



Special and Joint Meeting of Johnstown City Council and Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education
Johnstown Middle School
401 S. Oregon Street
Johnstown, OH 43031
Monday, January 27, 2025 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the Special and Joint meeting of Johnstown City Council and Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education for January 27, 2025 at 5:07 PM.

2. City Council Roll Call

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

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Board of Education (BOE) Roll Call

All members present; Mr. Swauger, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Benton, Mrs. Booher, Mrs. Thomas

5. Approval of City Council Agenda

No changes.

ACTION: Dave Selan moved to approve as written; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

6. Approval of BOE Agenda

No changes; board motion to approve carried 5-0.

7. Citizen Comments on Matters not on the Agenda

No public remarks.

8. Discussion: Purchase Contract, Lease, and Strategic Planning

Dr. Wagner reviewed a slide show presentation to provide a recap on planning efforts that have led to where we are today and their plans for the future. The presentation provided current district configuration, capacity and enrollment for each school building and addressed future needs. Floorplans were reviewed showing options for a new multi-purpose building and lean-to they are looking to build which would serve athletic needs for the school district as well as some opportunity for the community to use spaces. Conceptual site plans showed options for new building construction on the school's north campus property (old Adams Middle School site) and at the city property, 599 S. Main Street. Dr. Wagner said he would like the smaller group, the School District

Liaison committee, to work on some of the smaller details. He said he thinks, based on last week, they realize that the lead option of leasing the Monroe Township building is not going to work in their current plan because it is only being offered for two years, floorplans shown were predicated on the city moving the police department to the Monroe Township building. Dr. Wagner said from a timing standpoint, they are up against the timeline, they have to get a shovel in the ground, they are much later than they expected in order to be able to open this facility up for wrestling. Bob Orsini commented that the north campus option will deter wrestling participation, kids walking across town in snow, cold, crossing the highway, in a hurry and running, is a recipe for disaster. He said he puts this out there for the public to understand what it means to have the program adjacent to the campus. Jeff Barr said this is twofold, it would help the younger athletes and free up space in the JYAA barn.

Dr. Wagner said they have talked a lot as a school district about wanting to make sure this comes together, he thinks they are close on the purchase aspect, but how do they manage the lease. As he said at the council meeting, the city property is important to them for long range planning, their objective is to have a centralized campus, not the building per say, but the property and the ability to plan for the future.

Sean Staneart added that the lease presented (by Monroe Township) at the last council meeting has some challenges, he does not know that it will be functional. At that council meeting he offered to sit down with them to understand their needs a little better, as well as ours and see if we could meld them together. If that does not fall into place, what are some other options that may not be as enticing as the first one, but could be an alternative, or discuss a phased approach understanding the timing needs of the school. The police department has current square footage of around 5,100 so anything less than that would be moving backwards. The administrative office is currently using around 2,100 square feet and looking for a five to ten year range of an additional 3-4,000 square feet. Projections for police need is 7,000 square feet for the next five, possibly ten years.

Dr. Wagner said he would break this into two pieces, can they get the sale of the building taken care of, if they get outside of February, the building won't be ready for wrestling. If they agree on just the core building, maybe there is an option for a different configuration he doesn't know, but they have discussed this since September and they are still sitting on it. He said they have got to get the building built, if they don't get this, they will have to go to their north campus, they have nowhere else to go. Mr. Staneart said they can have the conversation and explore alternatives with the township, but he does not want to wait on their response before they start doing additional work. Mr. Swauger said with the duration of the lease and the square footage offered, he thinks the township made it pretty clear that the police are not in their future over at the fire house. He would like to get the small group together and figure out some options. Mrs. Booher said they have established the boards' interest in the building, the price is where they think they can make it work in the budget, now how can they take the time constraints and turn them into a positive, and asked what the city is doing to think creatively. Sean Staneart said that financial constraints limit options, he thinks building a new facility would be fantastic but that requires a large sum of money. He said they have looked at consolidating and organizing the street department better, and talking to the Chief, having segments of his operation was a non-starter, so not exploring that any further, there are limited options available. He said sharing all of this information is terrific, there is not going to be a solution that we don't come to without working together and that the only option he thinks they would be able to present to the township is finding them an additional piece of land that would be suitable for them to do some type of long-range expansion. Tiffany Hollis said they are all in a really unique situation right now and have a great opportunity to think of the future and plan strategically for that, she said they need to get this right, for the long term, with the best solution for every entity, not just one, and what is best for the community as a whole. She agrees that they should separate the issues and get the purchase completed. Discussion on the terms in the purchase/lease agreement, Mrs. Booher and Mrs. Thomas both expressed concern for the fifteen year lease, Mayor Barnard said the problem that the city runs into is the lack of revenue and until a tax is passed or development occurs, the revenue is a struggle and without it, they cannot build something else at this point without straddling citizens with debt. Consensus to move

conversations to the School District Liaison Committee to discuss options, meeting scheduled for Friday 12:30-1:30 pm. Discussion on follow up action at the next council and board meetings, February 4th and February 10th.

9. Other Business or Comments

Council discussion on the necessity of holding an immediate Executive Session, it was deemed an emergency by the City Manager.

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to enter Executive Session to consider the purchase or sale of property, with members of council and the city manager; Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 5 - 2

A motion to adjourn the school board meeting carried 5-0; their meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

City Council entered Executive Session at 6:30 pm and returned to Regular Session at 6:48 pm.

10. Adjourn

With no further business, the council meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.