

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. City Manager Carlos Gunby offered the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Janakovic noted that an Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting with regard to personnel issues.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

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

Absent: Mr. Johncola (1).

Mayor Janakovic noted Mr. Johncola was absent due to health reasons.

City Solicitor, Brendan Moran, and City Manager, Carlos Gunby were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2015, February 4, 2015, and February 11, 2015 meetings. Council discussed corrections to the Minutes of February 11, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickel and passed by the following vote:

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

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, Johnstown, addressed Council with regard to behavior exhibited at the previous Council meeting when Councilman Mickel made a motion to remove the 138 Cooper Avenue zoning issue from table. She referred to the discussion that followed with regard to tabling the motion and questioned his motive. She noted one Councilmember had given a "stare and daggers" look to Mr. Mickel, which was witnessed by others present and captured on camera. She called this a "sad display of professionalism by our City leaders and an embarrassment for the City." She stated she had no idea a workshop was conducted regarding code enforcement.

Ms. Stanton still questioned the fairness of pressure testing mandated for the sale of properties. She referred to renovated properties in Prospect purchased a year ago, which to the best of her knowledge are not compliant with the sewage ordinance. She stated all ordinances need to be enforced and it is not fair "to pick and choose."

She urged Council members to view the last meeting to see the "staring daggers episode." She asked Council to strive to improve their behaviors.

REPORT BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Carlos Gunby congratulated Bethany Peracchino, the new Finance Director. He provided a brief history of her educational and professional background.

Mr. Gunby reported that on February 18, 2015, he and Melissa Komar met with the Moxham Renaissance. He provided an overview of the Moxham Citizens Action Project (MCAP), which gathers information with regard to pictures, code violations, disruptive activities, and other shared information such as blight. Mr. Gunby looks forward to a continued relationship with MCAP and requested that a Council representative participate in their upcoming meetings.

Mr. Gunby referred Council to a packet with regard to the Prospect Baseball League. Mr. Gunby discussed attending a Butler game and the possibility of a franchise in 2016.

Mr. Gunby reported the Eastcoast Baseball League is requesting a home site series at the Point Stadium this summer. He noted a schedule will need to be worked out so there is no conflict with the AAABA schedule.

Mr. Gunby reported that a public forum will be held on March 5, 2015, at Council Chambers regarding proposed changes to the special events application as well as the vendor and peddler licenses.

Mr. Gunby reported a State of the City address will be held on March 19, 2015. The final details will be forthcoming. Mrs. Mock suggested that the event be videotaped and placed on the website for the public.

Mr. Gunby reported that he and Mayor Janakovic provided a presentation to the John B. Gunter Leadership Group at the Cambria Rowe Business College in Richland. Mr. Gunby discussed learning of the public's perception of downtown Johnstown. He and the Mayor enlightened those in attendance and

suggested continued presentations to provide foot traffic for people to witness what downtown Johnstown is all about.

REPORT BY MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported that a few of the Altoona Curve players have committed to conducting a workshop this spring, which will be open to children at the Point Stadium. He will provide a date in the future.

Mayor Janakovic reported that he and a few Councilmembers attended the State of the County presentation by the Cambria County Commissioners. He noted the County and City are working "real well" together.

The Mayor and a few Councilmembers attended the Creator Square presentation. He explained the goal of the group is to bring small businesses, entrepreneurs, creators, and artisans into the downtown area.

Mayor Janakovic also attended a ceremony at the Cambria County War Memorial honoring Sergeant Michael Strank from Franklin. He encouraged others to view the film.

With regard to Lift Johnstown, the Mayor reported that over \$14 million in grants were received for a variety of projects in the Johnstown area over the last two years, which does not include the Hickory Street Bridge project and the road projects, for a total of approximately \$20 million to the City. Some of these include projects through the Community Foundation, DCED, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Defense, R.K. Mellon Commission, and PHMC. Mayor Janakovic commented, "This was a lot of hard work with a lot of people working together towards one mission."

The Mayor reported that Discover Downtown will make an announcement on Friday, February 27, 2015, at noon with regard to activities in the park for the holidays. Also on Saturday, February 28, 2015, from 9:00 to noon, approximately 25 to 35 UPJ students will be volunteering their time to clean City Hall.

Mayor Janakovic encouraged all groups to attend workshops.

REPORT BY THE CITY SOLICITOR

Brendan Moran, Esquire, an attorney with the Andrews and Beard law firm, introduced himself to Council. He noted his attendance at the meeting due to Mr. Andrews attending negotiations in Kansas.

Mr. Moran reported on drones being flown in the Roxbury Park area. He noted the applicable laws on drones are unregulated. Currently, there are two bills pending in the State legislature regarding drones. He stated the FAA has some regulations, but only one municipality currently has any laws on the books regarding drone usage. He offered to review the matter further.

REPORT BY THE CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Steve Sewalk distributed a copy of his report to all members. He reported on construction in the Oakhurst area and the Woodvale/Prospect area. Mr. Sewalk stated letters have been sent out with regard to the lateral connection issue.

Mr. Sewalk noted his attendance at a public meeting in Moxham with regard to the lateral connection issue. He stated letters will be sent in that area within the next month. Mr. Sewalk noted the Moxham project will hopefully commence in June. He noted that construction will commence on the Morrellville project in late 2015, early 2016. A schedule is posted on the website.

Mr. Sewalk reported that downspout violation enforcement is still being conducted and also work will be done on the parking garage. Mr. Sewalk answered questions from Council.

REPORT OF POLICE CHIEF

Chief Craig Foust reported that the four new officers are now working independently. He reported Officer Mike Kanuch has accepted a position with the Attorney General's Office.

REPORT OF FIRE CHIEF

Chief Anthony Kovacic reported the Johnstown Firefighters will soon start the smoke detector campaign. He reported that ACRP received a FEMA grant with

regard to the installation of smoke detectors. Chief Kovacic noted a few carbon monoxide detectors will be available as well.

The Chief reported that the Salvation Army has established a warming center for the homeless.

REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Renee Daly, Economic Development Director, reported the Roxbury Place application has been submitted. She reported the Roxbury Place was featured when the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission did training with regard to historical and archaeological digs. Ms. Daly noted that any building that is 50 years or older or located in a historical district has to meet or exceed expectations from PHMC with regard to demolition.

Ms. Daly referred to a business checklist which she will finalize and submit to Council for review. Ms. Daly stated that contact information will be provided in the letter to the Hornerstown residents regarding funds available with regard to the lateral sewer project. She noted that \$133,000 is available for property owners. She summarized the conditions that need to be met with regard to funding.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mayor Janakovic commended Mr. Sprincz and the Public Works crew for keeping the roads and sidewalks cleared. Mr. Gunby advised that the City as well as other communities is currently out of salt and supplies.

Darby Sprincz, Public Works Director, responded to a question by Mr. Vizza with regard to Conway Court and Gray Avenue. He noted the City is responsible for both roads. Mr. Vizza also commended Mr. Sprincz and his staff.

REPORT OF PRIOR YEARS AUDIT FINDINGS

No Report.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Mickel reported the Roxbury Civic Group recognized 18 donors at a meeting for the camera project. Mr. Mickel also reported on coordinating with the John B. Gunter leadership group regarding the community service projects at Roxbury Park. Mr. Mickel reported that work has begun on preliminary work for fundraising projects for the year.

Mr. Gentile commended Mr. Sprincz and his staff for keeping the equipment "on the road." Mr. Gentile noted there are currently two dump trucks and four one-ton trucks.

Mrs. Mock noted previous budget item discussions with Mr. Gunby. She has also contacted the Cambria County Court's adult probation program and the Somerset County Prison with regard to neighborhood cleanups at no expense to anyone.

Mayor Janakovic also noted the residents at the halfway house on Washington Street also do a great job shoveling snow and helping out.

Mr. Vizza noted that he and Mr. Johncola would like to report that through efforts by Mr. Sprincz and the City Pony League, there will be four pony league teams and seven colt league teams. Mayor Janakovic read that the Junior League will now have five sponsors, with a possibility of six. He noted the Martellas are interested in helping at Roxbury Park

Mr. Vitovich commended Mr. Sprincz and his staff.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Standard and Poor's Rating Services, Johnstown, PA, general obligation.
2. Communication from the Prospect League Baseball.
3. Communication from the East Coast Baseball League.
4. Code complaints from Charlene Stanton.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

1. BILL NO. 30, VACATING THERESA PLACE BETWEEN JACKSON STREET AND FEEDER STREET IN JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 9734

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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

Mr. Summits explained that the resolution is with regard to the Access Rehab Program in conjunction with homeowner rehab programs. He noted receipt of \$75,000 in 2012 and stated the need to reapply to continue that program.

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

Nays: None (0).

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gunby discussed the receipt of confirmation that the Westmoreland County Land Bank made its first sale from the Land Bank. He stated there is hope that the Land Bank and Land Bank Authority can work in municipalities within the State of Pennsylvania. He will forward an ordinance that was sent to the Solicitor's Office for adoption of the City of Johnstown Land Bank Ordinance.

Mr. Gunby stated there will be a map showing the number of properties within the City that are involved.

Mr. Gunby stated it is not feasible for homeowners who are interested in purchasing land or lots next to such blighted properties. He stated the Land Bank helps resolve this problem.

Mr. Mickel referred to John DiBartola's remarks at the previous Council meeting with regard to an upcoming teen prom/awards event on May 2nd, 2015, at the Holiday Inn. He noted that among the awards is Dancer of the Year and Entertainer of the Year, the nominees for which are mostly strippers and exotic dancers. Mr. Mickel remarked that in his opinion he did not think stripper awards and drinking should be part of a prom and suggested that the City should not be endorsing this event or present any proclamation at the event on behalf of the City.

Mayor Janakovic responded that he will utilize legal discretion as well as his own discretion as to whether or not it is appropriate to attend and offer a separate proclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gunby noted that based on conversation in Executive Session the Wage and Salary Ordinance amendment will be reviewed at a later time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.