



Safety & Service Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 - 5:30 PM
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Action On Minutes
 - a. December 7, 2021
3. Construction Project Updates
4. Power Outage Preparedness/City Warming Center
5. County ARPA fund application - update?
6. Pulte - Rte 62/Bigelow Drive Intersection - update
7. Mayor's Court discussion/consideration
 - a. Mayor's Court Report
8. City Lighting - conversion to LED
9. Intel Plant - considerations for Johnstown
10. Other Business
11. Adjourn

2021 Committee Goals

1. Update security in water plant, sewer plant and service departments - In progress
 2. Investigate window security and replacement for admin and council chambers - Improvements made with the remodel; revisit window replacement in 2022
 3. Install street lights where needed to improve visibility - Moved to Finance Committee
 4. Conduct crime mapping - In progress/Police Chief
 5. Sidewalk program
 6. Create dangerous street tree removal policy - Moved to Tree Commission
-



Safety & Service Committee
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Benjamin Lee called the Safety and Service Committee meeting for December 7, 2021 to order at 5:03 pm

Members Present - Ben Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner
Absent - None

Staff present - Jack Liggett, Chief Haroon, Dana Steffan, Bailey Klimchak, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - None

2. Approval of Minutes

a. November 3, 2021

ACTION: Doug Lehner moved to Approve; Benjamin Lee seconded and all were in favor

AYES: Benjamin Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

3. Utility Department Staffing Update

Jack Liggett said all four Street Department positions have been filled as well as the Street Superintendent; Jack provided some new hire background and starting dates.

4. Construction Project Updates

- South Oregon is done with the exception of a few punch list items.
- North Oregon, Benedict, Buena Vista paving is done, still working on putting in storm sewer.
- Water tower is at a standstill visually, contractor is working on the steel bowl, base coat painting being done inside with temperature control.
- Relief sewer is in and operational.

2021 Committee Goals

1. Update security in water plant, sewer plant and service departments - In progress
 2. Investigate window security and replacement for admin and council chambers - Improvements made with the remodel; revisit window replacement in 2022
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- Updated on fire at Mohawk and city water usage.

5. Hartford Water Line Update

No response from anyone on the Hartford water line. Marvin Block noted a conversation with Representative Mark Fraizer. Discussion on application to the County Commissioners for ARPA funds for the water line; due January 4th. Bailey Klimchak to follow up with the county to see if an application was submitted and ask if there is a finalized policy.

Discussion on Johnstown applying for funds for sewer lining.

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to ask Council to approve Jack submitting for a grant from the county commissioners and work with the finance committee on funding our share; Benjamin Lee seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Benjamin Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

6. County ARPA Funding Program (Finalized Policy was expected after 11/23)

Discussed under the Hartford Water Line item.

7. Other Business

1. Ben Lee inquired on a meeting with Jersey Township; Mr. Block said he went to one meeting attended by Jersey Township, Southwest Licking and Newark; moderated by Mark Fraizer. Discussions on stopping the advancement of Franklin County water into Licking County. There have been no further meetings.

2. Ben Lee talked about House Bill 494 that was introduced and addresses School Adjacent Zones; the bill would give the option to apply and submit a request to the Director of Transportation and if goes through, may be a means to institute a school zone if desired on SR37 to slow traffic entering and exiting at Leafy Dell. Discussed sending a letter in support to Mark Fraizer. Chief Haroon discussed some stats and enforcement. Will bring up to greater council.

3. Ben Lee noted the deadline of November 30th previously set to cut off Pulte permits if we did not receive a performance bond or have engineering (for a traffic light at Bigelow Drive). Jack Liggett updated that ODOT's plan was never forwarded to Pulte. It has since been sent with a new thirty day deadline and Jack confirmed he has had discussions with them and they are working on cost estimates.

4. Chief Haroon addressed a letter sent out regarding further buildout of Concord East and addressed inconsistencies. Discussion on a potential traffic plan for the area.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to Adjourn; Marvin Block seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Benjamin Lee, Marvin Block, Doug Lehner

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm

The seal of the Johnstown Police Department is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a yellow border. Inside, the word "JOHNSTOWN" is arched at the top in yellow. Below it, a blue banner with white stars contains the word "POLICE". The center of the seal is divided into four quadrants by a white 'X' formed by two crossed batons. Each quadrant contains a stylized American flag. At the bottom, the word "OHIO" is written in yellow, with the year "1813" below it.

MAYOR'S COURT REPORT

JANUARY 2022

Prepared and submitted by Chief Haroon

Preface:

Ohio adopts mayors' courts through legislation. There are 297 mayors' courts in Ohio, and Licking County has ten (10) courts within their prospective municipalities. The City of Johnstown has operated its court system for more than 130 years. Chief Haroon attached a record from June 29, 1892, to this report.

42

THE STATE OF OHIO, }
Licking County, ss. } The Village of Johnstown In Mayor's Court.

Before H.B. Rusler Mayor,
of said Village

Complaint No. 30 made this 29 day of June A. D. 1892 by Albert Dinstach

That J. M. Briddle late of the Village and County of Licking, on or about the 26th day of June 1892 at the Village of Johnstown aforesaid, being a person over fourteen years of age & not of the age of about thirty years on the 26th day of June 1892, during the first day of the tenth century, collected Sunday, was unlawfully found at common law to be a drunk, hatching a trap and hunting same through the streets of said village contrary to the form of the village ordinance, said common law being a note of necessity or charity.

Signed by Albert Dinstach and sworn to before me this 29th day of June A. D. 1892 H.B. Rusler Mayor

June 29th 1892 Issued Warrant and delinquent same to Albert Dinstach Marshall.

July 2nd 1892 Warrant returned

July 2nd 1892. The defendant J. M. Briddle appeared and confessed that he was guilty as charged. Thereupon I do order and sentence the said J. M. Briddle to pay a fine to the Village of Johnstown in the sum of Five dollars, and to pay the costs of prosecution based at two and two dollars, and that he be committed until paid.

H.B. Rusler Mayor
July 2nd 1892 commitment suspended two weeks

Aug 19th 1892 Issued execution and delinquent same Albert Dinstach Marshall

Aug 30th 1892 Execution returned ordered as follows:

Received	8.80
Retained my fees	60
Paid to Mayor	8.20

Albert Dinstach Marshall

Received Aug 30th 1892 of Albert Dinstach Eight and two dollars, in full for above fine and costs.

H.B. Rusler Mayor

MAYOR'S FEES.	Dols.	Cts.
Complaint.	25	00
Warrant.	40	00
Docket Entry.	10	00
Subpoena.		
Continuance.	50	00
Recog. for Trial.		
Recog. of Plaintiff.		
Commitment.		
Order for Prisoner.		
Witness Sworn.		
Judgment.	40	00
Recog. Witness.		
Papers Filed.	10	00
Record.		
Recognition.		
Execution and Filing.	50	00
Satisfaction.		
Prisoner's.		
Certificates.		
Mittimus.		
Bond.	2.15	00
MARSHAL'S FEES.	Dols.	Cts.
Service of Warrant.	40	00
Mittimus.	50	00
Subpoena.		
Mittimus.		
Copy.		
Mittimus.		
Mittimus.		
Det. Def't from Jail.		
Mittimus.		
Attending Trial.		
Assistant.		

Here the defendant paid Johnstown \$8.20 in fines that was collected by Mayor H.B. Rusler. The City of Johnstown Mayor's Court is historic and has an established place in our history.

The Johnstown Mayor's Court currently serves our community as a non-record court. A court of non-records means that trials and other hearings are not transcribed, and there is not the opportunity to have a trial of your peers (bench trials only.)

Our Mayor's Court operates bi-weekly on Thursdays, at 6:30 pm. This late time allows for most reportees, victims, and defendants to attend court during traditional nonworking hours. The Johnstown Mayor's Court allows for local ordinances to be heard in a court that is controlled by the people of this community through their duly elected officials. It is a fair, legitimate, and equitable way to be heard locally and in a less formal setting than traditional court.

Disadvantages:

There are some concerns about running a mayors' court system. Much speculation surrounds the efficiency and integrity of the mayors' court systems in Ohio. People believe that mayors are not well qualified to handle cases, and only accredited lawyers and judges should be allowed. There has also been speculation that the heavy fines given out to defendants in the mayors' court are done solely for profit.

Mayors' courts are also limited in the cases that can be heard. Johnstown Mayor's Court cannot hear the following cases:

- Kidnapping
- Assault
- Domestic violence
- Violation of protective orders
- Aggravated trespassing
- Stalking

Budgeting can also be a concern. Johnstown Mayor's Court should not be seen as a profit generator. However, it also should be near sustaining itself by fines and other costs. The police and zoning departments should establish procedures and practices that support the court system.

Advantages:

There are advantages of Johnstown Mayor's Court. We use only accredited lawyers and magistrates, adding to the legitimacy of our court. Our hearings are typically casual (blue jeans and tee-shirts) and relaxed. The magistrate helps defendants through the judicial process (if needed.) The Johnstown Mayor's Court takes place at night to accommodate the busy work schedules of our community members. Fines are up to half the costs over Municipal Court. Efficiency in enforcing local zoning violations and ordinances. We are seen as a service to our community. Local members of our community do not have to travel to Newark for daytime proceedings. Johnstown Mayor's Court benefits our disadvantaged community members who violate local offenses. **Most of all, we continue to maintain control of our government services and systems.**

Services:

The following are required services that the City must fund to maintain its court system:

- Magistrate Fees
- Legal Fees
- Bailiff Overtime
- Translator Fees (where applicable)
- Office Supplies
- Annual Software Agreement

Items like parking citations, traffic citations, and criminal citations will still incur a cost by the City. These items will then come from the Police Department's general operating fund.

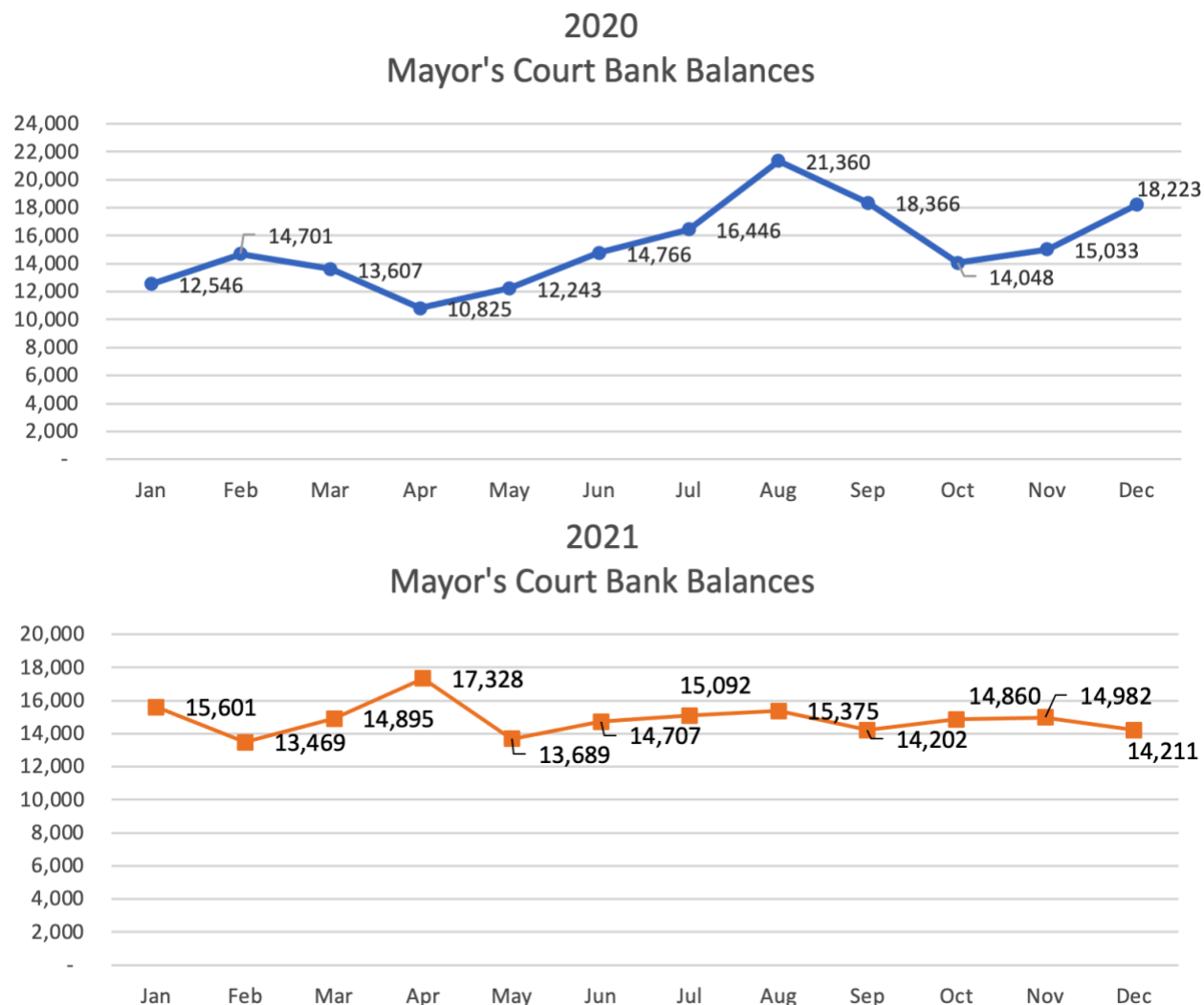
Officer's overtime will likely increase. Dismissals, continuances, trials, and other events such as case reviews will be more frequent at the Municipal level. Currently, officers are paid at three hours for a court appearance unless the officer remains longer than three hours.

Considerations:

If Mayor's Court were to be abolished, there would need to be time set aside to complete current cases and complete assigned probations, which could take a considerable amount of time. To further expedite the abolishment, Council could void all cases, forego collecting fines and payments and dismiss all probation statuses. There should be some consideration for public concerns if cases and probations were dismissed for events such as open OVIs, thefts, criminal mischief/damage, public exposures, etc. The Council would also need to consider the amendment of our Ordinances that outline the Mayor's Court and its use within the municipality.

Finances:

Director Steffan provided the following charts that outline the fluid nature of revenues within Mayor's Court:



In 2020 (COVID introduction) the Mayor's Court fund started with \$12,546 and ended with \$18,223, generating \$5,677 in 2020.

In 2021 the Mayor's Court fund started with \$15,601 and ended with \$14,211, generating a loss of \$1,390 in 2021.

During the week of January 3rd, Chief Haroon ran a Mayor's Court report to review citation counts and how they have been trending over the course of the last six years. During his review, he noticed a decline in officer-initiated performances. Using a six-year average of 593 annual citations issued, he noted that 2021 was down 52.4%, and 2020 was down 25.6%. He also noticed that 2021's figures were down 21.3% from 2020. Chief Haroon ascertained that he needed to set a goal to increase productivity by 13.3%

over the six-year average to achieve a more favorable outcome. With this stated, the City of Johnstown is still at the mercy of fluid fines imposed by the Court. Meaning that if a maximum fine on an M1 is \$500, the Court may only impose \$200 on that same M1.

Chief Haroon emphasized that the nature of the performance objectives is not intended to be punitive but supportive. Chief Haroon's overall goal for the City of Johnstown remains the same. Lower offenses through proactive patrol techniques.

Other Venues:

Chief Haroon contacted neighboring municipalities for a quick snapshot comparison.

Johnstown:	\$54	Part-time Clerk	No Probation Officer
Sunbury:	\$80	Full-time Clerk	2 Part-time Probation Officers
Granville:	\$85	Full-time Clerk	1 Part-time Probation Officer
New Albany:	\$80	Full-time Clerk	1 Full-time Probation Officer

Chief Haroon's recommendation is to review the Court's fees and the Court's bond schedules. It is worth noting that the State of Ohio collects \$39 from all fees, which means that Johnstown only collects \$15 per court appearance. Council should consider increasing fees to \$90 (\$51 in-house and \$39 to the State), with another review set in five (5) years. Council may want to consider a bench trial fee too. The last review of fees and the bond schedule were more than ten (10) years ago.

Commitment:

In July 2020, Chief Haroon proposed a plan to Council to adopt criminal cases through Mayor's Court. At that time, he noted no criminal cases were going through Johnstown's Mayor's Court. He also proposed that such offenses would increase revenues that would sustain their weight in expenditures. He also proposed that any extra revenues would go towards community-based safety programs (e.g., click-it or ticket campaign, OVI enhancement overtime, traffic safety enforcement overtime, National Night Out funding, etc.) It would allow for overages to directly impact enforcement geared towards public safety. Thus, creating legitimacy in the eyes of the stakeholders.

In 2021, Chief Haroon looked at how Mayor's Court was being operated. There were some significant changes to overhauling the safety concerns of the Mayor's Court in 2021. Chief Haroon adopted a dedicated bailiff (paid by overtime at an hour-for-hour rate), created rules that prohibited the approach of the Magistrate, and separated the Prosecutor, Magistrate, and the Clerk from one another. Last, collecting fines away from the physical court setting. The new procedures gave the Court a feel that all parties were separate. Thus, creating legitimacy in the eyes of the stakeholders.

Also, in 21', Chief Haroon completed the development of the Criminal Affidavit Manual (July 2021.) The Magistrate agreed upon this 8-month project in late 21' and talks with the Prosecutor are set for early 22'. There will be some small hurdles with training and implementation. There were also some considerations with Municipal Court, as Chief

Haroon needed their input for an acceptable format. Chief Haroon created these efforts to allow the Johnstown Mayor's Court to hear cases outside of traffic, zoning, and parking.

Chief's Recommendation:

Chief Haroon's recommendation is to keep the Mayor's Court and support Johnstown's local government systems. Johnstown's Mayor's Court has a long-standing history that precedes 13-decades, and it allows the municipality to maintain local control. With recent economic developments uncovered, Chief Haroon believes it is more critical than ever to maintain our local control. Even if the program were identified as a loss leader, its services would outweigh the narrow loss margins.