



Regular Council  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 - 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for March 7, 2023 at 6:41 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman, Bob Orsini

Absent - Nicole Shook, Charlie Campbell

Staff present - Sean Staneart - Acting City Manager, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Rick Fitch - Chief Wastewater Operator, Terry Nichols - Chief Water Operator, Daniel Swick - Street Superintendent, Walter Raub - Planning & Zoning Commission, Jesse Copell - Planning & Zoning Commission, Franz Stein - Design Review Board, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Father Stephen Smith, Girl Scout Daisy Troop 7700, Wes Kobel, Scott Siebegaler, Glenn Ronken, Jamie Hartsough, Kyle May, Chris Hermann, Michaela Nelson, Lewie Main

3. Invocation - Father Stephen Smith, Church of the Ascension

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was led by Girl Scout Daisy Troop 7700

5. Action on Minutes

a. January 17, 2023

**ACTION:** Jon Merriman moved to approve as written; Donald Barnard seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman, Bob Orsini

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 5 - 0**

6. Presentation: MKSK Update to Council on the Johnstown Comprehensive Plan

Kyle May and Chris Chris Hermann with MKSK attended to provide an update on the Johnstown Comprehensive Plan draft they have been tasked with working on.

Presentation and discussion tonight on the first piece of the plan they call Land Use Framework, their first set of opinions about the future and looking outside of the current boundary of Johnstown (extra-territorial zone). In review of surrounding areas, they would encourage the city to work with land owners to annex the window to Green Chapel, finding

some partner land owners in that area and getting them interested in requesting annexation to Johnstown; it was clarified for the public that the land owner has to request the annexation. The recommendation is to update the Johnstown zoning code and create a Planned Development District (PD) which would replace the current PUD code. Should property owners become interested in annexing into Johnstown, the expectation would be that their property would be rezoned to a Planned Development District. A Planned District is negotiated zoning between a developer and the city. Most planned development documents are very detailed, they have the layout, the architectural requirements, road improvements, water and sewer, trees, landscape, sidewalks, parks, storm water, everything laid out, usually for a large area that is built in phases with a lot of detailed thought on the design. MKSK provided council with a report that encapsulates all of these thoughts, a document they could consider adopting and with councils' guidance they would then start working on a Planned Development text.

City Manager Sean Staneart said he asked MKSK here tonight for an update and said we need to keep pace with moving forward and capture opportunities that are moving quickly, there is a window that is closing quickly for opportunities in the area, many things are moving quickly.

Mayor Barnard added that there is something unique about this area, that we have a very special school district that will only get better in the next few years. He said that Johnstown is maybe three square miles, the Johnstown school district is fifty-four square miles and that we have to protect it, he will take whatever tools are available to help do that. It is important that Johnstown create its own destiny, that it is not created for us.

Councilman Orsini encouraged the public to provide their feedback to council, that it will be critical that the community is fundamentally aligned with the people who sit on council and what their vision is for the future, citizens need to pay attention to action or inaction and let their vote be their voice. The communities taxation should be an investment into the future, it is critical that we understand modifications to taxation, reduction of taxation and how spending two dollars today could cost us four tomorrow, or that saving a dollar today could cost us two tomorrow. Mr. Orsini said that with the exception of one, every seat up here is getting renewed in November, he thinks it is critical for the future of Johnstown that the people put at this table, ones that will be making decisions are fiduciarily responsible and motivated to make the best decisions for Johnstown's future.

Councilwoman Hendren prompted some discussion on water and Southwest Licking.

Councilman Green said that he is also on zoning and this is something they have been asking for to move forward quickly, but it needs to be done the right way so they definitely want to do a lot with this plan.

## 7. Mayor Proclamation

### a. March as Developmental Disabilities month

Mayor Barnard read the proclamation, a signed copy will be sent to the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

8. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda  
No comments from the public.
9. Council Committee reports
  - a. **Planning & Zoning:** 2/28/23 cancelled; Next 3/14/23 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
  - b. **Design Review Board:** Next 3/14/23 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
  - c. **Safety & Service:** Next 3/21/23 @ 5:00 pm Admin office
  - d. **Finance:** 3/7/23; Next 4/18/23 @ 5:00 pm Admin office  
Finance Committee voted in favor and made the recommendation to begin the search for the Finance Director position, the search to begin on April 1st, salary range requested is \$80,000 - \$110,000 depending on experience.  
  

|                 |                                                                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACTION:</b>  | Donald Barnard moved to begin the search; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows: |
| <b>AYES:</b>    | Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren                        |
| <b>NOES:</b>    | None                                                                                       |
| <b>ABSTAIN:</b> | None                                                                                       |

  

**Passed 5 - 0**
  - e. **Events Committee:** Met 3/1/23; Next 3/23/23 @ 5:30 pm Admin office
  - f. **Park & Rec:** Met 2/27/23; Next TBD  
Ms. Hendren updated that the Miles Estate issue did not go well for the school.
  - g. **Economic Development:** Next TBD
  - h. **Rules:** Next TBD  
Mr. Orsini noted that the Rules committee will be organized as needed, yielding its time to other committees that are more critical for our current situation.
10. Director Reports
  - a. Service Department: Water, Sewer, Street, Service Director  
Department Directors Terry Nichols (water), Rick Fitch (sewer) and Daniel Swick (street) reviewed their reports for council. Service Director Jack Liggett provided updates on projects in his report to council. All reports are included in the published packet.
  - b. City Manager  
Referenced the presentation by MKSK and noted that much of his time has been spent on future planning and working to prepare Johnstown.

## 11. Tabled Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 17-2022** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURES FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN. Tabled September 27, 2022  
This legislation is still in Finance Committee.

## 12. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2023-05** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHLABACH BUILDERS.

As directed by council at the February 21, 2023 meeting, City Manager Staneart negotiated an agreement with Schlabach Builders for trees in the new housing development phase in Concord Crossing East. He said this is a win for the city and the developer, it will add value to the development with the street trees and in addition to the requirement, will provide an additional two hundred trees for the development. They will also give \$10,000 to the Tree Commission Fund. Mr. Staneart made it clear that this agreement was made because of the timing of the development approval relative to the passage of the tree ordinance.

No debate by Council.

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

**ACTION:** Jon Merriman moved to approve; Donald Barnard seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Jon Merriman, Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Bob Orsini

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 5 - 0**

- b. **RESOLUTION 2023-06** RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE JOHNSTOWN TREE COMMISSION

Two individuals resigned from the Tree Commission and one term expired.

Recommendation of appointments and terms are listed in the Resolution.

Councilman Green said he is not against the picks but is not sure this was advertised and is not sure what the selection process entailed. Mayor Barnard answered saying that in the three years he was on the Tree Commission, only one person has ever shown up for a meeting other than the members, that it is not the most popular committee that people want to be on. The five original members were chosen by the city from people interested in trees so that is what they did again. Added that as the city continues to grow we would probably advertise this in the future.

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

**ACTION:** Bob Orsini moved to approve as written; Jon Merriman seconded and the

vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Sharon Hendren, Bob Orsini, Jon Merriman  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 5 - 0**

13. Introduction of Legislation - None

14. Other Business

1. As a city now, Johnstown gets to appoint a representative to the Licking County Health Department Board, the Mayor makes the appointment. Discussion on potential candidates.
2. Discussion on making space in the city building for the newly formed Johnstown Chamber of Commerce office.
3. Several council members attended the Dr. Seuss reading night at Johnstown Elementary's Right to Read and read to the children.
4. Several council members and the City Manager participated in the Licking County Framework presentation on housing.

15. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Bob Orsini moved to adjourn; Jon Merriman seconded and all were in favor.  
**AYES:** Sharon Hendren, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Jon Merriman, Bob Orsini  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 5 - 0**

The meeting adjourned approximately 8:10 pm

**Next Council Meeting March 21, 2023**