

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, January 14, 2015

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Acting City Manager, Carlos Gunby, offered the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Janakovic noted that Executive Sessions with regard to personnel were held on January 7, 2015 and this evening before the meeting with regard to personnel, labor negotiations and purchase of real estate.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza (7).

Absent: None (0).

City Solicitor, David Andrews, and Acting City Manager, Carlos Gunby were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2014, December 10 and December 17 meetings. Corrections to the December 10 minutes were discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gentile and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza (7).

Nays: None (0).

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Rosalie Danchanko, Executive Director of the Johnstown Free Medical Clinic, 320 Main Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to the partnerships the clinic is creating with the City. She provided a history of the practices of the clinic with regard to healthcare of the uninsured, income-eligible individuals of the Laurel Highlands. Ms. Danchanko noted that in the past year, 9,500 prescriptions were written for a total of \$2 million. She informed Council that funding for the clinic comes from The United Way, local foundations, and she herself "doing a lot of begging."

Ms. Danchanko suggested opening the clinic to visitors of Thunder in the Valley and other events. She thanked the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Mayor Janakovic, and Mr. Gunby for the chance to be incorporated into the City.

Mayor Janakovic has visited the Free Clinic and witnessed the people in need and thanked Ms. Danchanko for "bringing the clinic up to a new level."

Donna Barber, 824 Sherman Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to code issues. She noted that this is her fourth time addressing Council concerning the code violations on her property. Ms. Barber has a fallen garage and garbage and stated she cannot pay "to have these things cleaned up." Mr. Gunby did meet with Ms. Barber regarding this matter. He noted the cost would still fall back onto her as the property owner.

City Solicitor Andrews stated this is a legal matter for the magistrate. Mr. Gunby stated Ms. Barber will need to follow the judicial process for whatever the magistrate determines as a final outcome. He will continue to work through the codes process to resolve the matter amicably. Ms. Barber was urged to consult her attorney.

Lonnie Rietscha, 121 Davis Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to the former tennis courts in Coopersdale and the zone change request for Mr. Gentile's property at 138 Cooper Avenue. As a speaker for the residents of the Coopersdale area, Mr. Rietscha commented that the proposed zoning request will result in the following: A change in zoning throughout the City setting a bad precedence; heavy noise pollution in a residential area; dust and air pollution; safety concerns with the increased traffic; and a decrease in property values. Mr. Rietscha stated Mr. Gentile has "gone back on his word" noting he was "just going to put up a pole building." Mr. Rietscha noted additional properties in the City already zoned as business.

Mr. Rietscha noted Mr. Gentile's points are as follows: The property was cleaned up; the property will be placed back into taxation; there are other businesses on Cooper Avenue; all Cooper Avenue should be heavy commercial; his business will create jobs within the City; and that the people of the community oppose his business, "they're nothing but a lynch mob seeking revenge."

Mr. Rietscha commented that none of the residents' concerns have been addressed by Mr. Gentile.

Mr. Rietscha addressed a few of Mr. Gentile's point of view. He stated the property in question was cleaned up by neighborhood parents so their children could play there, noting that now the children are playing in the streets or in a neighbor's yard. Mr. Rietscha commented that few people want to live next to Mr. Gentile's business and have suggested they will move if the property is rezoned. Mr. Rietscha urged Council to "vote no" and provided photographs of the property.

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to a lack of garbage pickup due to nonpayment. She stated that this is a codes violation that needs to be addressed. She noted that recyclable garbage was witnessed being dumped into the same truck as the trash, which is a violation of State law. Ms. Stanton questioned whether or not the Johnstown Housing Authority properties are participating in the mandatory recycling, noting that "to date I have no answers."

Ms. Stanton elaborated further on comments made by Mr. Warhul at the last meeting regarding various City boards, appointments and social medial postings by members. She noted a Facebook posting by an individual who serves on numerous City boards and stated she was offended by this person making such public comments and considered them slanderous. Ms. Stanton called this inappropriate and "childish behavior" by a member of City government. She noted a mental competency exam should be administered as a prerequisite to filling appointed positions and further that City business should not be discussed on a closed Facebook site.

Randy Novosel, union president of the Johnstown firefighters, 401 Washington Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to IAFF Local 463. Mr. Novosel on behalf of the firefighters thanked the City's team, Mr. Gunby, Attorney Andrews, and Chief Kovacic for negotiating an agreement that did not include personal opinions, personal agendas or personal vendettas.

Mayor Janakovic thanked Randy and the City firefighters for the great job they do for the City.

Attorney Andrews commended Mr. Novosel and the firefighters union and the negotiating team for their professionalism.

Mr. Vitovich also commended the firefighters and Acting City Manager, Mr. Gunby, who stood alongside the firemen as they performed their duties at a recent fire.

REPORT BY THE ACTING CITY MANAGER

Acting City Manager, Carlos Gunby, noted a positive relationship with the City administration and thanked Mr. Novosel and the City firefighters.

Mr. Gunby reported that he and Solicitor Andrews attended a recent meeting of the Shade Tree Commission with regard to issues of compliance and social media. He stated resolutions were agreed upon which will benefit all. An evaluation will be conducted within the next 90 days.

Mr. Gunby reported on addressing several issues with regard to the garbage collection as reported by several residents as well as Advanced Disposal. He is working to "get things back on track." He will enforce codes and address ordinance changes if necessary.

Mr. Gunby referred Council to a possible bond refinance packet, which could generate additional capital expenditures. He stated it was an old series issue bond and called this "a good time to receive revenue from it." An individual will make a presentation on the bond refinancing to Council in the future.

Mr. Gunby addressed a question by Mrs. Mock regarding Advanced Disposal and its performance. He noted that the Solicitor will become involved if necessary.

Mr. Gunby thanked the sewer construction work crew who befriended a young girl involved in the Dorothy Avenue fire and purchased Christmas gifts for that child.

Mr. Gunby reported on a confirmation letter from PennDOT officially providing funding for the Main Street East renovation.

Mr. Gunby stated a funding offer was received for the City's vehicles. He will provide additional information at a later date. Mr. Gunby noted the detailing and lighting on the cars will be completed both internally and externally.

The Acting City Manager noted the confirmation of the \$10 million Woodvale/Prospect PennVEST loan award. He was pleased to announce that he "reshopped" the Workers Compensation this year and the rates continue to drop, which results in a savings over what was originally budgeted.

Mr. Gunby distributed to Council the Notice of return of delinquent taxes to the county in the amount of \$1, 290,554.10.

Mr. Gunby commended Detective Julie Wagner, Officer Reginald Floyd, and Officer Barney Solomon on their recent retirement from JPD.

Mr. Mickel asked the Acting City Manager to address the Housing Authority recycling issue. Mr. Gunby noted he is working with the Authority for clarification on the issue. Mr. Vitovich suggested placing a recycling bin at each location. Mr. Gunby will check the requirements for obtaining additional dumpsters for such a grant-based recycling program. He will provide an updated report after obtaining the necessary information.

REPORT BY MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported on a meeting with Michael Foreman, Dennis Puko, and Brooks Robinson from DCED and others to address Act 47 exit timeframes and planning.

Mayor Janakovic reported on attending the NAACP meeting at the Cambria County Library. He also attended the Drug and Alcohol Transition Committee meeting in Harrisburg to make recommendations to Governor-Elect Tom Wolfe on changes and needs.

Mayor Janakovic congratulated all of the winners at the recent Point Stadium Awards. He also congratulated Bishop Guilfoyle on becoming one of the few state winners of the PIAA.

Mayor Janakovic and other Councilmembers attended an EITC meeting at the courthouse to request a continuance of the commuter tax.

The Mayor commended the Steeples Group for saving the three churches in Cambria City. He noted that St. Casimir's Church has been sold.

Mayor Janakovic reported the City celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the City's incorporation on December 18, 2014.

Mayor Janakovic read a positive email regarding the First Night celebration. He congratulated CamTran on their receipt of the Governor's Safety Award.

The Mayor reported on a meeting with Senator Wozniak, representatives from Senator Toomey and Senator Casey's office, and the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss river dredging and wall maintenance for recreational purposes.

Mayor Janakovic reported on a scheduled conference with Jim McAneny, the Executive Director of the PA Employment Retirement Commission, with regard to the Home Rule municipalities' resident and nonresident tax.

The Mayor congratulated Carlos Gunby for his hard work on the passage of the budget on December 17, 2014.

Mayor Janakovic extended good luck wishes to Glenn Wilson from Ameriserv Bank. Mr. Wilson recently resigned as CEO of that bank.

REPORT BY THE CITY SOLICITOR

City Solicitor, David Andrews, reported that the firefighter's contract is on the agenda for approval. He noted that the contract provides for a three-year agreement with a one percent increase the first year, a one percent increase the second year, and a two percent increase the third year. It further provides for the firefighters to pay 15 percent of the premiums, which will be changed to a Highmark Community Blue Plan. Attorney Andrews stated new hires would not be eligible for retiree healthcare as are the current firefighters. Attorney Andrews recommended approval of that collective bargaining agreement.

REPORT BY THE CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer, Steve Sewalk, referred Councilmembers to his report and highlighted some of the main items, including letters to residents in the Woodvale/Prospect areas of the City regarding lateral locations and the sewage project.

Mr. Sewalk reported the Oakhurst project is moving forward. He noted construction will soon commence in the Prospect area. He stated the Moxham Phase One Project PennVEST meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2015. Designs are moving ahead on the Morrellville and Old Conemaugh sections.

Violation enforcement issues including the downspout violations will be discussed with the Solicitor over the next couple of months.

Mr. Sewalk reported on his work with DEP to finalize the regulations for the lateral televising.

Mr. Sewalk reported that work will commence with receipt of the formal approval of grant money for the parking garage,

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Mr. Sewalk discussed areas of paving/low areas with PennDOT. He then answered questions from Councilmembers.

REPORT ON PRIOR YEARS AUDIT FINDINGS

No report.

REPORT OF POLICE CHIEF

Police Chief, Craig Foust, also congratulated Detective Julie Wagner, Reginald Floyd, and Barney Solomon on their recent retirement. He also thanked the City Manager and Council for approval for the purchase of new vehicles.

REPORT OF FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief, Anthony Kovacic, commended all involved with the contract negotiations and the approval of new equipment.

REPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

Josh Summits, Coordinator, addressed Council with regard to the DCED report focusing on the coding numbers from December. He noted that 24 permits were issued, 48 code complaints of which 10 have been complied with, and 35 notified with no action. He reported that with regard to the 32 court dates in December, 7 were complied with, 4 were continued, and 21 were found guilty, with total court fees of \$15,525. Mr. Summits reported that 10 were sent in to the magistrate and 10 are vacant properties.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Darby Sprincz, Director, reported his crew is on a winter schedule working around the clock to help curtail overtime. He also expressed his appreciation for the arrival of the new equipment.

Mayor Janakovic commented that budget negotiations, which has enabled the City to obtain leases on much needed vehicles.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Seventh Ward

No Report.

West End/Cambria City

Mr. Vitovich congratulated Mrs. Mock and the West End Improvement Group on the Christmas Parade and lighting.

Mrs. Mock thanked the volunteers for their time for the Celebration Johnstown event. She reported the City was well represented at the Third Annual Guns and Hoses Special Olympics event. Mrs. Mock also thanked all involved in the West End Christmas Parade.

Moxham/Roxbury

Mr. Vizza commended all of the department supervisors.

Mr. Mickel reported that the Roxbury Civic Group has been working diligently with Senator Wozniak, Representative Barbin, and Mr. Petrone, the developer for the Roxbury School project.

Discover Downtown

Mayor Janakovic expressed his thanks for the new Christmas lighting on Main Street.

Kernville

No Report.

Woodvale/Conemaugh Borough/Prospect

No Report.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety/Public Works Committee

Mr. Gentile expressed his appreciation to the Johnstown PD for apprehending the individual who stole his vehicle on Cooper Avenue on Christmas Day.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

No Report.

Parking/Operations Committee

No Report.

Boards, Authorities and Commissions Committee

No Report.

Recreation Committee

No Report.

Budget and Finance Committee

No Report.

Community and Economic Development Committee

No Report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Janakovic reported that Council is in receipt of the following:

1. Planning Commission's December 3, 2014 and January 7, 2015 meeting minutes.
Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile (7).

Nays: None (0).

2. Shade Tree Commission's December 10, 2014 meeting minutes.
Mr. Gentile made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickel and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile (7).

Nays: None (0).

3. Code Violations from Charlene Stanton, Lindy Yutzy and a letter from Mr. Jack Williams. No vote was necessary.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

1. BILL NO. 29 OF 2014, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING ORDINANCE MAP CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 138 COOPER AVENUE, 21ST WARD, FROM R-1 TO C-1. (TABLED 12/10/14.)

Mr. Mickel made a motion to remove the ordinance from table. The motion was not seconded.

Attorney Andrews explained the ordinance is still tabled, and unless it is brought back, it will not be voted on.

Mr. Mickel reminded Council that this is the first time it went against the recommendation of the Planning Commission with regard to a zoning change.

He was appalled that Council was "sitting there doing nothing when you know the people want some kind of action."

2. BILL NO. 1 OF 2015, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING LATERAL RESALE ORDINANCE, REQUIRING LATERAL TESTING UPON THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF ALL REAL PROPERTY WITH STRUCTURES LOCATED THEREON TO DETERMINE IF ILLEGAL STORM OR SURFACE WATER IS CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY SEWER, REMEDIATION OF DEFECTS, AND TO SET FORTH REGULATIONS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gentile and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic
Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel (7).

Nays: None (0).

3. BILL NO. 2 OF 2015, AMENDING ORDINANCE 5161, ESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF REVENUES TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE VARIOUS FUNDS, BUREAUS, DEPARTMENTS, THE PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE AND THE PENSION FUND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FUND SECTIONS AND THE RESPECTIVE FUNDS "BUDGET EXHIBIT A DETAILS".

Mr. Mickel made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gentile and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic,
Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock (7).

Nays: None (0).

4. BILL NO. 3 OF 2015, AMENDING ORDINANCE 5162 FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUS OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015.

Mr. Gentile made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola,
Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (7).
Nays: None (0).

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

1. BILL NO. 30 OF 2014, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1042 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN REVISING AND EXTENDING REQUIREMENTS AFFECTING THE DISCHARGE OF STORMWATER INTO THE PUBLIC STORMWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM BY AMENDING AND CLARIFYING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE CONNECTIONS INTO THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, AS ENACTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5126, PASSED FINALLY MARCH 27, 2013.

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gentile and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel,
Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza (7).
Nays: None (0).

2. BILL NO. 31 OF 2014, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5141, PASSED JANUARY 8, 2014, AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN UNDERUTILIZED, BLIGHTED OR DETERIORATED INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR OTHER BUSINESS PROPERTY; DEFINING ELIGIBLE AREAS; SETTING MAXIMUM EXEMPTION AMOUNT; AND AN EXEMPTION SCHEDULE; AND PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR SECURING AN EXEMPTION.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gentile and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile (7).

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 9722

1. A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, APPROVING THE NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL UNION NO. 463 FOR A TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2017.

Mr. Gentile made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johncola and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza
Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic (7).

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 9723

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE ALLEGHENIES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Mickel made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Summits explained this additional \$5,000 would fill a gap in matched funds for the Cambria City Phase One strategic plan.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile,
Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola (7).

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 9724

3. A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR A HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Mr. Johncola made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Gunby explained this is a permit to allow for two business development projects within the City.

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic,
Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel(7).

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 9725

4. A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING BOENNING AND SCATTERGOOD TO ACT AS AN UNDERWRITER/PLACEMENT AGENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR A POTENTIAL REFINANCE OF OUTSTANDING LONG-TERM DEBT PENDING REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF UNDERWRITER/PLACEMENT AGENT FEE STRUCTURE.

Mr. Mickel made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich.

Mr. Gunby explained this is a refinance of the 2009 bond series in order to receive additional revenue in the budget.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic,
Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock (7).

Nays: None (0).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Land Bank Ordinance

Mr. Gunby explained his objective to seek different routes to streamline the Land Bank process as well as to join with existing additional resources.

2. Capital Equipment

Mr. Gunby explained this acquisition will be completed very soon.

3. Commissions

Mayor Janakovic explained that since it is Council's wish that community members be given the opportunity to fill vacancies, he has instructed Mr. Gunby to advertise in the newspaper all commission vacancies.

Mayor Janakovic asked for a motion to fill his seat on the Planning Commission, which ended in December 2014.

Mr. Vizza formally made motion, which was seconded by Mr. Johncola.

Mr. Vizza nominated Councilman David Vitovich to the Council position on the Planning Commission. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Gentile and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Vizza, Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola,
Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock (6).

Nays: None (0).

Mr. Vitovich abstained from voting on the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Taxes Returned to the County

Mr. Gunby reported on remitting documentation for the return of \$1,290,554.20 of taxes.

2. Land Purchase

Mr. Gunby referred Councilmembers to a packet which included a request from Mr. Gunby and administration to purchase the Clay Pits, which would be utilized as the primary dump site for the City sewer projects until the project's completion in 2022. He noted the purchase price of \$42,200 would be paid out of the sewer fund. He further noted that all revenues from the dumping site would be used to service the inner-City sewer system. Mr. Gunby answered questions from Council.

Attorney Andrews advised that a motion is necessary to approve the purchase of the property at North Sheridan Street and Lloyd Court, Deed Book Volume 955, Page 350, for the purchase price of \$42,200.

RESOLUTION NO. 9726

5. DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE.

Mr. Gentile made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickel and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Gentile, Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel,
Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Vizza (7).

Nays: None (0).

Mr. Vizza requested that Mr. Gunby research an ordinance passed in Altoona with a three-month residential demolition timetable.

Mr. Vitovich read an excerpt from the Tribune Democrat into the record with regard to building new ideas and solutions: "A friend once told me that complaining about a problem is simple; providing a solution is what counts. Complaining is easy thinking; having the ability to identify a problem is nothing more than the first and easiest step. Developing a practical solution is a very difficult and much more worthy endeavor. We see it more and more on the internet, in the paper, in our communities. Complaining accomplishes nothing but

wasting time. As we open a new year, it's a wonderful opportunity to step up not with grumblings but with practical answers. It is an opportunity to start again. We are in control of our own destiny. What do we want the future of our communities and our region to be, increase in crime, decrease in opportunities and growing population? Those are the problems we face, but complaining about them will not help. By casting aside one less personal agenda in the baggage of years gone by we are free to develop new ideas and new solutions. You can grow new opportunities and entirely new ways to succeed. We all have an opportunity to be bigger and better than we have been before. It is not easy. It is not fun. But we have the ability to make 2015 the year we say no more complaining, and raising ideas that we share with our communities for decades to come.”

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.