



Special City Council
Tuesday, May 31, 2022 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the City of Johnstown Special City Council Meeting for May 31, 2022 at 7:10 PM.

2. 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, Sean Staneart - Assistant City Manager, Rusty Smart - Deputy Chief of Police, Bailey Morlan - City Planner, Jim Blair - Zoning Inspector, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Lewie Main, Elizabeth Whipple

3. Public Comments

1. Elizabeth Whipple; 100 N. Main Street

- Concerned that not enough attention is being paid to how they will reform the way this council works in relation to the constituents and more specifically what happened with the Chief; said that was appalling. Council allowed petty vindictiveness to override the public safety of this community by firing the Police Chief when there is a nationwide shortage of police officers; who would replace him.

Interim City Manager Jack Liggett said they have had a number of perspective chiefs call about the opening; the city is working with HR on a list of requirements and a procedure for hiring.

- Said this looks like pettiness and asked if the city was going to explain their decision to people.

Jack Liggett said it was not pettiness, the city has procedures that were left out. Ms. Whipple asked what procedures; some discussion on capital improvement requests and budget. Mr. Liggett added that at this point chief has resigned, it was an agreed separation. Further explanation of procedures for budget requests. Ms. Whipple asked what would be done going forward to ensure this doesn't happen again. Mr. Liggett said Finance Committee will work to clear up procedures although there has never been a problem with that procedure before.

- Asked if they understand the optics of suddenly finding this reason to come to a

mutual separation during this investigation about how Marvin Block was or was not talking about him (Abe Haroon) and his wife. Mr. Block said that is another key, it was all unfounded according to an independent investigation.

Councilman Barnard asked if an employer lets you go, do you want the employer laying out all the baggage on it? He knows the residents want to hear all the reasons but Abe has rights, he doesn't want everything laid out, if we do that, is it going to help or hurt his future employment? You have to take in what the public wants to know and the rights and laws in the State of Ohio. Ms. Whipple said so then you need a Freedom of Information (FOI) request? Mr. Barnard said however you want to do it, but they are under certain guidelines they cannot violate. Mayor Dutcher said they are limited at this particular time in what they can say and when there is an opportunity down the road, she can file the FOI and she can get it all; there were a number of things. Abe did some great things and some things he is unhappy with and that will just have to stand for now, they want to be fair to Abe and his future employment.

No further comments by the public.

Mayor Dutcher said he had items to share:

1. The Council Clerk is creating a calendar for him and all members will have access; all of his meetings will be posted.
2. Representative Fraizer called to inform that in the bill going before the Ohio House of Representatives tomorrow for Capital Budget items, Johnstown will be receiving funds for two items. a) \$250,000 for the splash pad and b) \$150,000 for the amphitheater. We have never received State Capital dollars before, this is a first for Johnstown and he credited Bailey Morlan and publicly thanked Representative Fraizer.
3. Attended a meeting last week, the Welcome Intel Task Force, highlighted items: a) Licking County has joined MORPC b) Licking County Planning has added some staff, American Structurepoint is doing a county wide study on water and sewer. c) the county will also be starting a housing study.

4. Discussion - Comprehensive Plan

Council members and staff discussed presentations given by planning firms Crossroads and MKSK to develop a new Strategic Plan for the City of Johnstown. Council members discussed city priorities and a basis for what is wanted. Both firms expressed that based on presentations and questions earlier, they could write up proposals. Both firms to email example Strategic Plans that would be helpful for council review.

Plans and bullet points for review by council are due by Friday for review and discussion at the next council meeting.

5. Other Business

1. Design Review Board; keep open until Friday, readvertise.
2. Four engineering firms to presentation June 7th
3. City staff is working on a Future Land Use map; when completed it will go to zoning and council.
4. Jack to get pricing from Egan and Associates on doing a full aquifer study on existing well fields to see what the maximum withdrawal is. Depending on findings, if water is there, may need to reengineer the water plant

6. Adjourn

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to adjourn; Sharon Hendren seconded and all were in favor.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Council Meeting June 7, 2022