



Regular Council  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 - 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for February 15, 2022 at 6:31 PM.

2. 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, Bailey Morlan - City Planner, Jim Blair - Zoning Inspector, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Jeff Barr, Jack Nimesheim, Jack R, Pamela Siekman, Dwayne Siekman, Aaron Steffan, Joe Wilson, Judy Haroon, Ryan Borden, Errich Taylor, Tracy Van Winkle, Dyann McDowell

3. Invocation - Ms. Hendren

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Action on Minutes

- a. February 1, 2022 Special meeting
- b. February 1, 2022

**ACTION:** Doug Lehner moved to Approve en bloc; Cheryl Robertson seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Ben Lee, due to absence

**Passed 6 - 0**

## 6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

### 1. Errich Taylor; 214 Blueberry Hill

- Inquired about the Intel project and asked if there would be any special meetings on what infrastructure changes there would be for the City of Johnstown, he touched on a few things he had heard.

Ms. Robertson said she attended an ODOT meeting and provided facts learned:

- Intel's main entrance will be on Mink Road.
- 161 will be widened from US62 to I-270 by one lane on each side for a total of six lanes.
- Mink Road will be five lanes but will narrow back down at Green Chapel Road.
- Phase I; will be moving dirt in August or September and will start building in the spring of next year, operational by 2025.
- Seven thousand construction workers will be on the project.
- If the chip bill passes in Congress, there will be three additional phases for a total of eight fabs, every three years they would build another two fabs.
- Updated on the "haul" route for trucking; noted travel from Beach to Jug which will become a three-lane highway, they will develop another three-lane road up into Intel. Departure route for shipping will be the 161 bypass to I-270 to Rickenbacker and flown out of Columbus.

Mayor Dutcher said they do not have a lot of answers, he thinks the community meeting is a great idea, he is aware of the anxiety in the community and he wants to address this as quickly as he can and is trying to share information as quickly as he gets it. He said we are all playing catch-up and will be compressing twenty years of growth and planning into twenty months; it will not be easy, it will be a challenge but we can work together and get through it.

Marvin Block said this came as a big surprise to all, it has been in the works for a long time, New Albany Company knew about it but none of "us" were informed, and that he understands. Said this is going to be good for the United States; it is throwing our community into turmoil right now, we will survive it and work through it, we need to embrace what is going on over there and do what is best for the citizens of Johnstown.

Mayor Dutcher added that a priority will be getting people who live here out to their jobs and back home safely and getting what we can from Intel to help facilitate that.

### 2. Aaron Steffan

- Said he is Finance Director Dana Steffan's husband
- Read aloud his written complaint against Councilman Marvin Block. Summary of the complaint alleges that Marvin Block has been spreading rumors of a relationship /

affair between Finance Director Dana Steffan and the Chief of Police of Johnstown, Abe Haroon. Mr. Steffan said he understands multiple Council members have heard Marvin Block reference that "it appears they are having an affair". The letter called for Mr. Block's apology and resignation from Council. A copy of the letter was given to Mayor Chip Dutcher and to the clerk.

Mayor Dutcher said he would not allow discussion, that they would take this under advisement and thanked Mr. Steffan for bringing this to their attention. Mr. Block asked to address; Mayor Dutcher permitted. Mr. Block asked which council members did he tell that an affair was going on, said Sharon, Ben? Ms. Hendren said no, you just said she was always in his office or her office. Ms. Robertson told Marvin he eluded to it; Mr. Block said did I say they were having an affair? Ms. Robertson said you said it looked like they could be, that they were always behind closed doors. Mr. Block said the Chief admitted to he and Jack that they were spending an hour and a half or two hours a day in each others office, since this has been going on about the drone; Mr. Block said that's what was said, he hasn't said that to anybody else and that he told the Chief it did not look good for them to be spending that much time together to the other employees. Chief Haroon said that was not correct, that is a lie. Jack Liggett said that was not true, that Chief Haroon did say he spent time with the other employees building work relationships. Dana Steffan said that she was the HR Director and should be having closed door conversations with other directors. Mr. Block asked Chief if he would take a lie detector test that he didn't say that, Chief said yes sir. Mr. Block asked Jack Liggett to set it up.

### 3. Judy Haroon

- Said she is the spouse of Abe Haroon and is here with the same complaint
- Said she also found out about this rumor and is appalled that Mr. Block is allowed to be a part of council, making decisions for the community, she is highly disappointed in Mr. Block's behavior as well as other folks behavior sitting up there for knowing this is and continues to go on. Said someone who sparks rumors that two people are having an affair at work is trying to ruin two individuals professional careers, livelihood and family. Said she agrees with Aaron and thinks this should be formally investigated and also seeks to have Mr. Block resign.

Mayor Dutcher said he would take care of investigating this and coming up with a conclusion.

### 7. Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee

|                 |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACTION:</b>  | Sharon Hendren moved to enter Executive Session; Doug Lehner seconded and the vote was as follows: |
| <b>AYES:</b>    | Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher, Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green    |
| <b>NOES:</b>    | None                                                                                               |
| <b>ABSTAIN:</b> | None                                                                                               |

**Passed 7 - 0**

Attending Executive Session were members of Council, Interim Manager Jack Liggett and Magistrate Tracy Van Winkle.

Council returned to Regular Session at 7:17 pm.

8. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 2/8/22 Special + Regular; Next 2/22/22 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers

The special meeting was a work session with the Design Review Board and a COA applicant. The regular meeting was with the Design Review Board and City Council for a training session with the Law Director.

- b. **Safety & Service:** Update provided last time; Next 3/1/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

- c. **Finance:** 2/15/22; Next 3/15/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

Government Affairs representation overview given by Pamela and Dwayne Siekman. Mayor Dutcher said that on the government affairs side he has come to the conclusion that we need some help; that he is limited in the number of hours he can spend with that issue and with the issues the Intel plant will bring, the mobility hub, and every other need we have in this community to get financial resources from the State of Ohio, the Federal Government etc. and that is why a government affairs team is important to add to our team. Mayor Dutcher said the Siekmans have proposed a fee of \$3,000 per month on a six month contract to start with, and in the world of government affairs, that is cheap and he appreciates that it gives time to build a relationship. The Siekmans stayed to recap for full Council; hiring them would give the city and residents an advocate to the government officials, they lobby at both the state and federal levels. Mr. Liggett highlighted an ODOT meeting attended by himself, Mayor Dutcher and Ms. Robertson where ODOT talked only about the roads they were going to upgrade coming from Franklin County this way and that not a single word was discussed on spending any money or upgrades for our current problems at US62 and SR37; asks what will happen to Mink Street once all that traffic needs to get from Mink to Green Chapel. A priority list from council would be given to the Siekmans, they would strategically tackle our issues with our representatives. There was a 3-0 recommendation to Council from Finance Committee to enlist the Siekmans services. Mr. Lee said if this is something they want to move forward with as a council they will need to have a resolution and give that direction to staff.

**ACTION:** Benjamin Lee moved to go forward with representation from the Siekmans as discussed, at the rate the proposal provides; Cheryl Robertson 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

7 - 0

Continued Finance Committee updates:

Discussion in committee on two requests; committee voted 3-0 to deny both Logan Malone's application refund request and Joe Ciminello's application fee waiver request. Mr. Lee asked for a vote from the balance of Council.

**ACTION:** Benjamin Lee moved to **deny** Logan Malone's refund request; Ryan Green 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

**Motion to deny refund approved 7 - 0**

**ACTION:** Benjamin Lee moved to **deny** Joe Ciminello's refund request; Ryan Green 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

**Motion to deny refund approved 7 - 0**

Other Finance Committee updates: 3-0 recommendation to council that Resolution 2022-09 be tabled pending further conversation. Finance Director Steffan provided an update on the opioid settlement from a webinar she attended. City Planner Bailey Morlan said that we were alerted to the State Capital Budget Request, deadline is March 18th, with the short turn-around time Ms. Morlan asked Prime Engineering to get started on a plan for a splash-pad at Trailhead Park and an amphitheater / performing space at Hannahs Park. Finance adding Impact Fees as a goal this year.

- d. **Economic Development:** Met 2/11/22; Next 3/4/22 @ 09:00 am Admin conference room  
No additional updates
- e. **Park & Rec:** 2/15/22 Cancelled; Next 3/15/22 @ 10:00 am Admin conference room
- f. **Tree Commission:** Next 2/22/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- g. **Events Committee:** Met 1/24/22; Next 3/10/22 @ 5:00 pm in Admin Conference Room  
Fireworks event 2022 planning, event date July 3rd.

Mr. Block said that some have suggested a community pot-luck on the square or in neighborhoods and asked if Events Committee would entertain. Mr. Lee said they are welcome to reach out to him directly or attend the next committee meeting to talk about it.

9. Director Reports

a. Finance

Finance Director Dana Steffan reviewed her report and answered questions on the Rental Registration program and on Right of Way fund collection. No update at this time on CIC tax exemption.

b. Chief of Police

Chief Haroon reviewed his report and answered questions on CAD reporting.

10. Tabled Legislation - None

11. Public Hearings of Legislation

a. **ORDINANCE 02-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

Second reading, this transfers monies to the Budget Stabilization Fund from General Fund, Street Fund, CIP and makes a correction to the Capital Outlay because of an over appropriation.

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

Mr. Lee noted that this gets us within \$30,000 of our \$500,000 goal for the Budget Stabilization Fund.

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

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

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 – 0**

b. **RESOLUTION 2022-09** A RESOLUTION GRANTING ADDITIONAL SICK HOURS TO EMPLOYEES

Mayor Chip Dutcher said starting the first of this year, a number of employees either contracted Covid-19 or were exposed and had to quarantine. Previously, the city had granted additional sick hours to anyone who came down with Covid, under the CARES Act it was taken care of. Mayor Dutcher said he thought it was important to continue to cover Covid in a way that is advantageous to the employees. This resolution was discussed earlier in Finance Committee, conversation around giving a blanket five days of additional sick leave versus case by case Covid specific illness/exposure quarantine period or illness caused by vaccine or booster. Discussion on making the leave retroactive to cover employees who started in January and had not accrued enough sick time to cover and they

went unpaid. There was a recommendation by Finance Committee that the resolution needs some additional work on the language. Mr. Lehner said he would like to see Covid sick leave be a line item on employee pay stubs.

**ACTION:** Doug Lehner moved to table Resolution 2022-09; 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 TABLED**

12. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 03-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

This is to amend the contract with Training Marbles increasing the contract to \$6,500.00. Public Hearing and vote March 1, 2022

13. Other Business

1. American Legion breakfast on Saturday from 8-10am
2. ARPA funds in the amount of \$450,000 were awarded to the City of Johnstown by the County Commissioners for the sewer lining project in Rolling Meadows. Jack Liggett said this will allow the city to do four times what would normally be done in a given year; he has given the engineer the go ahead for design. Mr. Block asked once this is done, how much more will we have to do to finish the whole project. Mr. Liggett said about another ten million dollars, that the one hundred thousand dollars set aside each year does about two and half blocks of lining; the city prioritizes where the most troubles are.

14. Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee

Mayor Dutcher said they would be having another Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee. Invited to attend were members of Council, Jack Liggett, Teresa Monroe and Dyann McDowell.

**ACTION:** Benjamin Lee moved to enter Executive Session; Mayor Dutcher 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**

Council entered Executive Session at 8:06 pm and returned to Regular Session at 10:15 pm.

**ACTION:** Benjamin Lee moved to go forward with Training Marbles for action items related to Human Resources discussed in Executive Session; 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**

15. Adjourn

No further business.

Mayor Dutcher moved to adjourn, Mr. Lee seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

**Next Council Meeting March 1, 2022**