



Regular Council
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Barnard called to order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for June 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Absent - Ryan Green

Staff present - Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Dave Delande - Finance Director, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Al Dolezal, Sabrina & Phil Baker, Dan Scarberry, Barbara Knoepfler, Mary Wiswell, Jamie Hartsough, Mike & Diane Petry

3. Invocation - Pastor Dan Scarberry, Johnstown Independent Baptist Church

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Action on Minutes

a. April 4, 2023

ACTION: Nicole Shook moved to approve; Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

No comments

7. Council Committee reports

a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 6/13/23; Next 6/27/23 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
Concord Crossing East Final Plat was tabled.

b. **Design Review Board:** Met 6/13/23; Next 6/27/23 @ 5:00 pm Council Chambers
Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for an electronic sign at the Methodist Church was tabled to allow applicant to make changes. Evolution Fitness new building construction

was tabled for some minor changes. 208 S. Main Street remodel was approved.

- c. **Safety & Service:** Next 7/5/23 @ 5:00 pm Admin conference room
- d. **Finance:** 6/20/23; Next 7/5/23 Special @ 5:30 pm Admin conference room
A motion coming later, all else from tonight's meeting was minor.

8. Director Reports

- a. Chief of Police
Chief Smart reviewed his report which was included with the packet. Regarding union negotiations, Mayor Barnard said that the union and the city met again on Friday, this was the fourth meeting and they have come to an agreement. The agreement will go to the police for a vote and then it will come to council for a vote.
- b. City Manager
Mr. Stanearth is away, his report was emailed to council members this morning, members to read through it and send any questions.

9. Tabled Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 17-2022** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURES FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN. Tabled September 27, 2022
Remains tabled.

10. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 10-2023** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1164 OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN CODIFIED ORDINANCES
Changes to the PD District, minor changes to better designate green-space and park-space.

Council members reviewed the changes.

Public Hearing: Council informally answered audience member questions.

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

Passed 6 – 0

- b. **RESOLUTION 2023-16** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RACCOON CREEK PARK TRAIL
The city received \$450,000 in grant funding for Raccoon Creek Park Trail. This legislation authorizes the City Manager to enter into contracts to begin creating that park. This will be Phase One, the goal of additional phases will be to connect Mink Road to US 62 by

walking trails.

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

Passed 6 - 0

11. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 11-2023** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-2022, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS

These are reappropriations; the city will receive funds from the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWA) to pay for water plant expansion; funds from Horizon will also be received for their enclosure at the street department. **Public Hearing and Vote on July 5, 2023**

- b. **ORDINANCE 12-2023** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 191.012 (B), 191.04, 191.051 and 191.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO INCREASE THE INCOME TAX RATE TO TWO AND ONE QUARTER PERCENT (2.25%) PER ANNUM; TO ENACT A CREDIT FOR TAXES PAID TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%) PER ANNUM UP TO THE AMOUNT OF TAX ASSESSED BY THE CITY; TO PLACE THIS AMENDMENT BEFORE THE ELECTORS IN NOVEMBER OF 2023.

Mayor Barnard said as council has discussed the past few months, the city is very tight on money and has incurred a lot of debt in the past that needs to be paid down so the city can get in a better place financially. They have just reached a union agreement with the police, our police take up 33% of the General Fund, our debt takes up 33% of the General Fund, that leaves 33% to run the rest of the city, minus water and sewer. Finance committee has been looking at this for many months, looking at different scenarios of what they want to do. They have decided that taxes need to be increased to pay for the infrastructure of Johnstown; to fix roads and to be able to keep the historic district area nice, they need funding. Johnstown has been at a 1% tax for well over forty years with no increase. They need to be able to give the residents who are paying a great deal of tax to another district, say Columbus at 2.5%, a credit for the City of Johnstown or they will be taxed out, that is why they are going with the 75% tax credit. The net amount they would achieve by passing this Ordinance is about 2.1 million dollars per year additional. Right now the city tax revenue is about 2.7 million this past year; the school and fire department bring in more tax money than we do each year for General Fund. The city wants to be able to put this and the credit on the ballot, so that council can never take that credit away. This tax will not affect retirees, this is only on earned income. This will mostly affect the residents who work and live in Johnstown. Mayor Barnard said another reason they are doing this, is because we will have more businesses moving to Johnstown on the south side and we need to make sure those businesses pay their share, if they only pay 1%, we will not get the money

we need from them.

Mr. Orsini said he would encourage everyone to put the time and energy in to reading the resources available, and really understand what the increase with the credit means. There are different impacts depending on where you are at, not everyone will get a tax increase, some people will be unaffected, others will get a little, others more, depending on the individual situation. He encouraged everyone to take the time to understand and ask questions they have. Mr. Orsini said that we cannot maintain our trajectory as a city under the current tax situation.

Mr. Merriman added that some will see a decrease. Mayor Barnard said we would be increasing the taxes but for those who work in other areas like Columbus, New Albany, Dublin, and pay two or two and a half percent in taxes, they will actually get a tax cut; that is about fifty percent of our tax payers. Ms. Shook also encouraged all residents to research how it will affect them individually and reach out to the city if they need help calculating. **Public Hearing and Vote on July 5, 2023**

12. Other Business

1. Parade this Saturday, council members discussed who would ride, Service Director to arrange the transportation.

13. Adjourn

ACTION: Jon Merriman moved to adjourn; Nicole Shook seconded and all were in favor.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

Next Council Meeting Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm