



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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for November 15, 2022 at 6:38 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman, Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Charlie Campbell
Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Staneart - Acting City Manager, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Interim Chief of Police, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Lanny Bailey, Mike & Susie Eltringham, Lewie Main, Kent Mallett, Jamie Hartsough, Mary Queen Cool, Reverend Matthew Van Winkle

3. Invocation - Pastor Matt Van Winkle; Johnstown United Methodist Church

a. Reading - Mayor Barnard

Mayor Barnard highlighted city employee military service and the work of the Johnstown Hometown Heroes Foundation and its President, Mike Eltringham, in honor of Veteran's Day. He read from the "Spiritual Almanac for Servicemen" issued in 1943 to a Private Donald Barnard, his Grandfather.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Action on Minutes

ACTION: Mr. Merriman moved to accept the minutes as a block; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Charlie Campbell, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

a. October 18, 2022

b. October 24, 2022 Special Work Session

6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

No comments

7. Council Committee reports

a. **Planning & Zoning:** 11/9/22 cancelled; Next 11/22/22 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers

b. **Safety & Service:** Met 11/1/22 update given last meeting; Next 12/6/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

c. **Finance:** 11/15/22; Next 11/29/22 @ 5:00 PM

The 2023 budget was proposed, committee will have two weeks to review it and hopes to pass it on to Council. Mayor Barnard said that the committee has elected to give stipends to certain employees because of staff shortages; the committee proposes a \$2.00 per hour stipend for Meghan Ward who will be helping with utility billing until the position is filled, a \$5.00 per hour stipend for Teresa Monroe for all the extra work she has picked up and for Sean Stanearth as City Manager, a \$1,250.00 per month stipend until the position is reviewed and filled.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to pass the three stipends for these three employees to better compensate them for all the work they are doing right now; Charlie Campbell seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Charlie Campbell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Chief Smart recommended raising the wages for two Police Department employees.

Officer Gary Hargraves, going from \$27.19 to \$29.09, that he is a twenty-year law enforcement veteran, a combat veteran, is one of PD's field trainers, an armorer and a previous SWAT member with Muskingum County Sheriff's office. Officer Dierdre Fiffe from \$23.63 to \$25.50, she has close to fifteen years of criminal justice, she is PD's only Spanish speaking officer, the evidence manager and handles Facebook and media relations. Chief Smart said they have lateral transfers coming in at \$25.50 with a top out at \$27.60.

Mr. Orsini said they went over this detail in the finance committee meeting, although they have hard decisions to make about finances, it is very important to compensate our employees and make this a destination location for recruiting and long term employment. Committee approved 3-0. Mayor Barnard said these employees need to get to a level where they are paid with their peers here and this will do that, they are both outstanding.

ACTION: Mayor Barnard moved to increase Gary Hargraves pay from \$27.19 to \$29.09 and Dierdre Fife from \$23.63 to \$25.50 to put them better in line with their fellow officers; Jon Merriman seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Charlie Campbell, Nicole Shook

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Chief Smart clarified the raise would be effective at the start of the current pay, November 12th, Mayor Barnard said yes.

Additional committee notes, an update was given from Kathee Ingram with Integrity Financial highlighting where we are with certain things. Received an update on city insurance for 2023, health insurance is going up 14.9 percent. They will be getting an update on the new water and sewer plants, financial discussion in the very near future.

d. **Park & Rec:** Met 11/14/22; Next TBD

Main committee discussion was on the Miles Estate.

Mr. Staneart said there was a recommendation from the previous Park & Rec committee on Concord East and a green space area in the new development phase. They discussed options for a passive park, green space and trails, the HOA is willing to keep it and maintain it at no expense to the city. Another option would be that the city takes it and maintains it. A third option is to put a fifty year option, the HOA would have ownership of this piece right now, they will maintain it with no burden to the city, they city would have an option to purchase for \$1 any time over that fifty year period. If the city does not act in that time period, then it becomes the HOA's, if they city does act on it, then it could establish the park as it wants. Mr. Staneart said he likes the third option because it does not put any extra cost or burden on the city now. There was a recommendation to take a smaller triangle portion now to square off what the city already owns. Mr. Staneart asked for a recommendation from council so the developer can move ahead with planning. Discussion on the planned emergency access road for fire and EMS at Douglas, still being planned. Mr. Orsini expressed concern for the wetland portion of the property being a notoriously wet and smelly area, he said if someone wanted to develop any portion of that, he would love to see them get that water off of there permanently. Discussion on maintenance and mowing time needed for the area not wetland.

Mr. Campbell asked for clarification on the structure of the Miles Estate. Mr. Staneart said it is a five member board management body, Roger Smith is the Trustee, there is a Liberty Township representative, two Johnstown representatives, they used to be representatives of banks that are now dissolved, Johnnie Johnson and Bill Wyman and the fifth member would be the Mayor of Johnstown. Mr. Campbell said he knows they are going to court to decide who gets to occupy what, he would like a complete financial record going back as far as they can and a complete record of everything that has been taken from the estate, there are things in peoples homes and offices, where are they and where are they located, there are some very valuable items, he would like complete record of everything in the estate. Mr. Staneart said the city has partnered up with the Greater Park & Rec District as well as the school to jointly collaborate with one legal team, Scott Hayes, he has been our representation for about the last month and that request could be made.

Further discussion on options for the Concord Crossing East green space, the desire of council is to see option three on paper, Mr. Staneart said he will let the developer know he

needs to draft an option three lease for the green space area. The Douglas Street emergency access or road option for connection to the development will be discussed at the next Safety & Service committee meeting on December 6th.

e. **Tree Commission:** Next TBD

Tree Commission will hold one last meeting for the year, next Thursday, 11/22 to review a resolution.

f. **Events Committee:** Next 12/8/22 @ 5:30 pm Admin Conference Room

g. **Rules:** Next 11/16 @ 2:00 pm Admin Office Conference Room

h. **Design Review Board:** Met 11/9/22; Next 12/13/22 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers

Application for Chase Bank continues to be reviewed, this was the second time it came through, further recommendations were given, the application was again tabled.

8. Director Reports

a. Chief of Police

Interim Chief Smart reviewed his report for the council.

9. Tabled Legislation

a. **ORDINANCE 17-2022** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURES FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN. TABLED SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Mayor Barnard said he would like to keep this legislation tabled until the budget is complete and will begin looking at this beginning of next year.

10. Public Hearings of Legislation

a. **ORDINANCE 21-2022** AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE COSTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FEE AND THE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEES FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Stanearth noted the request for passage by emergency due to timing and the need to send out the invoices.

The city maintains right of ways and has the right to bill back that maintenance to the different utility companies that are within them. The invoices are going out late this year and the fees need to be passed by council before sent. The amount of collection will be around \$21,000 this year.

ACTION:	Donald Barnard moved to waive the second reading to pass by emergency; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES:	Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Charlie Campbell, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 7 - 0

ACTION: Ryan Green moved to approve ordinance 21-2022 as an emergency; Jon Merriman seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Charlie Campbell, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- b. **RESOLUTION 2022-39** A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Amounts and rates in this legislation are determined by the Budget Commission of Licking County for tax levied by the city.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to approve; Ryan Green seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Charlie Campbell, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

11. Introduction of Legislation - None

12. Other Business

1. Monroe Township has invited Council members to attend their Monday Trustee meeting to speak about the city's future plans for the water plant.
2. Sean Staneart provided an update to Council on the Southwest Licking Water District and their proposal to expand service areas that encompass parts of annexed areas of Johnstownin, the plan was approved by the Licking County Commissioners. He and Jack Liggett attended the Commissioners meeting on Thursday along with other surrounding townships and entities who all expressed concerns on the plan; there is potential for the Commissioners to take another look at this. Mr. Staneart said he thinks it is in our best interest to push the narrative that Johnstown feels this is an over reach and impedes our plans for expansion in this area of Monroe Township. Jon Merriman said he would like to see an overlay map of the plan with the Johnstown school district area. Bob Orsini said this is not just an over reach, this plan would take our opportunity for future revenue away.
3. Sean Staneart thanked Mayor Don Barnard for his significant help on the 2023 budget.

Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee; and To consider the investigation of complaints against a public employee

- 13.

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to to enter executive session for the stated purpose with members of council and the city manager.; Jon Merriman seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Sharon Hendren, Charlie Campbell, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

It was stated that there would be no action after.

City Council entered Executive Session at 7:45 pm. Time of return to regular session not noted.

14. Adjourn

With no further business, meeting adjourned, time not noted.

Next Council Meeting December 6, 2022