

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, November 12, 2015
Special Meeting

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the hearing to order at 5:30 p.m. City Manager Carlos Gunby offered the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Janakovic, Mr. Johncola, Mr. Mickel, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Vizza (6).

BILL NO. 18 OF 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, TITLE FOUR,
CHAPTER 882, LOCAL SERVICE TAX, WITH RESPECT TO
ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL RATE FOR LOCAL SERVICE TAX AND
THE EXEMPTIONS THERETO PURSUANT TO ACT 199 OF 2014
WHICH PROVIDES A HIGHER RATE OF LOCAL SERVICE TAX FOR
THOSE COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE
DISTRESSED UNDER ACT 47.

Mayor Janakovic noted that any person who works in the City that earns under \$21,000 will be exempt from this LST tax.

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

Mr. Mickel reminded everyone that a lot of new equipment was placed into service this year and there was an increased cost of paying for that equipment. He stated that everybody gets police and fire protection regardless and that the new equipment is being used to maintain roads in and out of the City.

Mr. Johncola noted Council is not "insensitive". But he reminded everyone that years back the City was on the verge of bankruptcy and if it were to go into bankruptcy, "there will be no City". He stated if the State recovery team comes in and takes the City, that will be the end of Johnstown. He asked everyone to try to look at what is done and urged everyone to do what we have to do to build the City back up to what it once was.

Mrs. Mock noted that Mr. Gunby and those in finance reviewed the budget early on stating that the option to raise the LST was not taken lightly. There are pensions that have to be funded, increases in expenses and increases in hospitalizations that have to be paid. And to sit there and insinuate that

Council did this because it was the easiest thing to do "is the dumbest thing I ever heard".

Mr. Vitovich stated that he and Mr. Johncola worked for the City back when it was placed in distress status. He stated he saw Act 47 "come in and promise us everything in the world and took everything off of us."

Mayor Janakovic stated as the Mayor and a citizen of the City of Johnstown, he is "damn proud to be a citizen of Johnstown". He challenged everyone to attend the Vision 2025 meeting on Monday to offer their help "no matter how big or small".

The motion was passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.