



Special City Council Work Session  
Monday, October 28, 2024 - 5:00 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Johnstown City Council held a Joint Work Session with Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education and the Monroe Township Trustees to review Goals and Objectives, including Master Planning, Property and Building Usage. The meeting was held in the Johnstown-Monroe school media center at 401 S. Oregon Street.

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Special Work Session for Monday, October 28, 2024 at 5:08 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Ryan Green (absent at roll call, arrived at 5:31 pm)  
Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Staneart - City Manager, Dave Delande - Finance Director, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Others present were Dr. Phil Wagner - Johnstown-Monroe Schools Superintendent, School Board members Tim Swauger, Amanda Davis, Alan Benton, Ruth Ann Booher, and Anne Thomas. Monroe Township Trustees Joseph Robertson, Troy Hendren and Scott Hendren. Johnstown City Manager Sean Staneart and Monroe Township Administrator Woody Fox. Reference the School Board meeting sign in for other members of the public present.

3. Follow Along with School Board Agenda: Silent Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

No amendments made.

**ACTION:** Dave Selan moved to approve as written; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.

**AYES:** Mayor Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 6 - 0**

5. Public Comments

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## 6. Work Session

a.

Johnstown-Monroe Schools Superintendent Dr. Phillip Wagner presented the districts plans for a multipurpose building that will provide needed space for school sports; volleyball, wrestling and cheerleading. He shared conceptual floor plans and a site plan for building on their north property off of Maple Street. He said they have additionally discussed what would happen if they put the multipurpose space onto the city's municipal building property should the school district purchase it and shared conceptual site plans. Dr. Wagner also presented on the proposed partnership between the City of Johnstown, Monroe Township and Johnstown-Monroe Schools, highlights of this proposal were that this plan would align with the Board of Education objective to maintain a central campus and not have students walking .6 mile (across Rt. 62) from the JHS/JMS to the North campus. The city admin building space would allow for after-school athletics use in immediate proximity to the middle and high schools. Additional benefits presented were preservation of community green space, operational efficiencies between the city and school district, more capacity for school board meetings, continued growth of present community recreation (JYAA, GJPRD, Johnstown Lifestyle/Run & Walk Club) and enhanced police response time as they would move to the more centrally located former fire station on the square.

The joint work session provided time for School Board members, City Council members and the Monroe Township Trustees to discuss the proposal, express thoughts or concerns and ask questions. Staff for the city and the school answered questions from the township on alternative locations. The city is currently getting an appraisal on the admin building, if the school were to purchase, the city admin offices would remain in the building.

Troy Hendren asked to hear from the YMCA representative present. Adam Shilling, CEO of the Buckeye Valley YMCA presented an overview on YMCA in Licking County and their plans for a five to ten year lease of the old firehouse. Additional public comments on the proposed lease were heard by Jesse Coppel (Johnstown Chamber of Commerce), Doug Lowe (YMCA President) and Monica Gernert (JYAA President).

No decisions were made as a result of the joint work session.

## 7. Other Business

1. Mayor Barnard said that the Finance Committee met this morning to discuss an OPWC proposal for two different projects referred by the Safety & Service Committee:

- The first is the West Douglas Street corridor improvement project; this would be a full depth reconstruction, new curb and gutter, sidewalks, stormwater/drainage improvements and the total cost would be \$1.2 million. Mr. Barnard said that 28% of the city's General Fund gets submitted to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP) which amounts to about \$900,000 per year, of this, half goes to service debt payments leaving about \$450,000 for new CIP projects. In 2023, the city decided not to do any CIP projects to build this fund up; Sean Staneart detailed carryover, anticipated revenues and fund balances, Mr. Barnard said they will be starting with \$750,000. The city's participation for the West Douglas Street improvements would be \$312,000, with a grant request of \$488,000 and a loan request of \$400,000 for fifteen years.

- The second project is for various pavement and sidewalk improvements to McCracken Drive, Pershing Avenue, Liberty Street, Fairview Drive, Drury Lane and Recreation Drive; these would only be pavement mill and fill. The anticipated cost for this project is \$350,000 with city participation of \$91,000, with a grant request of \$259,000, there will not be a loan requested.

Mayor Barnard said with these projects, the city would have about \$1.6 million in total projects, costing the city \$400,000 in cash, another \$400,000 in a loan for fifteen years, and the rest in grants. He added that OPWC usually only approves one project but the city will try for both. There are two resolutions for council consideration, OPWC proposals have to be in by November 1st. Mayor Barnard asked for the will of council on the following resolutions.

**RESOLUTION 2024-43** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/ OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED - West Douglas Street

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

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to approve; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Mayor Barnard, Wes Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

**RESOLUTION 2024-44** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/ OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED - Various pavement and sidewalk improvements

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to approve; Ryan Green seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Mayor Barnard, Wes Kobel  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

Sean Staneart asked if the school would be willing to offer a letter of support; Dr. Wagner was agreeable.

2. School Board President Tim Swauger addressed Johnstown Council members and said that the school and city had an Executive Session at a previous meeting and when he went to the Monroe Township meeting last week, two members of the public came up to him and spoke to him about something that he said in Executive Session. He said he doesn't know how they handle Executive Sessions, but for them, Executive Session is Executive Session, comments made in Executive Session stay in Executive Session. He said he felt that clearly a comment he made in Executive Session came out of Executive Session and clearly only a portion of that comment came out, he does not appreciate it. If they are going to invite him into Executive Session, he does need everyone to honor that Executive Session. He said he assures them that their board does not take anything out of Executive Session and he does think if they are going to have Executive Sessions in the future, whatever it is on, it does need to stay in Executive Session because if not, it makes them hesitate to speak openly. He said he wanted to make everyone aware of this because he does want to keep this partnership going.

8. Adjourn

With no further business, Mayor Barnard moved to adjourn, Mr. Kobel seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm