



Regular Council
Thursday, April 4, 2024 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM. (The Tuesday, April 2nd meeting rescheduled due to weather)

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Barnard, Ryan Green, Jeff Barr, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini
Absent - Tiffany Hollis

Staff present - Sean Staneart - City Manager, Dave Delande - Finance Director, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Jesse Coppel - Planning & Zoning Commission, Heather Green - Design Review Board, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Monica Gernert, Ron McCarty, Jamie McNaly, Nick Hubbell

3. Invocation - Johnstown Independent Baptist Church; Pastor Andy Fitzpatrick

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Action on Minutes

- a. March 5, 2024 Regular; March 18, 2024 Special; March 20, 2024 Special, March 20, 2024 Regular

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to pass all en bloc; Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr, Ryan Green, Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

Monica Gernert

- Present tonight on behalf of the Johnstown Youth Athletic Association for an update. JYAA is now up to thirteen sports, they have grown significantly and are also growing into club and rec-select sports. Their property is about twenty seven acres, they maintain it in addition to running all the sports, she said it is a tall order for having no municipal tax dollar support. In addition, the board duties also include safety, fundraising, parent and coach issues, they revenue about \$200,000 per year. They are asking for help in getting access to flat land because they are

training and using grass every day of the week, it's not good for the grass or the sports. They are asking for help figuring out how they can continue to expand.

- Belt Park cleanup day this Saturday.
- In need of parking attendance for baseball tournaments, 3 hour shifts, pays \$15/hour.

Jeff Barr suggested that the JYAA Board come up with some kind of financial ask and come back to this council and to Monroe Township.

Bob Orsini noted that they had two youth wrestlers go to the state wrestling tournament. One young lady took third place in the boys division, which is a significant accomplishment.

2. Ron McCarty

- Owner of local company A-1 Dumpsters. Provided information to council on an idea for a city-wide cleanup effort, review of options for payment either by the city or by residents.

7. Council Committee reports

- Planning & Zoning:** Met 3/26/24; Next 4/9/24 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers
Application tabled due to no attendance by the applicant, continued to next meeting.
- Design Review Board:** Met 3/26/24; Next 4/9/24 @ 5:30 pm Council Chambers
Heather Green, DRB Chair, was present for the update. The board approved an application for demolition of a barn behind the Youth For Christ. Also saw the design plan for a new build at 105 Jersey Street, the board made recommendations for updates to the exterior facade facing S. Williams, application tabled pending new elevations with changes requested. Ms. Green also updated that as the DRB is the board that works with the Design Review Standards and sees the applications and where information is lacking, the board has offered to be the Steering Committee that works with MKSK to update the standards.
Mayor Barnard said they would discuss this in other business.
- Finance:** 4/2/24; Next 4/16/24 @ 5:00 pm Admin conference room
Discussion on the potential tax increase, committee action at next meeting.
- Safety & Service:** 4/2/24; Next 5/7/24 @ 5:00 pm Admin conference room
Discussed the traffic signal at US 62 and Bigelow Drive, potential to review traffic from Westview to Kroger.

8. Director Reports

- Water, Sewer, Street, Service Director
Department reports included in the packet, Jack Liggett reviewed his Director's report.

9. Tabled Legislation – None

10. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 11-2024** AN ORDINANCE TO FIND THAT THE CREATION OF THE JOHNSTOWN NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, CONVENIENCE AND WELFARE AND IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY; TO DECLARE THAT AUTHORITY TO BE ORGANIZED AND A BODY POLITIC AND CORPORATE; TO DEFINE THE BOUNDARY OF THAT AUTHORITY'S NEW COMMUNITY DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE THE METHOD OF APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THAT AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND TO FIX THE SURETY FOR THOSE TRUSTEES' BONDS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Sean Staneart said this creates the New Community Authority (NCA) and sets the millage. City legal counsel, Emmett Kelly, said that we are at the point in the process where the developer has submitted the petition to create the NCA. Previously, this council determined that the petition was sufficient and met all requirements in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 349. A public hearing was also held and now is the time to decide whether to move forward. Greg Stype, counsel for the developer, said that this is a step, not the final step, it creates the authority so council and the developer can then proceed with the appointment of trustees, so then, the city, developer and the authority can engage in the process of evaluating what the phases of the infrastructure would be, and the cost. Mayor Barnard said this NCA is a type of tax on the new area that has been annexed and the businesses that will operate inside of it, to pay for public infrastructure in support of the new development, so it doesn't come off the backs of residents. Bob Orsini added that if they move forward with this, the selection of the four appointees is going to be incredibly critical on what there background, capability and understanding of the process is.

Public Hearing:

1. Monica Gernert

- Asked the definition of public infrastructure and if it would include any park or flat grass that a soccer or lacrosse field could go on.

Sean Staneart said that infrastructure in the typical sense is water, sewer and roadways. Eventually, there will be some costs that have been paid for and therefore, more opportunities, way down the road, that funds could be utilized for other development projects which could include parks. Bob Orsini said that as part of the larger agreement for the entirety of the development, there is specific language that speaks to park land, not specific to the NCA, but implications, space, money in lieu of, there is language in there for the community to get additional park land throughout the process. That would not be JYAA, but improvement of parks throughout the community.

2. Jesse Coppel

- Said this is being passed as an emergency and referenced City Charter Section 4.05 (a) requirement to state the emergency, also defined "preservation". Said that the emergency provision takes away some of the public discourse; passage by emergency should not be used as a tool of convenience.

The Clerk of Council stated that this is the second reading, and the emergency only makes it effective immediately rather than in thirty days. Clerk Monroe also noted section 10 of the ordinance for Mr. Coppel, which states reasoning for the emergency.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to pass ordinance 11-2024; Wesley Kobel seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr, Ryan Green
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

b. **ORDINANCE 12-2024** AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 05-2024 AND DECLARE IT AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Barnard said the Design Review Board was a five-member board. Council interviewed candidates for a vacant position and had two incredible applicants and opted to change the ordinance making it a six-member board in order to appoint both. Since then, they have had a member resign, bringing it back down to five members. They desire to keep it a five-member board. The emergency was added in order to repeal the ordinance as it has not been codified.

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

1. Jesse Coppel

- His understanding of passage by emergency is that there needs to be a vote that it is an emergency.

The Clerk of Council said that was correct, council procedure is to vote to waive the second reading of the ordinance.

Council discussion on leaving the board at six members, the feedback from the Design Review Board was that five is an appropriate number. Sean Staneart said five also avoids any tie votes.

ACTION: Ryan Green moved to waive the rules and second reading; Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Ryan Green, Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

ACTION: Ryan Green moved to approve as written; Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Ryan Green, Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

c. **RESOLUTION 2024-14** A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS PRESENTED

Mayor Barnard said it is not a requirement that council pass this tonight, after council had a chance to make changes, the next logical step was to put it on the agenda for the will of council.

Chris Hermann with MKSK said this is the first introduction of the Comprehensive Plan, he said the plan was formulated by all the discussions with council along with public input. The plan is a guiding policy document for the city to help inform decisions and priorities, for land owners, prospective developers, residents and people investing in the community, to understand the priorities of the city moving forward over the next five to ten years. Chris Hermann reviewed some edits he was still planning to make.

Ryan Green said he thinks MKSK did a solid job with this, and asked questions on the process up to now, how they reached out to the public. Mr. Hermann said there were two work sessions with the public and there was a community survey open to the public after the second public meeting. Mr. Green referenced the contract and inquired on the steering committee, Mr. Hermann said they talked about this when they launched the project, it was decided to move faster and not to have the steering committee, that it was going to be council that would review. Mr. Green said that Planning & Zoning was named in the draft, but it did not go before them. Sean Staneart said a stakeholder list was given to MKSK and Planning & Zoning members were on that list along with school board members, township trustee members and various community organizations for engagement. Mr. Staneart said he wants to make sure it is not insinuated that things were being done in the cloak of night, there was a lot of engagement in the background by MKSK. Mayor Barnard asked Mr. Hermann how many Comprehensive Plans they have done, Mr. Hermann said more than twenty. Mayor Barnard asked if the procedures they followed with this plan were similar to procedures they followed with others, Mr. Hermann said yes. Bob Orsini said this is a guiding document for anyone that would want to get involved or change the use of their property, as to how the city currently sees the future growth and where things would be appropriate, this doesn't provide or limit anything, it just says this is what the city is looking for, this isn't zoning or an ordinance, just what we want to see. Mayor Barnard said he thinks this is an incredible report showing the in depth steps and recommendations they need to take, he thanked Mr. Hermann for their work. Jeff Barr asked if it would be prudent to have this go to Planning & Zoning, he said he knows they have had an opportunity, but there is not a rush. Mr. Orsini said the next council meeting is in two weeks, Planning & Zoning meets between then, the public could continue to review and make their comments, he doesn't think two weeks is going to change anything either way. Mr. Barr asked Jesse Coppel (Planning & Zoning) for his thoughts; Mr. Coppel said he thinks that is a great idea, he added that he thinks this is a very well done plan and gave some background on the process during the previous plan and how it was done before. He said he thinks it would be prudent to allow the public a chance to digest this draft and have a chance to comment along with the planning commission. Mr. Hermann said that it is really up to council on how fast they want to have something adopted. Mayor Barnard said he would be comfortable with it going to Planning & Zoning for comments and then back to council. Dave Selan

said he agrees, one of the things he has said numerous times, that he is not comfortable with, is "because it's the way we always did it" or this is the way another city did it, either one, he doesn't want to hear, he wants to hear what is best for Johnstown. If there is not an expiration date on this, he thinks we are ok to take one more week for the commission to meet and then meet back here for conversation in two weeks. Mayor Barnard said that he was disappointed that there weren't more comments on the live link draft they have had. Mr. Staneart said that there was not an expectation for council to pass this tonight, part of the reason it came directly to council tonight is because over the last three to four months there has been a conversation of getting this document done and that it should have been done a long time ago. They took that into consideration and wanted to get it into council's hands as the ultimate body that will have to rule on this. Planning & Zoning as well as the public have access to this document, it is included in the council packet, so if there are comments, please provide them.

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to table resolution 2024-14; Jeff Barr seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr, Ryan Green, Mayor Barnard, Wes Kobel, Dave Selan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Tabled 6 - 0

11. Introduction of Legislation - None

12. Other Business

1. Mayor Barnard reminded council members that the state financial ethics document filing is due soon. Clerk of Council to send out a reminder.
2. Mayor Barnard said the State Attorney General has created the Mt. Vernon Project, it is six classes that would be beneficial to any council member and it is free, members should check it out.
3. Mayor Barnard said he is registered for an April 10th Ohio Ethics Law webinar, multiple members can use the same registration to watch, if anyone is interested.
4. After the last council meeting, Mayor Barnard said he took the input and met with the H.S. Principal and art/graphic arts teacher. He passed along the "what is Johnstown" question to be graphically depicted by the students, it will be their Johnstown much longer than ours.
5. Mayor Barnard said that previously, interest was sought for Design Guidelines Steering Committee members, but Ms. Green had a good idea that the Design Review Board (DRB) members would be the committee. Mayor Barnard asked for the will of council. After discussion, council was in favor of the DRB members being named as the steering committee and inviting the people who applied along with other stakeholders to join the work sessions with MKSK. Direction to staff is to bring a resolution with MKSK proposal and resolution to memorialize.
6. Jeff Barr inquired on a quarterly update meeting by Intel, where city council and admins are invited. Mayor Barnard said that in the past they have invited the Mayor, City Manager and the Chamber of Commerce. They could talk to them about inviting more if he likes.
7. Jeff Barr said they also missed the opportunity to attend the MORPC State of the Region. Mayor Barnard said that Sean attended. Mr. Staneart said he attended as a guest of MKSK and noted that Licking County Framework received the Habig award given for regional leadership. Mr. Barr asked that in the future, the invite be passed along to

council, in the future, they may have a desire to purchase a table as a group.

8. Chris Hermann updated on other area events that council members or staff may have interest in. Columbus Business First Power Breakfast, usually in February. Jobs Ohio and Ohio State do an ED411 (Economic Development), first Friday in December.

13. Adjourn

With no further business, Mr. Barr moved to adjourn, Mr. Green seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Council Meeting April 16, 2024