



Regular Council
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for November 19, 2024 at 6:37 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Jeff Barr, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini
Absent - None

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

Public present - Nick Hubbell, Nicole Shook, Terry Fetters, Connie Ryan

3. Invocation

Councilman Selan offered the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

Request to add item "f" under agenda item 8, Council Committee Reports for an update from the Township Liaison Committee. Request to swap the Executive Session order listed.

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve with amendment request made; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

6. Action on Minutes

ACTION: Dave Selan moved to approve October 28, 2024 and November 6, 2024 minutes as written; Tiffany Hollis seconded and all were in favor.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

7. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

Mayor Barnard read an email he received complimenting city staff members David Nichols and Shelly Ashbrook on their outstanding service and proactive measures in addressing a critical issue with a high water usage alert.

No public comments

8. Council Committee reports

a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 11/12/24; Next 11/26/24 @ 6:30 pm Council Chambers

The board had discussion on a zoning amendment and forwarded a recommendation to council, they will see that shortly.

b. **Design Review Board:** Met 11/12/24; Next 11/26/24 @ 5:30 pm Council Chambers

The Design Guidelines Steering Committee is meeting tomorrow in council chambers, the public is invited to attend.

Design Review Board approved a sign for the new barber shop on Main Street. Also reviewed some zoning code which is highlighted in the manager report.

c. **Finance:** 11/14/24, 11/18/24, 11/19/24; Next TBD

Committee continued to work on the 2025 budget. Council received the budget tonight and will have two weeks to review it, the first reading will be on December 3rd. Mayor Barnard reviewed budget highlights as follows: recommendation of four new employees, a Police Officer, additional Street worker, a City Planner and Development Director. Three of the four positions are not really new, they are refilling positions that have been empty for some time. Additionally, they are moving carryover in the General Fund from the General Fund over to the Budget Stabilization Fund, which is more like a "rainy day fund" and will help the city reestablish its bond rating. They also have money set aside for road projects for Douglas Street to be completely redone and for mill and fill on Liberty, Pershing, McCracken, Drury, Fairview and Recreation Drive. Also up to a four percent increase in wages for employees. Sean Staneart said he wanted to clarify that the city submitted applications for OPWC; Douglas and the other roads are a part of an application, if that funding were not to be approved, it would limit our ability to do those projects, we should find out the first quarter of 2025.

d. **Safety & Service:** 11/6/24 canceled; Next 12/3/24 @ 5:45 pm Council Chambers

e. **Rules:** 11/19/24 @ 6:00 pm Council Chambers

Committee looked at a policy for naming streets, that will be coming to council. Also reviewed the Council Rules of Order and made some updates which will also come before council for approval.

f. **Township Liaison Committee**

Next meeting is scheduled for 11/21/24 at 4:00 pm in council chambers. Nine townships have been identified for collaboration as follows: Monroe, St. Albans, Union, Jersey, Liberty, Bennington, Plain, Hartford and McKean.

9. Director Reports

a. Police Chief

Director report was included in the council packet, Chief Smart answered council member questions.

b. City Manager

Manager report included in the council packet. Mayor Barnard referenced the stream impact study and asked if we have looked to see how much that study would be. Sean Staneart said that water attorney Steve Samuels said if that is something council wants to explore, he could get a cost from an engineering or stream study firm, he thought it could be done in the five to six thousand dollar range. Mr. Kobel asked if this was a one-time study, Mr. Staneart said he would imagine so. Mr. Barr asked for expansion on the resident concerns; Mr. Staneart said that property owners next to and downstream are experiencing flooding, some spoke at the MPDS permit hearing and expressed concerns about increasing the flow on a daily basis and would like to know how that would impact their flooding during heavy rain events. Mr. Barr asked if design and engineering fees for the water treatment plant were included the study. Mr. Staneart said the legislation before council tonight does not have that included in the scope so if council wants to include it, he could reach out to the Jacobs Engineering team and ask if this is something they would do. Mr. Barr said in the permit process to build they may say we need to do a stream study, Mr. Staneart said they may, but he said the probability is low. He said we want to treat resident concerns with all seriousness and look and evaluate those things to make sure we are not making any detrimental impacts. We are not a singular player in the flooding happening, only a piece of the pie, but we do want to make good neighbors to those who exist inside the corporation limit as well as outside. Mr. Barr said that during the design and engineering of the plant would be a more appropriate time to do a stream study versus now, if council wanted to do it. Jack Liggett noted the Concord Crossing detention pond and a missing restrictor plate, he said a look at the functionality of the pond and release rate is warranted every bit as much as a stream study. Mr. Staneart said that four to five months ago, there was a proposal sent by EMH&T to study that area, it is not as simple as reattaching a plate, there has been development upstream, so he would not want to look at that singularly because of other ponds that have been connected to it. That study came in around \$34,000 and that is just the study, that is not going to have any cost associated to the improvements necessary. Mr. Staneart said if council has interest, we can add it to next year's line items or it can be added later. He said he will also connect with the engineers to get a cost and timeline for the stream study during the wastewater plant process.

Mr. Staneart also highlighted that the city is pleased to welcome the Cologix data center who has chosen to make an investment in the Johnstown Planned Development.

Also noted that the Design Review Board has discussed recommending to council that the fee associated with demolition of a small secondary structure under 750 square feet is reduced to \$25.00. This was discussed during a recent application to demo an old small shed in someone's back yard, he said he did not think it is the intent of the city to prevent people from taking down dilapidated structures. Ryan Green said he does not want to see a barrier to fixing up property or home improvements stall, they should look at the fees. Ms. Hollis said she has never seen the list of fees for new businesses coming in, but just through talking with business owners, it is very costly, especially for small business and asked if they could look at those as well. Mr. Staneart said the complete list can come to council.

10. Tabled Legislation – None

11. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2024-46** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN

Mayor Barnard said this legislation had a unanimous recommendation to council by Finance Committee. Sean Staneart said the expansion of the water treatment facility was discussed earlier in the year, as well as moving forward at least in engineering with the wastewater treatment plant. For water, we are full steam ahead, engineering mostly complete and construction maybe next year. Wastewater treatment, we are at the engineering stage, some has already taken place, indicated last summer by council, there is an engineering component that has to be done, there are loans we can utilize that are a great option. The engineering piece is typically amortized over five to ten years but as soon as the project is started, we can wrap the engineering fee into the total loan for the entire treatment plant. Because this is a government loan, there needs to be a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract to initiate this loan for the engineering for the wastewater treatment plant. Engineering cost for the wastewater treatment plant is estimated to be \$4.1 million.

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

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

Passed 7 - 0

12. Introduction of Legislation - None

13. Executive Session to consider negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance where the information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance provided under Chapter 715 of the Ohio Revised Code.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to enter Executive Session to consider negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance where the information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance provided under Chapter 715 of the Ohio Revised Code, to include all members of council and the City Manager; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

Council entered Executive Session at 7:23 pm and returned to Regular Session at 8:01 pm

14. Other Business

1. Discussion on interest and availability for a team building council workshop on December 5th; there was limited availability and not much interest.
2. Design Guidelines Steering Committee discussion, direction to open the vacant Design Review Board seat.
3. Jeff Barr requested a workshop meeting to specifically focus on the Municipal Utility Coalition of Licking County, for a more in-depth report on where we started, where we are at, updates etc. and what we anticipate in the future. Sean Staneart said he wanted an opportunity to give an update, he will get with the parties that will be helpful, engineers etc. in January, no later than mid-February, discussion on availability. Discussion on coming up with their questions ahead of the meeting, Mr. Barr said he would coordinate that.
4. Dave Selan said that the American Legion raised \$1300 at their breakfast this past weekend, the money benefited the Johnstown-Northridge Scholarship Fund. The next one is December 21st benefiting the Children's Conservation League.
5. \$10,000 for Fireworks is still in the budget, Ben Lee is helping to transition new members to coordinate the event. Mr. Barr said that the fireworks event would be a typical function that a recreation district would do, discussion on potential for transitioning.
5. Advertise for Personnel Board of Review, same timeframe as DRB

15. Executive Session to consider the purchase of property

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to enter executive session to consider the purchase of property, to include all of council and Mr. Staneart, with no business to follow; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

City Council entered Executive Session at 8:31 pm. and returned to Regular Session; time not recorded.

16. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion and second passed to adjourn the meeting.

Time not recorded.

Next Council Meeting December 3, 2024