

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEARING

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RE: BILL 35 OF 2018-2019 BUDGET
ORDINANCE

BILL 36 OF 2018-2019 WAGE AND
SALARY ORDINANCE

* * * * *

BEFORE: Frank Janakovic, Mayor
Ricky Britt, Member
Rev. Sylvia King, Member
Marie Mock, Member
Charlene Stanton, Member
David Vitovich, Member
Jack Williams, Member

MEETING: Wednesday, January 16, 2019
5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Public Safety Building
401 Washington Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

Reporter: Michael G. Sargent

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ELIZABETH A. BENJAMIN, ESQUIRE

CARL P. BEARD, ESQUIRE

Beard Legal Group

3366 Lynnwood Drive

P.O. Box 1311

Altoona, PA 16603

Solicitor for City of Johnstown

ALSO PRESENT: Nancy Cushing, City Clerk

George Hayfield, City Manager, Robert

Ritter, Finance Director, Jonathan

Rosenthal, Economic Development

Director

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DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES 4 - 16

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

I'd like to call to order the public hearing for this evening. If you would, Solicitor?

ATTORNEY BENJAMIN:

Yes. This public hearing is being convened for purposes of accepting public comment on the City of Johnstown's 2019 Budget Ordinance and the 2019 Wage and Salary Ordinance, with the Budget Ordinance having been identified as Bill 35 of 2018 as amended and the Wage and Salary Ordinance being identified as Bill 36 of 2018 as amended.

We'll note for the record that the public notice of this hearing was duly advertised on January 5th, 2019 and published within the Tribune Democrat. And the purpose of the hearing is for the acceptance of public comment and input on the budget which has been posted for inspection

1 in compliance with the City's Home
2 Rule Charter.

3 And at this time, we can
4 now accept any public comments that
5 would be offered.

6 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

7 Has anyone signed up
8 besides you, Mr. Williams?

9 MR. WILLIAMS:

10 A Mr. Stonerook, I guess
11 that's for a meeting?

12 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

13 He's not here? All
14 right. That must be for the meeting
15 then.

16 So if you would, name
17 and address for the stenographer?

18 MR. WILLIAMS:

19 Jack Williams 360
20 Corrine Street, Johnstown, 15906.

21 Are you ready?

22 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

23 Yes.

24 MR. WILLIAMS:

25 Okay. Maybe the third

1 time's the charm. This is the third
2 public hearing. I talked with Ms.
3 Benjamin earlier today, we still have
4 problems with this budget.

5 All right?

6 And the handout I made
7 dated the 16th for Bill 35, and I
8 pointed them out. Okay.

9 We talked about the
10 OPEB, okay, at the last meeting. This
11 is --- the current year, this is what
12 was required by the Recovery Plan to
13 put \$50,000 per year in the unfunded
14 portion. Mr. Ritter was going to be
15 in touch with Recovery Coordinator
16 since the Manager wasn't here. I've
17 received no update. And that \$50,000
18 is still not in the budget.

19 The other --- in the
20 general fund, we have --- you have
21 your budgets, line item 700 is sewer
22 reimbursement, okay, and there's a
23 line item in there, 01475 and 0192500
24 liability/audit/legal, \$100,000. This
25 is improper, okay. That needs to be

1 broken down into line items for
2 liability, audit, legal. And that's
3 in the provisions of the Home Rule
4 Charter, Section 11.20-1005, and
5 included in the April 18th Court Order
6 stipulation that the City will adhere
7 to the Home Rule Charter.

8 In that memo, you'll see
9 where I cited that section of the Home
10 Rule Charter, but I also gave you
11 pages from the Home Rule Charter.

12 The one that just caught
13 me off guard now is Fund 22, culture
14 recreation Point Stadium.

15 All right?

16 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

17 What number?

18 MS. MOCK:

19 What number?

20 MR. WILLIAMS:

21 Fund 22. Ms. Mock, do
22 you have that?

23 MRS. MOCK:

24 Do you have a line item
25 number?

1 MRS. STANTON:

2 Number ten.

3 MR. WILLIAMS:

4 It's two pages, it would
5 be page --- exhibit K, page one and
6 two.

7 MRS. STANTON:

8 Number ten.

9 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

10 I'm not seeing it. I
11 don't see --- number ten?

12 MR. WILLIAMS:

13 I'm sorry?

14 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

15 I see number ten on the
16 front page.

17 MR. WILLIAMS:

18 Look at the first two
19 digits on the line item for 22.

20 MRS. STANTON:

21 22 and 315.

22 MRS. MOCK:

23 Line number 22?

24 MR. WILLIAMS:

25 I'm sorry?

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MRS. MOCK:

Line number 22?

MRS. STANTON:

Line number ten.

MR. WILLIAMS:

No, no, account numbers,
okay?

MRS. STANTON:

Account number 22. ---.

MR. WILLIAMS:

It's in the shortly's,
Ms. Mock.

MS. MOCK:

It's in the one?

MR. WILLIAMS:

The shortly's are in the
general fund.

MS. MOCK:

I don't know ---.

MR. WILLIAMS:

You don't have them?

MRS. MOCK:

No.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Okay. It is this, all

1 right? Ms. Benjamin, do you have
2 yours?

3 ATTORNEY BENJAMIN:

4 I have --- yes. Are you
5 looking at the general fund or
6 the ---?

7 MR. WILLIAMS:

8 Recreation, all right,
9 22, the 22 fund.

10 MR. BRITT:

11 I don't have one either.

12 MR. WILLIAMS:

13 Do you want me to bring
14 this up there for you to look at? I
15 can read from my ---.

16 MRS. MOCK:

17 No, go ahead.

18 MRS. STANTON:

19 I got mine, Mr.
20 Williams. I can pass it down for
21 whoever wants to see it. But just
22 please give it back.

23 MR. WILLIAMS:

24 On line ten, if you have
25 it, Ms. Benjamin, do you see that

1 where it says recreation grant for
2 Roxbury, \$225,000. Okay? That has no
3 business being in the Point Stadium
4 account, that belongs in capital.

5 All right?

6 If you flip the page
7 over, now you're on the expenditure
8 side, line 40, recreation Roxbury,
9 City match, \$31,000. See that?

10 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

11 Uh-huh (yes).

12 MR. WILLIAMS:

13 Going down --- if you go
14 on down further, okay, I think most of
15 us are aware that the Point Stadium is
16 being subsidized by the general fund
17 because it has not generated enough
18 revenue.

19 All right?

20 The other thing that
21 this budget does not include --- back
22 to page one, turf management fees,
23 zero, all right? Point Stadium
24 advertising, all right, zero, all
25 right? Now we have the Sargent's,

1 okay, which if you look at your
2 December 2018 monthly financial
3 report, it shows an \$800 payment
4 through December.

5 Point being if you look
6 at those ones that have --- it's
7 recreation. For some ungodly reason
8 the administration put Roxbury grant
9 and expenses into fund 22. And I'll
10 give you an example of why it's
11 capital, Mrs. Mock, you'd be aware of
12 this, when the Oakhurst Playground was
13 done, do you recall what your net was?

14 MRS. MOCK:

15 No.

16 MR. WILLIAMS:

17 Well, anyhow, if you
18 look at the capital at that time,
19 those grants --- there was two grants
20 that went into capital and the
21 expenditures came into capital.

22 This thing here, the 225
23 coming is a grant at the end of the
24 year. And then the City's match at
25 \$31,000 is further putting the Point

1 Stadium in deficit balance.

2 All right.

3 So again, this needs to
4 be amended to put that into capital
5 and find a \$31,000 match from some
6 other place in the budget, not the
7 fund 22, someplace in the general fund
8 to meet that match.

9 Are there any questions
10 on that? I know there's a resolution
11 on tonight for awarding the contract
12 to --- for that. And until this
13 budget is adopted properly, that
14 resolution should be tabled.

15 ATTORNEY BENJAMIN:

16 Which resolution, Mr.
17 Williams?

18 MR. WILLIAMS:

19 I'm sorry?

20 ATTORNEY BENJAMIN:

21 Which resolution are you
22 talking about?

23 MR. WILLIAMS:

24 The resolution
25 authorizing the execution of a

1 contract with --- I forget what the
2 company is ---

3 REVEREND KING:

4 Straw.

5 MR. WILLIAMS:

6 --- Straw.

7 MRS. STANTON:

8 Resolution Seven.

9 MR. WILLIAMS:

10 And again, I don't ---
11 I'm going to ask the question, but we
12 already know the answer, the 2019
13 budget, okay, has in excess of 1,612
14 line items, all right, revenue and
15 expenditures. Like an idiot I am,
16 I've been through every one of them as
17 of last night.

18 These are not my
19 figures, it's what's been presented,
20 okay, and as I said, I want to see a
21 budget adopted --- I wanted to see it
22 adopted by December 31st. That didn't
23 happen. So we may be in a positon to
24 do it tonight. I'm of the opinion it
25 can't happen until this is corrected.

1 With that, I'll close.
2 I'll have some other comments at the
3 meeting.

4 Thank you.

5 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

6 Anyone else for public
7 comment?

8 MR. DEBARTOLA:

9 On the budget --- do I
10 have ---?

11 ATTORNEY BENJAMIN:

12 Since this is a public
13 hearing, only Bill 35 and Bill 36 of
14 2018.

15 MR. DEBARTOLA:

16 It's my understanding
17 Bill 35 estimating the amount of
18 revenues to be received by the City of
19 Johnstown from various sources. I
20 think my argument would be that the
21 City is not utilizing the resources we
22 have.

23 I have spoken before
24 about breaking the Convention Center
25 contract. We are not making money off

1 of the Convention Center.

2 I believe that's
3 something that City Council has to
4 begin looking into, ways that we can
5 actually make money off of our
6 resources. If that means we take
7 legal action and break the contract so
8 it's not so lopsided, that would be a
9 recommendation to the City Council
10 members.

11 Thank you so much.

12 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

13 Anyone else on Council?
14 George, do you have anything you'd
15 like to speak to in regard to the
16 budget?

17 MR. HAYFIELD:

18 No.

19 MAYOR JANAKOVIC:

20 All right.

21 If not, we'll recess
22 until 6:00 for our regularly scheduled
23 meeting.

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25 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 5:45 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

Dated the 1st day of February, 2019



Michael G. Sargent

Certified Verbatim Reporter