jim Lenner had approved prior to leaving.

ACTION: Mr. Block moved to put the drone purchased up for sale as surplus equipment; there was no second, **motion died**.

Further discussion on the drone and how it could be used for the city.

Doug Lehner requested that from this day forward, any planned purchases over \$2,500 must be a specific line item in that department's budget.

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to eliminate Mayors Court and Mayors Court Clerk; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block
NOES: Ben Lee, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 4 - 3

Ms. Robertson said there was no discussion on this and now she was mad; Mayor Dutcher said he agreed, he did not like surprises, this should have been a discussion prior. Mr. Liggett prompted discussion on the affected employee and procedure as well as the court Magistrate and Prosecutor.

- c. **Events Committee:** Next 1/24/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- d. **Planning & Zoning:** Next 1/25/22 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
- e. **Safety & Service:** Next 2/1/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- f. **Economic Development:** Next 2/3/22 @ 10:00 am Admin conference room
- g. **Tree Commission:** Next 2/22/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

13. Director Reports

- a. Chief of Police
Report included with packet; brief review.
- b. Finance Director
Report included with packet; no questions.

14. Tabled Legislation - None

15. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2022-04** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING PARK DISTRICT FOR THE JOINT USE MAINTENANCE TO THE TJ EVANS BIKE PATH
Five year agreement with the Licking Park District for bike path maintenance; reviewed and passage was recommended by Parks and Rec Committee.

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

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to Approve; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- b. Resolution 2022-05 was moved up to item 11.
- c. **RESOLUTION 2022-06** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RESURFACING AND RELATED ROADWAY WORK ALONG US 62 IN LICKING COUNTY
Authorizing resurfacing and related roadway work on US 62.

Public Hearing:

1. Walter Raub asked when this would happen; Mr. Liggett said this summer.

ACTION: Cheryl Robertson moved to Approve Resolution 2022-06; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- d. **RESOLUTION 2022-07** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.
This authorizes Johnstown to put a question to the electors on the May ballot for Electric Aggregation.

Public Hearing:

1. Walter Raub; said he is for this.

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

- e. **RESOLUTION 2022-08** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

This authorizes Johnstown to put a question to the electors on the May ballot for Natural Gas Aggregation.

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

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

Passed 7 - 0

16. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 01-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

Introduction; Public Hearing on February 8, 2022.

17. Other Business

1. Marvin Block said he would like to reconsider his earlier motion on Mayor's Court and give Council a chance to talk.

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to reconsider his earlier motion to eliminate Mayors Court and Mayors Court Clerk; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Ben Lee, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

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

Passed 7 - 0

2. Jack Liggett provided updates

- Road widening from Whit's to Wendy's should be out mid-April, award in summer or fall.
- He will be meeting at the Commissioner's office January 25th to discuss the ARPA application sent in for the sewer lining.
- Altera should get back this week to give us a price for the piece of property at Wendy's light and alternative to coming out Bigelow Drive.
- He will call Pulte to see where they are at on the estimated plan and cost for traffic signal.

3. Ben Lee said he would like to see the city do something again for mental health awareness and suicide prevention; another type of town hall or community round table discussion.

4. Ben Lee asked if there had been any communication regarding the Build Back Better grant we did not get; what are next steps. Mayor Dutcher said there are continuing conversations with the Mobility Hub partners and discussion on funding sources. He hopes to know more after a Monday meeting.

5. Mayor Dutcher noted an invite from the school to tour the Searfoss building; details to be confirmed.

6. Ben Lee noted two outstanding requests to Council; Joe Ciminello and Logan Malone. Mayor Dutcher said he would like an accounting of staff time spent on the applications. Request to add to next Finance Committee agenda for discussion.

7. Walter Raub thanked council for appointing him to the Planning and Zoning Commission and their faith in him. He also appreciates tabling the discussion on Mayors Court, thinks it is wise to take a step back and think of the ramifications. Asked about Mr. Liggett's role as Interim Manager; was informed that he would be in the role for six months.

8. Electronic sign messages playing in the city square will now be duplicated on the city website for those who miss the message driving by.

18. Adjourn

Mayor Dutcher moved to adjourn, Cheryl Robertson seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Next Council Meeting February 1, 2022