



Regular Council  
Tuesday, December 13, 2022 - 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for December 13, 2022 at 6:30 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 - Chief of Police, Yazan Ashrawi – City Law Director, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present – Lorrie Diaz, Lewie Main, Jamie Hartsough, Joe Krouse, Christine Parks, Glenn Ronken, Leslie Butler

3. Invocation - Mayor Donald Barnard

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Mayor Proclamation - MADD Award recognition, Officer Fife

Mayor Barnard recognized Officer Deirdre Fife for being awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) award.

6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Lewie Main

- Requested an update on the status of the US 62 Sportsmans Club Road realignment project, that he did not see it in the budget.

Sean Staneart answered saying this had been discussed by both Safety & Service and Finance Committees. When looking at funds for the coming year, it was projected that there would be a shortfall to be able to meet the commitment necessary for the bond package. They did look at other options presented by the city engineer, both options also had a heavy financial burden, so at this time committee and council have recommended not proceeding with that project. Mr. Main noted a previous commitment by council to Tech International. Mr. Merriman said they have been talking with them to come up with a solution. Mayor Barnard added that what they hear from them is that they do not want the roundabout now, they are looking at alternatives that will work for them. Mr. Orsini added that until it is known if or where a state bypass could come in, a round-a-bout may not be the best allocation of funds because they don't know that the traffic will be there to warrant it, a project would have to warrant the investment.

7. Strategic HR proposal

Lori Diaz with Strategic HR reviewed a proposal for outsourcing Human Resources, the firm's corporate office is in Cincinnati Ohio and they have expanded to thirty-seven HR advisors. Ms. Diaz provided her personal and professional background and outlined service packages available that would allow as much or as little needed. Ms. Diaz answered council member questions on the proposal.

The contract with the current city HR firm ends on December 16th.

8. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 12/7/22; Next 1/10/23 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
- b. **Design Review Board:** 12/13/22  
Chase Bank application for Certificate of Appropriateness was tabled a third time as it continues to be reviewed by the board.
- c. **Safety & Service:** Next 1/3/2 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- d. **Finance:** Next 1/17/23 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- e. **Park & Rec:** Next 1/16/23 @ 4:00 pm Admin conference room
- f. **Events Committee:** Met 12/8/22; Next 1/19/23 @ 5:30 pm Council Chambers  
Discussion and planning toward the 2023 Fourth of July fireworks event, will have representation from Downtown Johnstown at the next meeting. Mr. Stanearth noted the potential for sponsorships is being reviewed by the city Law Director. Fireworks 2023 will be July 2nd.

9. Director Reports

- a. Chief of Police  
Chief Smart reviewed his report for council, no questions were asked.

10. 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 they hope to look at this in January Finance Committee to put some direction on this one, his recommendation is to keep it tabled.

11. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 22-2022** AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, LICKING COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

## Public Hearing

### 1. Lewie Main

- Questions on several budget line items answered by council and staff.

Some further questions and discussion on budget items amongst council members.

**ACTION:** Mayor Barnard moved to pass the Ordinance to approve expenses and other expenditures of the City of Johnstown , Licking County, State of Ohio, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023; Jon Merriman 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**

- b. **RESOLUTION 2022-41** A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A CITY LAW DIRECTOR, CITY PROSECUTOR, MUNICIPAL COURT MAGISTRATE, CITY ENGINEER, AND CITY AUDITOR TO SERVE THE CITY AND ITS' EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2023

Appointments for 2023

### Public Hearing:

#### 1. Lewie Main

- In the Charter, the Law Director is responsible for the Prosecutor, he does not think the city should hire them.

City Law Director Yazan Ashrawi addressed the comment saying that the Charter also allows special counsel to be employed by City Council to exercise the powers, duties and functions that are required of the city. This happens with a number of things, not just the prosecutor.

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to approve; Sharon Hendren 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**

- c. **RESOLUTION 2022-42** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2023 SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAYS FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

**Public Hearing:**

1. Audience member

- Asked why the city needs to do this, why it is not part of the standard HR

Law Director Yazan Ashrawi answered the comment saying that it is part of the organizational commitment of the city to establish both meeting dates and recognized holidays, there are some that are universally recognized and some that are flexible, each entity can establish which they want to observe. Councilman Orsini said it ensures there is communication of major meetings or days off.

**ACTION:** Bob Orsini moved to approve; 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**

- d. **RESOLUTION 2022-43** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE REGULAR MEETING DATES AND TIME FOR ALL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

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

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to approve; Charlie Campbell 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**

- e. **RESOLUTION 2022-44** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE REGULAR MEETING DATES AND TIME FOR ALL REGULAR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

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

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to approve; Nicole Shook 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**

- f. **RESOLUTION 2022-45** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SUBMITTAL DEADLINES FOR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION APPLICATIONS IN THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR  
Discussion on the submission dates and timing presented in the Resolution; decision to move the dates back to reflect a deadline of four weeks prior to the meeting date.

**Public Hearing:** Audience members were included in the discussion. There were no further comments either for or against the legislation.

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to approve as amended; Sharon Hendren 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**

12. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 24-2022** AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 331.44 OF THE TRAFFIC CODE  
This will do away with the no left turn at Bigelow Drive to and from US62 (at McDonalds). The signs prohibiting have been down for about four weeks with no incident.  
  
Public Hearing will be held January 3, 2023
- b. **ORDINANCE 25-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1155 OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
Sean Staneart reviewed edits and updates proposed to zoning district GCC-1. Discussion on changes made after a recommendation was given by the Planning Commission and whether or not it needed to go back to Planning and Zoning. Clarification by the Law Director that the zoning review or variance process is governed by Chapter 1137 and zoning changes may be initiated a number of different ways; by the recommendation of Planning and Zoning, by the Resolution of Council or by an applicant. Added that the authority of council to adopt modifications is there. Further edits desired were discussed by council.  
  
Public Hearing on January 3, 2023.
- c. **ORDINANCE 26-2022** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1157 OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
Sean Staneart reviewed edits and updates proposed to zoning district GCC-2. Further edits desired were discussed by council.

Public Hearing on January 3, 2023.

13. Executive Session to consider the appointment of a Public Official - Personnel Board of Review

**ACTION:** Donald Barnard moved to enter Executive Session to consider the appointment of a public official for the Personnel Board of Review; Bob Orsini 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**

City Council entered Executive Session at 8:25 pm and returned to Regular Session at 9:22 pm

14. Other Business

Discussion and thoughts on the HR proposal given tonight by Strategic HR and costs. Council recommendation is for Mr. Stanearth to take the conversation back to Strategic HR and provide feedback to council.

15. Executive Session with City Law Director to Discuss Pending or Imminent Litigation

16. Executive Session to consider the employment and compensation of a public employee

**ACTION:** Mayor Barnard moved to enter Executive Session with the City Law Director to discuss pending or imminent litigation and to Consider the employment and compensation of a public employee with members of council, the city manager and city law director, with no business to follow; 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**

City Council entered Executive Session at 9:36. Return to Regular Session not noted.

17. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned, time not recorded.

**Next Council Meeting January 3, 2023**