



Regular Council
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:37 PM.

2. Roll Call

Prior to roll call Mayor Barnard read a statement: As many of you are aware, Council President Hollis has been sick and it led to her being hospitalized this past week. It has been an extremely difficult week for her family, friends and for her business; her family asks for your continued prayers and best wishes. Ms. Hollis did have a procedure this morning that went well, and that they hope will get her closer to being home. Additionally, her family would like to thank everyone for their support.

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

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

Public present - Kristy Hawthorne, Nick Hubbell, Shane Langley, Elizabeth Langley, Zach Harkavy, Claudia DeWitt, Jeff Szabo, Dustin Gerken

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Barr offered the invocation

4. Approval of Agenda

No changes.

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve as written; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

5. Presentation; Kristy Hawthorne - South Licking Watershed Conservancy District

Kristy Hawthorne with the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District attended for presentation to council, the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District is one of their partner organizations that covers the South Fork watershed and focuses on flooding and flood mitigation. Ms. Hawthorne highlighted a 2D flood model map, it is a gridded program that loads in all the weather and rainfall to show where flooding happens. She highlighted work being done toward water quality and invited Johnstown to be a part of the Licking County River Roundup which is their waterway cleanup effort on September 6, 2025. She would love to see the focus along Raccoon Creek in town. Mayor Barnard said he would be glad to take that on.

6. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

No comments

7. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 1/28/25; Next 2/11/25 @ 6:30 pm council chambers
Mr. Green said one item considered was forwarded to council and is on tonight's agenda.
- b. **Design Review Board:** Met 1/28/25; Next 2/11/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
One sign application conditionally approved, applicant will be seeking a variance from Planning & Zoning.
- c. **School District Liaison:** Met 1/31/25
- d. **Safety & Service:** 2/4/25 canceled; Next 3/4/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
No updates. Mr. Selan asked Mr. Liggett where we stood with the Clark Drive traffic signal. Mr. Liggett said as of two days ago, they are still waiting on parts, they have about fifty percent of what is needed.
- e. **Design Guidelines Steering Committee (Ad Hoc):** Next 2/5/25 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
- f. **Finance:** Next 2/18/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
- g. **Township Liaison Committee:** Next TBD

8. Director Reports

- a. Service Departments: Water, Sewer, Street
Reports included in the packet, Mr. Liggett answered council member questions on water usage and road salt.
- b. Service Director
Jack Liggett highlighted items in his report; included in the packet.

9. Tabled Legislation - None

10. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2025-05** (after Executive Session)
- b. **RESOLUTION 2025-06** (after Executive Session)

11. Introduction of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 02-2025** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1133.05 OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES
Sean Staneart said it came about by a recent request from an applicant for a variance on three properties requesting a six inch and four inch for setback. The property pin the applicant was utilizing to pull from, unbeknownst to them, had been moved slightly, and caused what they believed to be accurate surveying to be slightly inaccurate. The lots are the Neotraditional lots in Concord Crossing East, the structure encroached into the setback by inches. Variances go before the Planning & Zoning Commission however, MKSK proposed a way to alleviate unnecessary meetings and costly variances for the applicant and administratively approve setbacks within a certain degree of error. The application was ultimately approved by the zoning board and then this process was discussed, the zoning board was receptive and recommended legislation to council for consideration.

Ryan Green said that in the case referenced, there was a closing that was held up, they couldn't get into their house before the holidays, they spent months waiting to get on a meeting agenda. These things typically happen through no fault of their own, they discover it on a survey before a closing, these are relatively small issues, the waiver cannot exceed ten percent of the required minimum setback or one foot, whichever is less. These are small things that can be cleared up by staff relatively quickly and avoid a major setback with the property. Bob Orsini expressed concern for repeat offenders or every house being off enough to pick up an extra lot at the end. Ryan Green said in five years on zoning he has only seen this happen twice. Mr. Orsini said if they did not think his concern was legitimate or likely, he was happy to put it aside. Mr. Green said it was legitimate but not likely, it has happened twice in the same neighborhood in five years, it could have been caused by the same pin being off in the original survey. Mr. Staneart said this would not allow for an addition lot or house, the plats are approved prior to this, this would deal with setbacks, not property line. It could potentially allow for the encroachments to continue, if they start to see repeat offenses, they could certainly bring this back to council.

Mayor Barnard opened to any public comments, there were none. Public Hearing and vote on February 18, 2025

12. Other Business

1. Jeff Barr offered congratulations to Lady Johnnies basketball, they did quite well in the regular season, as well as some of the JYAA youth teams so kudos to them, coaches and the families supporting them.
2. Jeff Barr wished a Happy 11th Birthday to his son.
3. Ryan Green encouraged folks to watch their local youth sports, middle school and high school sports and thanks to all who attended the spaghetti dinner event.
4. Dave Selan said the Wizards vs the undefeated Johnnies next Thursday.
5. Sean Staneart said the band is having their annual mattress sale February 15th.

13. Executive Session to consider the appointment of a public official

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to enter Executive Session to consider the appointment of a public official with members of council and the applicants; they will return to make motions for the resolutions. Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

Council entered Executive Session at 7:25 pm and returned to Regular Session at 9:00 pm.

a. **RESOLUTION 2025-05** RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE JOHNSTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to recommend appointment of Dustin Gerken; Jeff Barr seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 – 0

- b. **RESOLUTION 2025-06** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD OF REVIEW

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to recommend appointment of Zach Harkavy; Jeff Barr seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

14. Adjourn

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Council Meeting February 18, 2025