



Regular Council
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for April 19, 2022 at 5:04 PM.

2. New Council Member Swearing In

Jonathon Merriman and Donald Barnard took the Oath of Office and were sworn in to the Office of Council member by Mayor Chip Dutcher. Mr. Merriman and Mr. Barnard are filling unexpired terms ending December 31, 2023.

3. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman
Absent - None

Staff present - Jack Liggett - 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 – JP West, Brian Riley, Tom Hart, Dave Douglas, Aaron Steffan, David Cool, Matt Callahan, James Estep, Chuck Booher, Jack Nimesheim, Lewie Main, Sean Stanearth, Walter Raub

4. Invocation - Mayor Dutcher

5. Pledge of Allegiance

6. Executive Session to consider the Investigation of complaints against a public employee or official

ACTION: Sharon Hendren moved to enter Executive Session to consider the investigation of complaints against a public employee or official; Doug Lehner seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman, Ryan Green, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Council entered Executive Session at 5:10 p.m. and returned to Regular Session at 7:32 p.m.

7. Action on Minutes

Vision Statement: The City of Johnstown is dedicated to providing a secure community environment that fosters cultural, recreational, educational and economic opportunities while preserving our unique historical character

a. April 5, 2022

ACTION: Doug Lehner moved to Approve as written; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Don Barnard, Jon Merriman - both due to absence

Passed 5 - 0

8. Proclamation

a. Arbor Day 2022

Mayor Dutcher has issued a Proclamation for Arbor Day 2022 being celebrated April 29th. Johnstown became a Tree City USA municipality two years ago and the Mayor said the proclamation urges everyone to support and be mindful of our trees.

9. Presentation: Horizon

Mayor Dutcher said the city has been working with Horizon for the last year and a half to bring Johnstown faster internet and technology improvements. JP West, Vice President of business development at Horizon and Brian Riley who oversees the fiber to the premises business unit, attended to give an overview on providing fiber/broadband connection to the city and its residents. Horizon began one hundred and twenty-seven years ago and is headquartered in Chillicothe and Columbus, Ohio and is the major fiber provider in the area with a network operations center in Columbus. Horizon is an ILEC and a CLEC and initially began serving large customers such as hospitals who needed more reliable service; they have expanded and now serve community homes and businesses. The infrastructure would be a mixture of underground and above-ground, depending on the area.

Mayor Dutcher said this is a great way to bring competition and a better service to residents than what is currently offered.

10. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. David Cool; Leafy Dell Condos; 108 Maple Leaf Drive

- Provided history on the Coughlin property and declarations
- Says the proposed plan for the new apartments will not fit
- Current plan is a severe departure from what was initially planned
- Ask for a special meeting with zoning

2. Tom Hart / Matt Callahan Pulte Homes

Summarized a letter presented for the record

- It is their intent to submit an \$800,000 bond for the traffic light, under protest
- They do dispute the amount of the bond. They have not seen engineering to back up that amount.
- This must have engineering, improvements cannot be made on a guess.
- Asked Council to refrain from cashing the bond until the engineering estimates are solidified and agreed to with the city
- Asks the city to be cautious about asking for improvements not related to that intersection
- Asks the city to stop threats of stop work orders that would affect their homebuyers, contract and their vested development rights
- They do not dispute the requirement for the light
- Said that at no time did Pulte seek to get out of the responsibility
- They will continue to work with the city on the improvements
- Provided a copy of the unsigned bond

Jack Liggett confirmed everything that Mr. Hart said and added that upon receipt of the official signed bond, he would like to lift the stop work order.

11. Council Committee reports

- Planning & Zoning:** 4/12/22 cancelled; Next 4/26/22 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
- Safety & Service:** Met 4/5/22 updated last meeting; Next 5/4/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- Finance:** 4/19/22 cancelled; Next 5/17/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- Economic Development:** Met 4/1/22 updated last meeting; Next 5/6/22 @ 9:00 am Admin conference room
- Park & Rec:** Met 4/19/22; Next 5/17/22 @ 10:00 am Admin conference room
Staff provided Trailhead Park updates: State Capital Budget requests for the Splash pad and amphitheater have been given, hope to find out in May whether or not projects will be included in the budget. Downtown Johnstown's Springfest event on the square is June 18th.
- Tree Commission:** Met 3/22/22 updated last meeting; Next 4/26/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- Events Committee:** Next 5/19/22 @ 5:00 pm Admin conference room
- Design Review Board:** Met 4/12/22; Next 5/10/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

12. Director Reports

- a. Finance Director
Dana Steffan highlighted items in her report included in the packet.
- b. Chief of Police
Chief Haroon reviewed his report included in the packet. Ryan Green asked about crime stats; the Chief said he is waiting on the County for access to CAD. Our system and theirs need to be merged.

13. Tabled Legislation - None

14. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 05-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS
Ryan Green asks how to measure ROI; Mayor Dutcher said the Siekmans plan to attend an upcoming meeting to provide Council with a report of action items and outcomes.

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

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to Approve; Doug Lehner seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Jon Merriman, Ryan Green, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren, Donald Barnard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- b. **ORDINANCE 06-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS
The annual property and casualty insurance premium exceeded the amount budgeted due to a review of assets coming in.

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: Ryan Green, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

15. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 07-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 47-21, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

Costs budgeted for salaries on personnel no longer with the city are being moved to engineering. Public Hearing May 4, 2022

- b. **ORDINANCE 08-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1183 OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES

Edits to the city Tree Preservation Ordinance. Public Hearing May 4, 2022

16. Other Business

- a. Utility Billing/Finance Software Discussion

Money was approved in the budget for the Software Solutions upgrade, Jack Liggett said he would like clarification on whether or not Council desires to move forward. Discussion on questions still outstanding; Mayor Dutcher said the contract maintenance fee cost is particularly high and they are still awaiting input on current server capability versus cloud storage needs. Mr. Block said he spoke to the Law Director and that according to the Charter this is not a professional service, it is a commodity and should be bid out, there are questions on getting specifications. Decision to have some specifications created and a plan for bid.

- b. Community Reinvestment Area ("CRA") program

Short discussion; Mayor Dutcher said CRA applications will continue to be accepted, the city will continue to use CRA's as a tool.

c. Sharon Hendren asked if council was going to discuss an assistant for Jack (Liggett) tonight. Mayor Dutcher said not that he knew of but was not opposed to having a discussion about it. Marvin Block said he would like to see Jack (stay as Manager) for a year with Sean Steanart as an assistant for a year to get things in order and then start a search for a "suit". Mr. Block said that Sean is up to par on a lot of things going on around here and thinks he would be a good candidate to help Jack. Ms. Hendren said she suggests we go ahead with it because Jack needs help and Sean could hit the floor running. Ms. Hendren moved that council select Sean as an assistant to Jack. Mr. Barnard asked if Sean was currently on the city payroll, Mayor Dutcher said no. Mr. Barnard confirmed that this would be hiring someone from the public to take the position. Mr. Green asked if it would be typical to meet and put together a compensation package first, not that he against this but wants to have all the ducks in a row. Mr. Block said they had agreed on a price if council agreed on it. Mayor Dutcher asked when this was discussed and was it in a public meeting. Mr. Block said no, it was discussed in general conversation. Jack Liggett said that discussion on hiring a village employee and setting up terms probably should be done in an Executive Session to get the groundwork laid out, then the action would happen. Mayor Dutcher asked if there was a position description, a salary

range in mind, a benefits package, all of those questions should be answered. Ms. Hendren said they pretty much have been. Members of council asked by who, Mr. Block said just talked in general to bring to council. Mayor Dutcher said he does not have a problem bringing it to council, he has a problem with that it seems to have been discussed with some members of council and not with others. Mr. Block said he thinks other things have been discussed like that too, but he thought he had had discussed it with him. Mayor Dutcher said he wants to have the description, term, duties etc. in place before it is brought before council to make this decision. Mr. Barnard asked if there was money in the budget for it, Mayor Dutcher said yes. Mr. Green said he knows there has been casual conversation about it and he is not opposed to it, there have been a lot of names thrown around, so he thinks they should come together on it and talk about creating the position and compensation. A meeting will be scheduled by council to continue conversations.

17. Adjourn

Mayor Dutcher welcomed the two new council members and said he hoped they have enjoyed the first night of many long nights.

ACTION:	Sharon Hendren moved to Adjourn; Ryan Green seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 7 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

Next Council Meeting WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022 (Primary Election is Tuesday May 3rd)