



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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for March 4, 2025 at 6:38 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, 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 - Paul Cook

3. Invocation

Invocation offered by Councilman Wesley Kobel.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

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

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

6. Proclamation - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month March 2025

a. Proclamation

Tiffany Hollis read a council proclamation recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. She said she has a child with special needs and this is close to her heart.

7. Action on Minutes

a. February 10, 2025 Special Joint meeting

ACTION: Dave Selan moved to approve as written; Wesley Kobel 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: Tiffany Hollis - absence

Passed 6 – 0

b. February 18, 2025

ACTION: Dave Selan moved to approve as written; Wesley Kobel 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

8. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Paul Cook

- Lives on Bottecchia Blvd. in Concord Crossing East subdivision. Sad that construction has resumed, increasing traffic on Hanebrink Avenue with larger truck traffic and heavy equipment deliveries. Issues are excessive speed within the division, especially on Hanebrink, blatant disregard for the stop signs posted, drivers coming up Bottecchia and making U-turns at the pool entrance. He added there is no safe access from the sidewalks to the pool, there is a need for a crosswalk and signage and that there is a lack of posted speed limit signs, that there is one sign in the whole development located at the entrance near the round-a-bout. He said Hanebrink has four main access roads, they have multiple intersections plus the pool entrance. He said he understands the reduced enforcement due to lack of manpower and a large patrol area, he requests additional signage, crosswalks, and speed bumps installed on Hanebrink Ave. to reduce traffic speed.

Mayor Barnard asked the Service Director how to go about getting more speed limit signs, Jack Liggett said they can get some installed, he would like to discuss how many signs and best placement with the Police Chief first. Sean Staneart said he would advise the Mayor to instruct him to get with staff and look into the comments and concerns shared by Mr. Cook, a plan can be shared at the next council meeting. Some further discussion on speed bumps, speed limit signs and safety liability. Forwarded to Safety & Service committee.

9. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 2/25/25; Next 3/11/25 @ 6:30 pm council chambers
Recommendation to council for a zoning text amendment to the Light Manufacturing zoning district, council will see an Ordinance on April 1st. An applicant is requesting that "paint and powder coating manufacturing" be added to permitted uses. A sign variance for an additional wall sign was approved. Approval also given for a Conditional Use application and Johnstown Pointe nursing home building addition, there were several conditions placed on the approval.
- b. **Design Review Board:** 2/25/25 canceled; Next 3/11/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
- c. **Design Guidelines Steering Committee (Ad Hoc):** Met 3/3/25 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
Review of an outline for the guidelines document, in about four weeks there will be a more detailed document for committee review.
- d. **Safety & Service:** 3/4/25; Next 4/1/25 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
Discussion on a sidewalk on Jersey Street, the large street trees on Main Street, snow removal downtown, the Clark Drive traffic signal and the pothole filling schedule for spring.
- e. **Finance:** Next 3/18/25 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

10. Director Reports

- a. Service Departments; Water, Sewer, Streets, Service Director Report
Reports included in the packet; Jack Liggett highlighted items in his director's report and provided an update on the leak repair made on US 62.

Discussion on the rejection of both of the city's OPWC grant applications, the manager has asked for a scoring sheet and detail to understand where we scored low. The Mayor said he would like to know who makes the decisions for the city of Johnstown and who is on the committee. Mayor Barnard also asked the manager to find out what townships around us were approved, Mr. Staneart said he would get council a list of all the approved/unapproved projects with scoring. Further discussion on not receiving either OPWC grant, Mr. Staneart said they felt they had a pretty solid application and they were able to get all the support letters in. Mr. Liggett said they had more letters and backing than any other application in probably thirty years. Mr. Staneart said they did their homework. There was surprise and disappointment not to have received either one.

11. Tabled Legislation - None

12. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2025-08** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

This is an authorization for the City Manager to enter into a purchase contract with the JYAA. Mr. Staneart said the city will be doing a sewer plant expansion in the future, there is no exact date for the need but know it is approaching and so we are doing engineering and design on it so when that time comes they will be ready. Engineering determined that if the city were to have the additional property next to the sewer plant, it would be beneficial for the expansion. They reached out to the owners of the property, JYAA, to float the idea, there was a lot of interaction and good discussion on all things park related. The property is eight acres and the city owns the property around it. Tiffany Hollis asked Sean Staneart to give a range of what the savings would be by having this extra property versus if we didn't and had to do the engineering and build the plant without the land. Mr. Staneart said the savings was significant, the range was anywhere between \$200,000 to \$500,000, there are a lot of variables. He said the cost of purchasing the land will more than offset and will facilitate a higher savings. Mayor Barnard said this will save the users money in the future by doing this. Mr. Liggett said the expansion would fit on our existing site but construction was going to be very difficult because of property lines, timing and building would be much slower.

Mayor Barnard dispensed with the public hearing as there was no public present.

ACTION:	Bob Orsini moved to approve resolution 2025-08 as written; Dave Selan seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES:	Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 7 – 0

- b. **RESOLUTION 2025-09** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A NON-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT

Mayor Barnard said this is his proudest legislation in two years, the teamwork between President Hollis and City Manager Sean Staneart to get this done has been incredible. Mayor Barnard said he wanted to make a statement: "There are individuals and agents outside of our city that are making comments and lying to people, that we are in the process of trying to annex every piece of land outside the city of Johnstown, and that is a lie. We have taken a calculated and slower strategy in moving forward until the developments are done. The "fact" that Johnstown is trying to annex property and take farmland from farmers is an absolute lie and he thinks everyone up here agrees with that, that is not what we are trying to do." He said President Hollis called him this week and had an idea, we are tired of the lies and comments from people outside of our city saying we are trying to do this. Ms. Hollis asked him if he would support a resolution that we would not annex property owned by the Fords if it meant we could keep them from going into any kind of JEDD's. Mayor Barnard read the resolution. Ms. Hollis said she feels that any time we have a family or resident that feels this way, it is ok to be against development, it's ok to want to protect your property and we have to respect that any way we can. It is so important for them as a council, not only to work together among themselves, but collaborating with surrounding townships and supporting each other and having open communication. This is a really good example of when there is not open communication, signals get crossed, and she is hoping this opens communication back up with the Ford family and that we can all come to a solution that appeases everyone involved. Ms. Hollis added that there are two houses on Caswell Road that were built in the 1800's, it is important to preserve those, one is on the national registry. All of these things are important and things we should take into consideration as development is happening, we have to do this responsibly. She said as a city, we have probably had our foot on the brake harder than anyone else in the area or region. This is a family that does not want development and has communicated that and we have to respect that. Sean Staneart said the whereases were carefully written to reflect the views of council, it doesn't always work in this way, but he thinks often times we have more in common with the landowners than they realize. We do respect the rural character of the area and it is Johnstown's desire to preserve that whenever possible and this is a great opportunity given the landscape. He said this does not conflict with our Comprehensive Plan and it doesn't impede our economic development, he said they feel it is a win-win for the city as well as the property owner. This resolution authorizes him to enter into a contract, they have verbally communicated this to the property owner so they are aware of the city's intent. Ms. Hollis added that she would never want any resident to make decisions for their property out of fear of annexation, without us at least having a conversation first, she thinks this was an example of this, in a last-ditch effort to not be annexed, out of fear of annexation, they (Fords) have entertained other ideas, which they may go with, and that's ok too. She just wants to open the door to have those conversations, we are not the big bad ugliest always. Sean Staneart elaborated on how we got here, he said it was a JEDD agreement given to us by Monroe Township, a Joint Economic Development District, and knowing that the property owner doesn't want development, this was our response to a different way they could achieve the preservation of their rural characteristics. Bob Orsini said he is a staunch proponent of landowner's rights, he asked Ms. Hollis if everything in this agreement was aligned with what their wishes were, Ms. Hollis said to the best of her knowledge, the conversation with them was that they do not want development, they do not want to annex, she believes the word was "ever". She thinks we are giving them the best option we can with representing the city, they have a duty to represent the city also. Bob Orsini said as far as annexation goes, to his knowledge, every annexation into the city, or village prior, was at the landowner's request, the city does not go out and take property. It hasn't happened to this point, nor does he see it happening in the future, it is the landowner's request, because they want services the city can provide.

Mayor Barnard dispensed with the public hearing as there was no public present.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to pass Resolution 2025-09 as written; 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

13. Introduction of Legislation - None

14. Other Business

1. Mayor Barnard asked if council was in favor of creating a committee to look at sidewalks throughout this town. Decision to forward to Safety & Service committee. Mr. Staneart said they could direct staff to do an inventory of the sidewalks, allow them some time to get with the Service Director and engineer and do an assessment and ranking on the sidewalks, and then provide a list to Safety & Service for review.
2. Mayor Barnard said he would like to create a Facility committee, to look at our future facilities and start planning for the future.
3. Finance Director Dave Delande to get the Mayor the most current debt schedule.
4. Mayor Barnard asked about reducing the speed limit downtown from 25 mph to 15 mph. Chief Smart said no, the lowest you can have in the State of Ohio, per Ordinance, is 25 mph.
5. Mr. Orsini extended congratulations to Cailyn Casto, she is a senior and qualified for the ladies' state wrestling tournament. Mayor Barnard said she would be at the next council meeting to be recognized, along with girls' basketball.
6. Mr. Selan said the American Legion breakfast is on the 15th and that Girl scout cookies are still for sale, the Boy scouts just had their pinewood derby, a couple qualified for regional.
8. Mr. Selan said they were very close right now to funding the entire Fireworks show, which is impressive because the cost went up about \$5,000 since last year. They have had good conversations with the Greater Johnstown Parks and Rec and with Ben Lee for handoff. Fish Fry Fridays are starting at the Ascension on Friday. He said Coffee with Council events have been interesting, good feedback by email and in person.
9. Mr. Selan said that Lisa Neff is starting a uniform depot for Johnstown schools. With a uniform requirement at the schools, this will recycle usable clothes from former students, he will meet with her on Thursday to see how to support.
10. Mayor Barnard said the Girl Scouts will be at the next council meeting on the 18th to lead the pledge and sell cookies.
11. Mr. Staneart said the Johnstown High School musical Sister Act is this weekend, shows are Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
12. Mr. Barr thanked all the JYAA coaches for volunteering their time over the winter for wrestling and basketball.

15. Adjourn

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to adjourn; Bob Orsini seconded and all were in favor.
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Council Meeting March 18, 2025