

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 24, 2019

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business.

Mayor Frank Janakovic called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m. Reverend Sylvia King offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (4).

Absent: Mr. Britt, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Stanton (3)

George Hayfield, City Manager; Jared Campagna, Public Works Director; Melissa Komar, Executive Director JRA; Brandon Palmer; Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Steve Sewalk, EADS Group; Dan Beyer, EADS Group, were also present.

Mayor Janakovic stated the purpose of the workshop was to review the sewer project.

Steve Sewalk, EADS Group, presented a diagram indicating where construction has been completed. He stated the pipework in Kernville was about 20 percent complete and should be finished in the fall. He had discussion with regard to the status of the 10 PennVEST loans most of which are 20-year loans. Payments per month are \$396,000 and revenue each month was \$600,000. Mr. Hayfield stated any excess revenue was being applied towards sewer related projects such as paving.

Mr. Sewalk noted the Ohio Street paving was paid by JRA.

Mr. Hayfield clarified that \$400,000 per month towards loan payments, \$200,00 multiplied by 12 or \$2.4 million was left over after loan payments. And that out of that \$2.4 million, \$1.5 million will be paving expense with approximately \$900,000 left over. Mrs. Mock requested a copy of those figures in writing.

Reverend King suggested that the City offer to relocate rather than digging up certain streets in Kernville. It was noted that PennVEST money does not allow for purchase of properties. Mr. Hayfield noted that UDAG funding would be available for that. There was further discussion regarding monies available for that type of use. The City Manager will have further discussion with Ms. Benjamin regarding the matter.

Mr. Sewalk stated Fairfield Avenue Project was a combined JRA/City Project. He noted that a 100 percent grant or \$5.2 million was received. The project would be bid out in August with a starting date sometime in March of 2020.

Mrs. Komar noted that Section 313 Funds in the amount of \$2.1 million were received from the Army Corps and further noted the Stackhouse Project may be included in the Brownfield funding. She noted that prior to the commencement of tonight's meeting she received word that 1889 would be matching the \$150,000 in demo received from the Community Foundation last week. Mrs. Komar noted the project would include demolition work on Fairfield Avenue and Strayer Street. There was discussion regarding the traffic pattern during the project.

Mr. Sewalk explained that storm sewer and the sanitary sewer along the JRA interceptor coming down Fairfield Avenue are in the same manhole with a brick wall between them. He noted JRA would be responsible for the majority of the paving on Fairfield.

Mr. Sewalk stated that a 65 percent grant has been received for Old Conemaugh Borough section of the City. He referred to the consent order for further discussion of the permit. There was discussion regarding the number of projects going on at the same time around the City.

Mr. Sewalk noted the Old Conemaugh Borough project could be pushed back until February of 2020.

Mr. Sewalk commented that the flow requirement for Ferndale Borough was supposed to be 400 gallons a minute, that currently it's at 600 or 700 gallons a minute on rainfall but used to be 2500 gallons a minute. Mr. Sewalk noted Ferndale was approximately 43 percent pressure tested.

Mrs. Mock noted that the City needs to get residents "on track" with sewer compliance. There was discussion regarding the time frames and letters for different parts of the City concerning the sewer project. There was further discussion regarding the City's flow monitoring project.

Mrs. Komar reported that out of 711 loan applications, 322 were completed and 71 are active. There was further discussion regarding the monitoring process and the Plainfield Avenue area that is still connected leaving 10 homes that need to be taken off of that system. Mr. Sewalk also noted there are two or three homes on Wertz Road putting over 150 gallons a minute into the system during a rain storm.

Mr. Sewalk stated the preliminary designs are completed and the Part II permit was submitted with regard to the Central Business District. Reverend King suggested a meeting be held with business owners regarding the different

phases of the sewage project. Mr. Sewalk indicated that the dates for commencement of the sewer project in Conemaugh Borough and the Central Business District will be changed and PennDOT will be notified of same.

There was discussion regarding a planned addition to Conemaugh Hospital and the Main Street businesses with basements underneath the sidewalk. Mr. Sewalk noted the City's lines are 75 to 100 years old.

Mr. Sewalk referred Council members to financial information for further discussion. He stated \$107 million was the total cost of the project; \$92 million was collected from PennVEST; and \$45 million was received in grants, with a loan balance of approximately \$60 million. He noted \$18 million as the cost of paving.

There was discussion regarding a wall that fell into a channel in Moxham. Mr. Palmer noted that due to the unacceptable rating of the flood channel, the project was not covered under the Army Corps of Engineer's program. There was discussion with regard to the City's obligation to the homeowner in such a situation. Mr. Hayfield will discuss the matter with the fire department.

Mrs. Mock suggested an agreement be drawn up with the contractor for demolition of the burned-out building on Fairfield Avenue. Mr. Hayfield will check on the matter.

It was noted that Roxbury Phase I received \$225,000 for improvements to the softball and baseball fields and storm water drainage in other areas of the park. The project was awarded to Straw Construction which would commence right after the AAABA in August. The Roxbury Civic Group donated \$5,000 towards the backstops.

Roxbury Phase II would include new playground equipment and surface. A grant was not awarded but a state grant application in the amount of up to \$250,000 with a 15 percent match could be applied for. A separate grant for sidewalk repair could also be applied for. Council members were referred to the proposed layout for further discussion of playground equipment costs. Mr. Hayfield commented that an inspection by the insurance company revealed no safety issues with the playground equipment at Roxbury Park. There was discussion regarding just replacing what equipment was necessary and then using the balance of the money elsewhere at the park.

Mr. Campagna noted that the ADA curbing and sewer lid raising in the Cambria City section was being paid for by the State from the Stone Bridge to Fourth Avenue.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
Stated Meeting, continued

4 of 4

There was discussion regarding the new State Farm Insurance building project near the Pasquerilla Conference Center. Mr. Vitovich noted the building would consist of an insurance business and coffee shop.

Mr. Vitovich commended Mr. Campagna on the great job he and his crew are doing in the Public Works Department.

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 6:45 p.m.