



Special Council
Friday, April 25, 2025 - 3:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Special Council Meeting for April 25, 2025 at 3:35 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Wesley Kobel, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan (absent at roll call, arrived at 3:40 pm)

Absent - Jeff Barr

Staff present - Sean Staneart - City Manager, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Mike Sileargy

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Barnard said that if council desired to amend the agenda, the City Law Director was prepared to give council an update on pending or imminent legal action. Mr. Orsini moved to add an Executive Session to consult with city attorney about pending or imminent legal action; there was no second and the motion died.

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve the agenda as written; Wesley Kobel seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Bob Orsini

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 5 - 0

4. Work Session - Council Goals review for 2025

Sean Staneart reviewed the council's top five goals for 2024 and their status:

1. Regional Water & Sewer Securing Borders; the city worked diligently through 2024 with EMH&T, a facility plan was initiated as well as various engagements with stakeholders in the region. A fifteen county water study was initiated by the Ohio EPA and we participated in that collecting information relative to our existing infrastructure and systems. There was planning and preparation for the water treatment plant, council passed legislation associated with some funding. Planning efforts for the wastewater treatment plant were initiated at the end of 2024, some of the pre-planning and financial modeling was completed throughout 2024 for the design loan, some engineering occurred for the building sites. We started in 2022 on becoming a member of the Ohio Water Reuse Association Charter, there were many calls and subcommittees created in 2024 to lift that off the ground, Ohio created that board and they are working diligently to figure out how to better maximize the effluent discharge that comes out of the wastewater treatment plant for alternative uses such as manufacturing and irrigation. Various MPDS permit hearings were attended, including our own, our MPDS permit for our sewer plant was approved. (Councilman Selan arrived at 3:40 pm).

2. Financial Stability/Revenue Creation/Tax Increase; from the 2024 and 2025 year, the budgets did not need to rely on carryovers nearly as much as what had been done in the past, Sean Staneart said he believes the stabilization there is taking hold to where each of the departments are relying on the revenues they are receiving. Debt has been paid down and some has fallen off, although some minimal, he thinks there has been a collective goal by this council to not incur anymore large debt related to capital projects, other than water and sewer. There will be some debt falling off related to water and sewer next year or the year after, that is helpful from an enterprise perspective. From the capital/general side of things, not as much as they would like, but no new debt was incurred. He thinks that is the road forward at this particular moment, making do with the finances that we have. In 2025, we are scheduled to move \$5-600,000 to the Budget Stabilization fund which is significant, increasing that fund will help the city with its credit rating, as well as help the city with any type of downturn it could see in the foreseeable future. With regard to revenue creation, the city has had a number of companies interested or actually make commitments. In 2024, Cologix purchased a large section in the PD district, we have also engaged with a couple other companies that are looking around the PD district and the old Port Authority site, separately from New Albany Company whom the city has been working with to develop that site. In 2024, the council adopted its first New Community Authority, TIFs were also set in place for the PD district, as far as revenue creation, these will have significant impact when it comes to first, providing the infrastructure to get the economic development area off the ground and once that machine starts to move, it will start to generate more revenue through the income tax collected by the businesses moving in there, and then it will pay back the infrastructure associated with the expansion of that PD district. The city put a tax increase to the voters, the city tried to inform residents the best it could, it will continue to reevaluate.

Ms. Hollis asked for an update on the city audit status. Mr. Staneart said the city has provided everything and is waiting for the state to sign off on the 2020/2021 audit. The 2022/2023 cannot be finalized until the 2021 is done because the numbers carry forward, Wilson Shannon & Snow have started the field work on that audit.

3. Policy & Procedures/Operational; staffing update on the Assistant Finance Director who has cross trained with utility billing and provides a level of redundancy for the finance department and the admin offices. We are operationally starting to build our foundation to where we have some necessity roles filled, ones that we were most vulnerable on with operations that have to take place. Travel/Car/Credit card policies were put in place in 2024. Operationally, union negotiations began with the service departments and continues currently. Police and street staffing is being evaluated to try and figure out how we can increase those areas of operation without burring through the budget. An update on the city planner search was provided.

4. Comprehensive Plan; Council adopted the new plan in 2024. Shortly after, we started the design review regulation discussions, MKSK has been engaged to work with a steering committee on the new design standards.

5. Parks Planning; the city has had more interaction with the JYAA than ever, and has had discussions with the Greater Johnstown Park & Rec District, the organization is really trying to find their way. There was an initiative in the fall, we had MKSK come in and give a high level inventory and review of potential sites, that was a "toe in the water" as it relates to a greater park plan that could come down the road. Interacting with the school, figuring out their needs in conjunction with our needs and taking an inventory of JYAA lands, it was a good first engagement to identify some sites from a planning perspective, if we wanted to have additional park land. If you don't plan now and find the land and the proper location, you are stuck with what you get instead of what you want.

Council member agreement that number four, Comprehensive Plan, could be removed from

the goals list. Review and discussion of the overall top ten goals from 2024, review of each member's top five from 2024 and discussion on new top five priorities for this next year.

Bob Orsini: 1) Regional water and sewer; 2) Zoning; 3) Financial stability; 4) City maintenance (infrastructure and appearance) and keeping things from deteriorating; 5) Overlay District

Don Barnard: 1) Regional water and sewer; 2) Financial stability; 3) Zoning; 4) District planning (parks, downtown overlay); 5) Sidewalk maintenance

Ryan Green: 1) Roadway planning/day to day/sidewalks (maintenance schedule); 2) Regional water and sewer 3) Zoning/Economic development; 4) Parks planning; 5) HR practices/Policy and procedures

Wes Kobel: 1) Regional water and sewer; 2) Zoning; 3) Revenue; 4) Maintaining partnerships with schools and township trustees surrounding us; 5) PD district

Dave Selan: 1) Financial stability/Bond rating/Revenue creation; 2) Regional water and Sewer; 3) Zoning and policy; 4) Partnerships; 5) Overlay/Historic district

Tiffany Hollis: 1) water and sewer to include infrastructure development to the PD district; 2) Economic Development and increasing and diversifying our Light Manufacturing; 3) Updating Zoning, she said her first three add up to give financial stability; 4) Revisit committee functionality and structure along with council education and training; 5) Stabilizing city center and incentivizing business. Discussion on the old CIC and revitalizing.

Jeff Barr: passed along a goal for Sean - to increase communication through all council members

Sean Staneart was asked for his top goals: 1) Regional water and sewer; 2) Financial/Economic development; 3) Getting zoning in order/define our built environment/cleaning up the code; 4) Have a plan for infrastructure/(TAM) roadway planning/maintenance

Mr. Staneart to work through individual rankings to compile an overall top five using the valuation scale and get back to council for review.

5. Other Business

1. There is a scheduled meeting on Wednesday with Monroe Township and the School Board, three council members will need to attend. Mr. Barnard, Mr. Green and Mr. Selan said they would attend.

6. Adjourn

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to adjourn; Bob Orsini seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Donald Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

The meeting adjourned approximately 5:30 pm.

Next Council Meeting WEDNESDAY May 7, 2025