



Regular Council
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for January 17, 2023 at 6:37 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman, Ryan Green, Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Charlie Campbell
Absent - Sharon Hendren

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

Public present - Bruce Tolle, Philip Wagner, Tim Swauger, Craig McDonald, Rev. Matthew Van Winkle, James Van Order

3. Invocation - Reverend Van Winkle; Johnstown United Methodist Church

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Johnstown-Monroe Mid-year school district update; Superintendent Wagner & Board President Swauger

Dr. Philip Wagner, Superintendent of Johnstown-Monroe School District and School Board President Tim Swauger were present for a mid-year state of the schools update. Mr. Wagner said the Board has five areas of focus: envisioning continuous improvement, communications, policy and governance, instruction, and resources. Mr. Wagner provided a look at data for growth and capacity showing that the high school will be at one hundred percent operating capacity around year 2026-2027; it was noted that modeling was pre-Intel. Their focus on communication has brought on a new Communication Specialist, Craig McDonald, they are working to enhance their social media platform and their website. Instruction has focused on enrollment, employment or enlistment, they are working to get all of their students in seventh grade focused on one of those pathways. They continue to review curriculum for K-12, this year they are focusing on math, next year will be English, language arts and literacy. Resources focus has been on safety, they had a safety assessment conducted, they work with local police, fire and the Department of Homeland Security to be prepared for many circumstances. Working on their five year and beyond forecast, they have an income tax that is due to expire in 2023 and an emergency renewal of an existing tax that expires in 2024. The Board has taken action to put both levies on the ballot in May, they are very important, the income tax levy generates 4.9 million dollars of their budget and the emergency levy is 2.2 million.

Councilman Orsini thanked Mr. Wagner for the positive focus that seems to have come together, he is encouraged by the cooperation between the School Board, the Council and

local groups to build relationships. Mayor Barnard added that he thinks it is very important for the city and zoning that they work with the schools and anticipate what they can handle for growth as we build this city and housing, we don't want to over build too quickly for the school to handle. Mr. Wagner said they know there will be growth but a steady plan for growth where they can manage not only the facilities but the financing will be important.

6. Action on Minutes

a. November 15, 2022

ACTION: Ryan Green moved to approve; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

7. Correspondence

a. Thank you note to Council

Father Stephen Smith, Church of the Ascension, thanked City Council on behalf of the congregation for allowing the church to use their chambers for services after flooding.

8. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

Prior to opening for comments, Mayor Barnard read an opinion from the city Law Director with regard to a citizen comment last week on what City Manager Sean Staneart could and could not do relative to property owned and zoning. Opinion read by Mayor Barnard is "That the City Manager or a City Council person would not be prohibited from discussing or participating in matters that would provide a general, uniform benefit to the citizens within the city. Public officials are only prohibited from voting, deliberating, discussing or otherwise using authority or influence with regard to a matter that would provide a definitive, particular or monetary benefit or detriment to a property in which they have an interest such as the public official's independence or judgment can be impaired. If the City Manager or a council person benefit the same as with other constituents, there is no issue, it is not enough to merely identify some indirect benefit. As it related specifically to this situation, we discussed the ownership of property within a zoning district that is being amended, the proposed zoning change in and of itself only has the possibility of creating some indirect or indefinite benefit at best. For that reason, I do not see any ethical concerns. I have attached an Ohio Ethics Commission advisory opinion as well as an info sheet that provides more on the overview." Mayor Barnard said if anyone would like those, he can get it to them.

1. Bruce Tolle; resident

- Complimented the new council on being able to hear their discussions in meetings, in the past there were too many conversations between council members that he could not hear.

9. Executive Session with City Law Director to Discuss Pending or Imminent Court Action

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

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to enter executive session with the city law director to discuss pending or imminent court action; Ryan Green seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Nicole Shook, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Charlie Campbell
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

City Manager Sean Staneart to attend. City Law Director attending by phone
Council entered Executive Session at 7:00 pm and returned to Regular Session at 7:41 pm

10. Council Committee reports

Mr. Green asked to schedule an Economic Development Committee meeting; scheduled for Tuesday, January 24 at 10:00 am.

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 1/10/23; Next 1/24/23 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
January 10th was a combined meeting with the Design Review Board, discussed the year in review.
- b. **Design Review Board:** Met 1/10/23 ; Next 2/14/23
January 10th meeting was a combo with Planning & Zoning work session. At the previous meeting, the Chase Bank building design was approved.
- c. **Safety & Service:** Next 2/7/23 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
- d. **Finance:** 1/17/23; Next 2/21/23 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
Nothing to discuss coming out of the meeting tonight.
- e. **Park & Rec:** 1/16/23 @ 4:00 Admin conference room
The January 16th meeting was cancelled, next TBD
- f. **Events Committee:** Next 1/19/23 @ 5:30 pm Admin Conference room
The 19th will be a large group meeting with the city, fire department, schools, Downtown Johnstown and JYAA. The fireworks event has moved to Sunday, July 2nd, for vendor availability.
- g. **Rules:** Members working to schedule.

11. Director Reports

- a. **Chief of Police**
Chief Smart reviewed his report, provided in the packet, and answered questions of Council. Councilman Orsini discussed his concern for the uptick in traffic through town referencing a recent accident on SR 37 in front of high school, and said with more and more kids crossing that street to the school and more development coming, he would like to see more enforcement of speed there. Continued discussion on traffic violations, fines and enforcement. Mr. Barnard asked if Chief could get them a list of the top five most dangerous intersections in Johnstown.

12. Tabled Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 17-2022** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURES FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN. Tabled September 27, 2022
Finance Committee is beginning to review

13. Public Hearings of Legislation - None

14. Introduction of Legislation - None

15. Other Business

1. Sean Staneart provided council with a look at the newly approved Chase Bank to be located in front of the Kroger shopping center, by Huntington.
2. Jack Liggett said the new water tower equipment came in and they anticipate filling the new tower on the 23rd, it is a three day process.
3. Mayor Barnard met with Troy Balderson's office, his aid Taylor, she will be assisting the city in looking for grants.
4. Mr. Staneart met with MORPC, for anyone interested, there is a training class available to new members of council and trustees, there is a cost but if anyone is interested, let him know.
5. Mayor Barnard attended the County Commissioner's energy aggregation meeting; they are moving in on locking in good rates, gas for two years and electric about thirty-three months.
6. Mayor Barnard said that the City of Johnstown Mayor's position has not been well defined, it has been up to the member to define their role. He will be meeting with Mayor Sloan Spalding of the City of New Albany to get an idea of what the Mayor's job is or isn't to create a framework for the future.
7. Mayor Barnard will be meeting with Southwest Licking water for some discussion.
8. February 16th 5:00 - 6:30 pm Council invited to attend the Licking County Framework meeting being held at OSU Newark.

16. Adjourn

Nicole Shook moved to adjourn, Charlie Campbell seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Next Council Meeting February 7, 2023