



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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for March 15, 2022 at 6:55 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Cheryl Robertson, Doug Lehner, Ryan Green, Marvin Block, Benjamin Lee, Sharon Hendren,
Absent - None

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

Public present - Steve Rehl, Connor Rehl, Jack Williams, Barry & Jolie Reynolds, Matt Wagner, Jeff & Genny Lutz, Aaron Steffan, Chad Levy, Joe Krouse, Kathy Smith, Ryan Borden, Errich Taylor, Chuck Booher, Valerie Bryan, John Fitman, Kent Mallett, Monica Gernert, Ryan Ford, Gary Ford, Jeff Barr, Bruce Goldsberry, Scott Sierenaler, Michael S., Daryl Wernette, Kyle Lightle, Corey Harris

3. Invocation - Mayor Dutcher

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

There was no motion to enter Executive Session.

6. Greater Johnstown Parks & Recreation District - Update

The Greater Johnstown Parks & Recreation District (GJPRD) Board Chairperson, Jeff Barr, addressed Council with some background and an update on the board. Mr. Barr said the mission of the GJPRD will be to provide responsible development, management, coordination, and equitable access to recreational facilities, programs and activities for residents of the greater Johnstown area to strengthen community health, wellness and spirit. Other board members are Daryl Wernette - Vice Chair and Secretary, Keith Ryan - Treasurer, Susan Suriano and Ed Baldwin. The board is currently working with the law firm Ice Miller, pro-bono, to establish their 501(c)(3) status and by-laws. The board meets in the Johnstown Council chambers the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 pm and the community is invited to attend to learn more about their mission, they welcome their thoughts, ideas and comments. Mr. Barr added that anyone wanting to establish a legacy through land donation and/or monetary donation for parks space land conservation to preserve rural character, please attend their next meeting or contact him directly.

Mayor Dutcher asked Mr. Barr to pass along the council's thanks to the members serving

on this most important board.

7. Action on Minutes

- a. March 1, 2022 b. Special meeting March 8, 2022

No additions or corrections to the minutes by council.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to Approve as written en bloc; 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

8. Correspondence

- a. Resident letter attached to the published packet.

9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

Mayor Dutcher noted a three minute limit for each comment. Said that allegations made were taken seriously, the city hired outside Human Resource counsel and legal representation to advise on how to work our way through this; that the matter has been investigated, council received the report this evening and they are reviewing the recommendations and dealing with them internally. Mayor Dutcher said that is all that will be said on the matter this evening.

1. Monica Gernert; 178 Timber Creek Court West

- Present on behalf of Johnstown Youth Athletic Association (JYAA) to provide an update about how the organization is running. In 2019 JYAA had just over one thousand registered and as of the past twelve months, has almost fourteen hundred. Wrestling and track have been added with cross-country being added this fall. The group is growing and is a great program for the local kids, the relationship locally and with the schools is very strong right now. One area of continued challenge is security, or the lack thereof, and police presence. Added that this is not a Johnstown PD problem, it is a location of Belt Park problem and the fact that it is located in Monroe Township, outside of the city limits; provided some examples of recent vandalism and expressed the need for additional resources to monitor the park. In January, the board moved forward with surveying and creating an application for annexation into the city. Ms. Gernert said that JYAA is growing and doing great, they really need some help in this one area of protection for their kids and their assets that they work very hard to maintain.

Mayor Dutcher thanked JYAA board members for the hard work they do on behalf of the youth of this community, that it is appreciated and they look forward to the Belt Field area

joining the City of Johnstown and offering our fine police protection.

2. Jeff Lutz; 12170 Jug Street

- Quoted from the Declaration of Independence; "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" and said that includes ownership of property. Continued quoting; "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"; asked how we have arrived in 2022 where the governed have zero input on what is going on with their property and around them. Said we are outnumbered, that the New Albany "cabal" has all the money, most of the forces and most of the politicians; the county commissioners refuse to give him any information on what is going on. Said this is a battle between good and evil, people who want to be free and people who want to enslave us and make all the decisions telling people where to go, what to do and where to live. Asks everyone to pray that God rebukes the evil cabal that is inflicting its will with no input from the people involved.

3. ErrichTaylor; 214 Blueberry Hill Road

- Asked if council had come up with a plan for Intel yet.

Mayor Dutcher said they are playing catchup, they are working on a plan; the Comprehensive Plan made two years ago is available on the city website but has been taken over by events and that we are now having to make adjustments to various pieces of that plan including transportation and housing. Mayor Dutcher said he believes firmly in property rights and the right to determine what happens with one's own property, whether to buy or sell. The city is working on many levels with a lot of folks; the State of Ohio, Department of Development, the County and said he is working on behalf of the council to make sure the City of Johnstown has an official seat at the table where decisions are being made, where we can ask our questions and influence the process. Again, stated that they were told one week before the Intel announcement was made and there were no details given; said they are trying to do the best they can with the information they are receiving. Added that they are planning some community outreach starting with a sit-down with the business community on April 21st, then two weeks after that will open up to community members and hopefully have some Intel officials as well as those involved with this project from State and local levels present with some information and give an opportunity to ask questions.

- Said they keep hearing the same answers every meeting; asked how to file a public record request for emails and phone records.

Mayor Dutcher said records may be requested through the City Clerk of Council office. Ms. Robertson noted some misinformation with regard to a SR 37 map on the Next Door app.

- Some comments and discussion on imminent domain, quick-take relative to potential road widening; asked what the city is doing to stop that.

Mayor Dutcher said all to be determined, he has no answer on that tonight, but he does not personally like the use of imminent domain, he would prefer the land owner be compensated justly and gave examples of properties on other projects within the city done this way. Mayor Dutcher added that while he is sympathetic, the City of Johnstown cannot do anything with what people are dealing with in Jersey Township, we can only deal with what is inside the city. Noted that while Johnstown cannot solicit annexation into the village, those who may desire to join Johnstown are welcome to come ask their questions and we can give the answers.

4. Name and address not stated

- Asked if there had been any more discussion with the lobbyists from New Albany that were going to represent us.

Mayor Dutcher answered yes, the Siekmans, and they have been working on our behalf. Said we are putting two projects in the State Capital Budget and they are a big part of that.

- Asked if the city could get an information manager, noted misinformation from several social media sites, need official information from the city.

Mayor Dutcher said that is why we will do some public meetings.

- Asked if the city was going to fill the manager spot; Mayor Dutcher said yes, stay tuned.

5. Daryl Wernette; 7473 Concord Road

- Said he is getting a lot of solicitation calls for buying of property, some may be legit but he has confirmed that some are not. Asked if there was a way to get that word out, maybe through the Legion, especially for senior citizens in the area who may be more vulnerable to be on high alert.

10. Council Committee reports

- Planning & Zoning:** Met 3/8/22; Next 3/22/22 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
Work session on the new zoning code.
- Safety & Service:** Met 3/1/22 updated previously; Next 4/5/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- Finance:** 3/15/22; Next 4/19/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
Went through monthly reports; should be receiving the city vehicle back from body shop, Finance Director continuing to follow up; noted items voted on in committee to be considered by full council.

1. Houses on Payne Street found to not be connected to the main sewer and the sewer line they run through runs across private property instead of in the road right of way. Jack Liggett brought a plan to committee to redirect that sewer and drop an access point for maintenance. Added that in their camera work, they also found a gas line had been bored

through and will need to be taken care of. The price to redirect the sewer is \$32,000, Mr. Liggett said those dollars are available in the sewer department to make those corrections. Mr. Lee said Finance Committee voted 3-0 to move forward with that and spend the \$32,000; the money is available in Sewer Enterprise Fund. No questions or comments by council.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to move forward with the \$32,000 expenditure for the sanitary sewer line; Cheryl Robertson 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

Mr. Lee said committee had another expenditure conversation about the Ford 550 truck that is a part of the capital expenditure budget approved last year for this fiscal year. The truck was ordered, a truck is there for us to take as a part of that order, however it is essentially the last truck on the lot and needed items for the truck are an additional \$9,000 expense. If we do not move forward with provisioning this truck to replace one that badly needs replaced, it will most likely be a two year wait on receiving the one we need. Finance Committee voted 3-0 to move forward with the additional \$9,000 expense to provision the truck that the service department needs. Mr. Green asked if they had a Chevy; Mr. Liggett said when they tried to compare, Chevy would not even take an order, they said they had no trucks and would not be able to supply it. No further questions or comments from council.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to move forward and expend the \$9,000; Cheryl Robertson 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

Mr. Lee said the last item discussed was the SSI server upgrade. Talking through the SSI implementation, they have been having conversations with our IT and SSI about what it would take to host locally instead of in the cloud; testing so far has confirmed that the server is not able to hold what we need, the server is three years old. SSI has offered to host for us for free on their end to get us on the implementation schedule while we continue to work out what is needed for the server. Finance voted to move forward with that to get on the implementation schedule and at this point there is no additional funding needed to do so. Will continue to investigate in the background with IT. Ryan Green asked if the current server was beyond repair, Ben Lee said no, that was undetermined, at this point it does not have the space or capacity to host the SSI as it is, there have also been some recent failings which necessitate a larger conversation. The alternative is going to the cloud

after the year. Marvin Block asked if we had gotten information back about the computer yet (clarified Mr. Block was talking about SSI, the \$135,000) Mayor Dutcher said they have not gotten answers back for their questions. Mr. Lee said no, they just wanted to move forward with getting on the implementation schedule which is why SSI will host for free in the interim. No further questions or comments.

- d. **Economic Development:** Met 3/4/22 updated previously; Next 4/1/22 @ 9:00 am Admin conference room
- e. **Park & Rec:** 3/15/22; Next 4/19/22 @ 10:00 am Admin conference room
The City will submit for two State Capital Budget projects, a Splashpad to be located at the Trailhead Park and an amphitheater at Hannahs Park. Mayor Dutcher said we are Representative Fraizer's number two project (splashpad) and his number four project (amphitheater) and we hope to be successful in getting state dollars for them. Discussions on the existing train station and future potential, on the mastodon site, also how successful the Dog Park has been. Licking County Park District will be adding a parking lot for the trail at Concord Road.
- f. **Tree Commission:** Met 2/22/22 updated previously; Next 3/22/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- g. **Events Committee:** 3/10/22 canceled; Next 3/24/22 @ 5:00 pm Admin conference room

11. Director Reports

- a. Finance Director
Finance Director Dana Steffan highlighted items in her report; no discussion or questions asked.
- b. Chief of Police
Chief Haroon reviewed his report; Mr. Lee asked some questions on the patrol car stats.

12. Tabled Legislation

None

13. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 04-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

This appropriates funds to repay a portion of the Johnstown-Monroe water and sewer tap and capacity fees paid to the city.

Public Hearing: There were no comments either for or against the legislation.
No debate by council.

ACTION: Benjamin Lee moved to Approve; 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

- b. **RESOLUTION 2022-11** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE THE CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COMPLETE WIDENING AND RESURFACING OF US 62 BETWEEN VILLAGE SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER AND WESTVIEW DRIVE

This project will begin this summer, no exact date yet. This contract states that anything that is outside of ODOT'S standard for fixtures, culverts, lights, mast arms etc., if Johnstown chooses to upgrade items and the cost exceeds what the standard is, council will be made aware and if approved, the difference will be paid fully by the city.

Ms. Robertson asked when the project would start. Mr. Liggett said he thinks they are looking at an April bid and a June start date; as soon as the schedule gets a little firmer, the city will work with business owners to move forward. Mr. Lee said the resolution states "from Westview" and asked if it was truly starting there and crossing the bridge. Mr. Liggett said he actually thinks the plan shows it starting across the bridge, he will investigate. Mr. Lee asked if there would be curb, gutter and sidewalk on both sides, Mr. Liggett said he believes sidewalk will only go on the McDonalds side.

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

Mr. Lehner asked if there was an anticipated end date; Mr. Liggett said he did not have that schedule yet.

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to Approve; 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

- c. **RESOLUTION 2022-12** A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This is something the city renews every three years.

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

Ben Lee said the last time this came to council, he read through this, it is about three hundred and fifty pages and there were interesting points on recycling, the amount of money and effort and energy put into education about recycling and mitigating the amount of trash that goes into landfills. He encourages all to read it.

ACTION: Sharon Hendren moved to Approve Resolution 2022-12; Benjamin Lee 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

d. **RESOLUTION 2022-13** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE LICKING COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

County Commissioner Bubbs has attended twice to present the energy aggregation program. The option for the city to join will be on the ballot in May, the county is offering the program to a variety of municipalities, it would mean lower gas and electric bills, if passed, there is an option for residents to opt out if desired. This resolution authorizes the manager to enter into the agreement with the county.

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: Ben Lee, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Cheryl Robertson, Mayor Dutcher
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

14. Introduction of Legislation

None

15. Other Business

1. Ben Lee recapped a conversation left out during the Finance Committee update on road projects. A number of project bids came back very high for mill and fill and sealing and coating. Around \$190,000 was set aside to take care of about twelve roads, but today that number gets you about half of that. Decision to stick with what was budgeted and do the roads they can for that cost as there are still other outstanding projects going to bid that could come in higher than anticipated.
2. Mayor Dutcher highlighted the Edwards Road paving project, a joint project with Monroe Township. The plan is to pave Edwards Road this year, from North Oregon to County Line; bid opening is March 21st.
3. Marvin Block noted a draft of the shopping center by Prime Engineering; Jack said he just received and has not done reviewed yet, wanted to provide for council review as quickly as possible.
4. Ryan Green suggested another council work session to come up with a top five they want to see and to better define the role of the newly hired government liaisons.
5. Ryan Green would like to see a plan for Johnstown's borders; he would like to work with the city's neighbors and come up with a defensive strategy.

16. Adjourn

With no further business, Mr. Lee moved to adjourn; Ms. Hendren seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Next Council Meeting April 5, 2022