



Special Council Work Session  
Friday, March 25, 2022 - 1:00 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Marvin Block called to order the City of Johnstown Special Council Work Session for March 25, 2022 at 1:24 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green  
Absent - Mayor Dutcher, Benjamin Lee

Staff present - Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Jeff Barr, Errich Taylor

3. Council Work Session

Marvin Block said he had two statements that he wanted on the record:

1. Said his wife was pulled over and given a ticket, it was well deserved, she had not renewed her car license for two years. Said there is no animosity, she took the ticket, paid the fine and went and got her license. Mr. Block said he wanted to put that out there so everybody knows when he gets challenged for retaliation, there is no retaliation there, she was guilty.

2. Read part of Chief Haroon's complaint; "on Saturday, February 5th, 2022 near 11:00 am I saw Councilman Robertson while on patrol, she advised me that Mr. Block had started a rumor/report of an affair between Mrs. Steffan and me, I was concerned with the rumor." Mr. Block said this was given to the Chief on February 5th and on February 15th they made the public complaint against him. Mr. Block said it was investigated, the investigation came back and found him innocent of all charges on March 15th. Mr. Block said another complaint was filed by the Chief on February 22nd, he did not get a copy until March 21st; when he got it and read through it, he called Cheryl (Robertson) at home and told her he thought Chief was telling a falsehood on her but that she said no, that she did say that. He said that he told Cheryl he has known her for forty years and he never said anything like that to her, he said Cheryl said she knows, that in a fit of anger she said it. He said he told her it was just like she ran a knife through his heart, that they talked a little more then they hung up. Mr. Block said the allegation was made on February 5th, the big allegation was made against him on February 15th, he got this on March 21st and called her (Ms. Robertson) on that date and she said she did recant it to Julia who was running the investigation. Mr. Block added that he felt if she (Ms. Robertson) had come to him and said she was sorry she did that; but she let him suffer through the whole thing and he thinks her making that statement was a big part of the reason they did the complaint on him; he does not feel he has been done right and that it should be brought to the public. Mr. Block said he does not want to keep stirring everything up but it is not right for he and his family to suffer through what he has suffered through the last month and a half. Mr. Block stated later that half of this complaint is because Council is taking the power back.

General discussions on the drone, police dispatch, legal costs, Mayor's Court revenue. Discussion on SSI upgrade to VIP software; Doug Lehner stated this software package should have been bid out. Further stated the software should have been a capital expense as a "piece or part", then the cloud and service to keep it up yearly is the professional services, there are two pots of money this should come from. Stated his concerns 1) asks if we are really getting the best price for that software package and 2) on January 18th, he asked for a specific note that there not be any more money spent on any big ticket items until he sees a list of everything over \$2,500.00; said he would bring this back up at next council. Further review and discussion on 2022 budget line items, how to have better controls and getting the city "house in order". Doug Lehner said he thinks we were caught in a perfect storm, going from a village to a city, then the Intel news; discussion on getting information updates out to residents. Ryan Green said we need to have our "scandals" in order, figure out the staffing situation, name a Manager or Assistant Manager or Economic Development Manager, whatever that title is, define that and pick someone for it. Doug Lehner said he has tried many times to schedule working sessions, that council has to come together as a group and know where they are going and what direction they are heading because right now they are all going down a path seven different ways; Mr. Lehner said they need to focus and continue to do what they are called and sworn to do. Some further discussion on an Assistant Manager and potential duties; Mr. Green said he wants to have a real interview process, they need to figure out the Manager first, that there has been an interim pick, there has not been an official pick. Ms. Hendren asked when they could make an official pick, Mr. Green said when they can talk as a whole group. Further discussions on economic development, business, industry, housing, income tax and city services.

Ryan Green said the whole premise for bringing on the Government Liaison team (Siekmans) was that Chip needed help, as he stated, Ryan said but the problem is that lobbyists don't really help with what he is wanting help with so he doesn't really get it. He said that lobbyists go hunt down the money you want, they don't go sit at all the meetings and they don't help smooth out the role of government in a town; so council needs to set up an agenda for them, some points they want them to hunt down, there needs to be a reason they are here. Discussion on priorities to give the Siekmans a more defined role; would like them to seek funding for the following priorities.

1. Infrastructure: road upgrades for roundabouts at SR37/Concord Road, SR37/Croton Road (Leafy Dell); other road improvements/paving/resurfacing
2. Water/Sewer: water/sewer line extension
3. Child care/Daycare facility
4. Track Street area; beautification
5. Downtown parking

Discussion on JEDs and Johnstown cooperation with townships of Jersey and Monroe.

#### 4. Adjourn

Ryan Green moved to adjourn. Doug Lehner seconded and all were in favor. Work session ended at 4:19 pm.