



Regular Council
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for June 21, 2022 at 6:34 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Marvin Block, Sharon Hendren, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman

Absent - Ryan Green

Staff present - Jack Liggett - Interim City Manager, Rusty Smart - Interim Chief of Police, Bailey Morlan - City Planner, Jim Blair - Zoning Inspector, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Mary Queen Cool, Chyrel Cool, David Cool, Glenn Ronken, Jamie Hartsough, Josh Clark, Kent Mallett, Anya Arciaga, Anne Evans, Lewie Main, Chris Hermann

3. Invocation - Mr. Barnard

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Action on Minutes

a. May 31, 2022 Special Council

b. June 7, 2022 Regular Council

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to approve en bloc; Jon Merriman seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

6 - 0

6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Jamie Hartsough; 169 Stonehedge Row Drive

- Stated she would be asking yes or no questions; Mayor Dutcher stated that this was not time for questions and answers, this is a time for comments on matters not on the agenda.

Mr. Block asked for the speaker's name and address; Ms. Monroe said she had it; Mr. Block said he needed it for his attorney. Ms. Hartsough repeated her name and address.

2. Anya Arsiaga; 174 Noe-Bixby Road

- Stated she would be delivering a speech prepared by her friend Elizabeth Whipple who was not able to attend due to COVID quarantine. Mayor Dutcher said she had three minutes. A letter was read to members of council; speaker stopped at three minutes.

There were no further public comments.

Marvin Block said he had comments and spoke for approximately six minutes.

7. Council Committee reports

- Planning & Zoning:** Met 6/14/22; Next 6/28/22 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
Work session; talked about the creation of a Special Use District, amended the sign code.
- Design Review Board:** Next ~~7/17/22~~ @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
Correction: Next meeting is July 12, 2022
- Safety & Service:** Next 7/5/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- Finance:** 6/21/22; Next 7/19/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
Mr. Barnard reported on items from committee to bring before council:

1. Discussion on the newly created Chamber of Commerce and their request for \$9,800 to fund startup costs. Committee initial recommendation was to give \$6,000 but members will meet with the Finance Director and staff to review finances before recommendation is given to council.

2. CDL licensing was formerly a \$500 - \$600 expense to an employee then reimbursed to them once they passed their test. The government has changed that and getting a CDL will now cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Mr. Liggett has asked that this cost be put into the budget going forward, currently the city has six drivers and only three vehicles that need a CDL driver. Discussed adding the cost of one CDL license per year to the budget and also adding to employment agreements that if the employee leaves within a certain period of time, they would need to pay that money back, Mr. Barnard said we do not want to pay for them to go use the CDL somewhere else. Committee gave the recommendation to go

forward with that next year.

3. Recommendation given by Chief Smart; in the budget created for this year, Council agreed to hire one new officer, then Officer Balistrea left, Council recommended replacing that position but had also budgeted for the other position. Committee is in agreement with Chief Smart that the city fills that position also. The recommendation is that one officer is hired as a replacement and another hired as budgeted.

Jack Liggett asked council to lift the hiring freeze.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to lift the hiring freeze for the Police Department; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Don Barnard, Jon Merriman, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

Discussion on start dates. Chief Smart said he would be hiring a lateral transfer.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to hire the additional officer; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Jon Merriman, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren, Donald Barnard
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

Mr. Barnard said committee also looked at the budget tonight and where funds could come from for the Strategic Plan they are working on; they have some ideas for that.

- e. **Economic Development:** Next 7/1/22 @ 10:00 am Admin conference room
- f. **Park & Rec:** 6/21/22; Next 7/19/22 @ 10:00 am Admin conference room
General conversation on the train station, two committee members will be speaking with the owner on location. Discussed the Splash Park and Amphitheatre projects that the city has received partial funding for, potential for some preliminary prep work on the properties with the funding received.
- g. **Tree Commission:** Next 6/28/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
Made some edits to the city zoning department fee schedule to include fee removal permit costs as referred to in Ordinance 08-2022 to encourage developers to keep mature trees.
- h. **Events Committee:** Next 6/30/22 @ 5:00 pm Admin Conference Room
Ben Lee was present to update Council on city events.

1. Firemen's Festival parade updates; parade June 25, 2022

- Met with parade coordinators, connected with ODOT to put out notice on traffic impact

2. Fireworks event July 3rd, 2022

- Working to advertise the event on social media.
- More food trucks this year, eight food vendors
- Will have face painting
- Band "At it Again" will play
- Little Miss Firecracker
- 50/50 drawing
- Patriotic video
- Larger overall show than last year

Mr. Lee thanked the schools for their help working to provide electricity to the food trucks. There is an updated and cohesive security plan in coordination with the Fire and Police departments. Thanked City Council for their support through the entire effort. Mr. Lee said committee has discussed trying to entertain sponsorships to offset costs. Noted the American Legion will be donating \$2,500 toward costs this year, and there may be a corporate sponsor interested. Mr. Lee added that the event is still under budget and asked council about ordering a banner at a cost of approximately \$200; no objection from council. City Council members volunteered personal donation to cover the cost.

3. Mental Health Round table on August 8th at 6:00 pm; focus will be on stress and anxiety. Attending will be the Mental Health and Recovery Board from Licking and Knox County, Johnstown school counselors, Faith-based representation, Behavior Health Care Partners, Interim Chief Smart, Chad Brown with the Licking County Health Commissioner and others.

School Liaison Committee: Mayor Dutcher said the new Johnstown-Monroe Schools Superintendent, Dr. Wagner, will begin his role July 1st; a committee meeting should be scheduled. Mayor Dutcher noted the celebration event for Mr. Dickson's tenure also in July being held at Chambers Stadium; the city will do a proclamation for his service to the city and the schools.

8. Director Reports

a. Police

Interim Chief Smart reviewed his director's report included in the packet.

b. Finance

No report from finance.

9. Tabled Legislation

a. **RESOLUTION 2022-21** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT FEE FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

Council tabled this resolution and sent it back to the Tree Commission for review. Edits were made and resolution is now ready for council consideration.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to take from the table; Marvin Block seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren, Don Barnard, Jon Merriman
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

Mayor Dutcher said as stated previously, this is not for residential properties, it applies to developments. Planner Bailey Morlan said that the Tree Commission has reviewed and the changes are reflected. Ms. Morlan said this is related to an ordinance from earlier this year that requires a tree removal permit for commercial properties and new housing developments; the tree removal permit would be required before receiving a zoning certificate or a plat for a new housing development; this resolution sets the fee referenced in the ordinance.

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

Ms. Morlan had one other comment; that at last meeting, a member of the public noted the requirement for the city to have a Landscape Architect, she said they are in the process of that.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to approve; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren, Don Barnard, Jon Merriman, Marvin Block
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

10. Public Hearings of Legislation

a. **ORDINANCE 12-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1179 OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES

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

Second reading; makes changes to Section 1179 Planned Unit Development (PUD). This resolution is recommended by Planning and Zoning to make guidelines much clearer.

Jon Merriman went through several edits he would like to make. Mayor Dutcher said there seemed to be much that needs fixing and asked if there was a desire to table; council discussion.

ACTION: Jon Merriman moved to table; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren, Don Barnard, Jon Merriman, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Motion to Table Passed 6 - 0

- b. **RESOLUTION 2022-24** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MKSK FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES
This legislation authorizes the city to hire planning firm MKSK for professional services specific to the creation of a City Strategic/Comprehensive Plan. Sean Staneart said the initial scope of services was \$150,000 and after discussion, some landscape and architectural designs being implemented into the plan bring the new scope to about \$196,000. Chris Hermann with MKSK was present and spoke on aspects of the plan and answered council questions. The plan will encompass the school district boundary; there will be a very deliberate engagement process with the public, with stakeholders, land owners, City Council and boards and commissions.

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

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to approve; Jon Merriman seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Sharon Hendren, Don Barnard, Jon Merriman, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

11. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 13-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1177 OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES
First reading. Legislation forwarded from Planning and Zoning amends and clarifies Section 1177 Signs; illustrations by OHM have been included. Public Hearing and vote on July 5, 2022
- b. **ORDINANCE 14-2022** AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL USE DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND APPROVING ASSOCIATED SECTION 1170 OF THE

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES

First reading. Legislation forwarded from Planning and Zoning creates a Special Use Zoning District for public buildings and spaces that do not fit any existing district, such as a school or government building. Public Hearing and vote on July 5, 2022

12. Other Business

1. Mayor Dutcher reported on meetings attended:

- Workforce committee focused on schools to include colleges and universities, have a schedule of classes for people to train and qualify for a job with Intel.

2. Marvin reported that he, Sean and Jack met with the Dunn family, owner of Masterfare Farm, who say that they want to be a part of the new master plan and would like to share in the cost.

3. Jack Liggett provided updates

- Meeting June 23rd with Verdantis on the Jersey Street project
- Meeting with ODOT June 29th, discussion on US62 road widening
- Pushing to get the water tower finished
- ARPA funds allotted for the sewer lining project, should have ready for Licking County to review within the next two weeks then go to bid
- Duncan Plains water line, working on some revisions to the plan
- Meeting with Structurepoint who is working on county water planning, to discuss Johnstown's vision and capabilities for the Licking County area
- Yield to pedestrian signs on Concord Road at the bike path have been removed
- Asked for interest from council on riding in the Firemen's Festival parade

4. Don Barnard asked if there had been any updates on the water plant upgrade. Jack Liggett said he has been working with the engineers, still very preliminary but the initial look is that our well field can deliver the third million gallons and a fourth million is very promising.

5. Jon Merriman asked about the tree in Rolling Meadows Park. Jack Liggett said due to the power lines, it needs to be topped before cutting down, if weather cooperates they should be able to get a truck in there.

6. Marvin Block answered a question previously asked about RITA and said the new employer (Intel) is in New Albany, the city will not get any income tax from that. As far as getting on the ball with Intel coming, that everyone on this panel has been to several meetings trying to get caught up; they only found out about this at the beginning of the year. Mayor Dutcher noted that the new Intel facility is fully within the Johnstown-Monroe School District boundary and they will receive a sizable check once a year as payment in lieu of taxes. Mr. Block noted the school district improvements after the passage of the levy and that they have been good stewards with the taxpayers money.

7. Don Barnard asked if the resident who had questions would be heard. Mayor Dutcher invited her to the podium.

Jamie Hartsough; 169 Stonehedge Row Drive

- Asked if council believed that due diligence had been conducted for the citizens by not opening the city manager position to the public and accepting applications. Mayor Dutcher said the city has received some applications but no action has been taken because this council has Jack as acting and Sean as assistant and going forward, council will decide when or if it is open to applications.
- Directed question to Mr. Liggett: Asked if he believed that an employee who has admitted to lying and who has quit without proper notice should get paid out their vacation time. Mr. Liggett said on the surface without knowing who you are talking about, he would generally say no they did not meet the guideline.
- Directed question to Ms. Hendren: Asked if she felt she was acting impartial with her comment on social media that if citizens are upset with local government, they should move. Ms. Hendren said she did not say if they were upset with local government, it was if they were so upset with them, she said Johnstown is a fantastic place to live and prices are wonderful right now, if they didn't like Johnstown, as some sound like they don't, the price of their home is great.
- To Ms. Hendren: Asked if she believed it was acting impartial with her comments on social media threatening someone's employer if they disagree with her. Ms. Hendren said she thinks she is referring to Aaron, and she didn't threaten, she knows a person who works for the same company and they asked her to send them the information.

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

ACTION: Marvin Block moved to enter executive session to consider the employment of a public employee; Chip Dutcher seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Don Barnard, Jon Merriman, Marvin Block, Mayor Dutcher, Doug Lehner, Sharon Hendren

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

Council entered Executive Session at 8:10 pm and returned to regular session approximately 10:00 pm

14. Adjourn

With no further business, Mayor Dutcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hendren seconded and all were in favor; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned approximately 10:00 pm

Next Council Meeting July 5, 2022