

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Britt offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Reverend King requested a moment of silence for Collin and Feya Ferguson, the children who lost their lives in the recent fire in Moxham.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich (6).
Absent: Mr. Capriotti (1) due to work.

Daniel Penatzer, Interim City Manager; Alex Ashcom, Assistant City Manager;
Robert Ritter, Finance Director; Richard Pritchard, Police Chief; Bruce
Graham, Gibson-Thomas Engineering; Jared Campagna, Public Works
Director; Robert Statler, Fire Chief; John Dubnansky, Economic Development
Director; and Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, were present.

Tony Penna, Recreation Director; Eric Miller, firefighter; Joel Valentine and
Kathleen Valentine, Wessel and Co, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 12,
2021, Public Hearing Minutes of June 9, 2021; Regular Meeting Minutes of June
9, 2021; and Workshop Minutes of June 16, 2021. The motion was seconded by
Mr. Arnone and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King,
Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (6).
Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, addressed Council regarding the DEP resolution on
the agenda and chickens. She stated, while Council is harboring chickens, it is

considering a \$20,000 donation to Vision 2025. She suggested the money could be better used for grass, weed cutting and rat extermination rather than as a donation.

Ms. Stanton commented that the DEP resolution refers to interstate violations being issued in Pennsylvania and Ohio with regard to the demolition of the Conrad Building. She indicated that environmental concerns led her to file a complaint with the DEP which subsequently investigated the matter and issued notices of violations and civil penalties. Ms. Stanton also noted she had filed a complaint with the Ohio EPA which resulted in the issuance of notices of violations and a warning letter. She suggested a motion to have Steel Valley Contractors and CSI Construction debarred or suspended from City contracts.

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, addressed Council regarding numerous items on the agenda. He stated the encouragement of Mayor Janakovic to allow City residents to vote to allow a new City manager to live outside the City while giving a \$20,000 donation to a failing program Vision 2025 as outrageous.

Reverend King noted that Mr. DeBartola is also running for Mayor of Johnstown and it was inappropriate for him to be personally attacking Mayor Janakovic. Mr. Penatzer noted nothing wrong with prefacing comments with City Council but that he cannot address an individual member.

Mr. DeBartola commented that Council should be encouraging people to live in the City. He was concerned that Council would be using a half million of taxpayer money from the American Rescue Plan to offset years worth of budget shortfalls, reiterated that the City Manager should live and work in the City, talked about the DEP resolution, the asbestos issue, regulations, the \$10,000 study for Sargent's Stadium, Summit Arena and the State Theatre.

Lonnie Rietscha, Coopersdale, commented that his understanding of the livestock fowl ordinance is that it is an amendment to the current nuisance law and would not outlaw owning chickens specifically. He has owned 15 chickens since 2004 and also owns honeybees and asked that any issues with him owning these be justly addressed.

Lindy Yutzy, 160 Barron Avenue, Johnstown, addressed Council in opposition to the anti-fowl ordinance. She had concerns regarding the rat problem in her area and is looking to Council for guidance.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Penatzer introduced and welcomed Alex Ashcom as the new Assistant City Manager who will formally start on August 2, 2021.

Eric Miller and several firemen from the Johnstown Fire Department were present to update Council on the Johnstown Firefighters Memorial Park.

Mr. Miller noted that with the assistance of Representative Rigby, Governor Wolf signed a bill that will change the name of the Franklin Street Bridge to the Johnstown Firefighters Memorial Bridge. The bridge would be painted "interstate orange", the same color as the Golden Gate Bridge. He noted the park next to the bridge at Vine and Franklin will be maintained by the Johnstown Fire Department. Up Street Architects will furnish plans for the project and the Center for Metal Arts will provide a sculpture for the fallen firefighters. Vision 2025 and Mr. Dubnansky will help to provide funding for the project which is scheduled for completion by the end of next year. Letters will be sent out to the community regarding the matter.

On behalf of the firefighters union and the Fire Chief, Mr. Miller thanked Council for negotiating a contract.

Joel Valentine and Kathleen Valentine, Wessel and Company, provided information regarding the 2020 Audit. Mr. Valentine noted this to be "the best financial position the City's been in in a very long time". He stated an unmodified opinion on the financial statements were not quite finalized but would have no effect on the numbers presented today.

Mr. Valentine referred Council members to the financial statement for further discussion of the City's assets, police, fire and nonuniformed employees pensions. Mrs. Valentine noted that in 2020 the City had a surplus of \$1.8 million marking the fifth year in a row that the City has ended up in the "black". There was further detailed discussion of the audit.

Mr. Penatzer noted that while performing sewer replacement projects on Fairfield Avenue the GJWA discovered significant problems with an existing storm water line found to be in terrible condition and is undermining the street. He stated the line located in the middle of the road needs to be replaced prior to the street being resurfaced at a cost of \$1 million to \$1.1 million and would be eligible for the Rescue Funding.

Mr. Penatzer commented that GJWA is willing to transfer approximately \$200,000 from the sanitary sewer project toward the cost of this repair. Gibson Thomas will provide a proposal for the design of the work and the GJWA will

issue a change order to their contractor. A formal agreement between the City and GJWA will be forthcoming. There was further discussion.

Mr. Graham offered further explanation of the cost and materials involved in the project. Mr. Penatzer suggested that the City take advantage at this time of the \$200,000 from the GJWA, that the area is already excavated. JRA will do restoration and paving.

Mr. Penatzer discussed concerns submitted with regard to the condition of the Main Street Parking Garage. He stated EADS had inspected the premises in January of 2021 and, after reviewing the information, was satisfied there were no structural concerns but recommended some cleaning and painting of the steel. A proposal to do a cost estimate of the project in the amount of approximately \$3,000 was suggested.

MAYOR:

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported his attendance at the Cambria County Military Hall of Fame Induction of five inductees, two of which were posthumously.

The Mayor noted his attendance along with Mr. Penatzer and Mr. Dubnansky at the Vision Together 2025 Board Meeting.

He congratulated the Convention Bureau for a successful Thunder in the Valley.

He noted that the RAISE Grant was recently submitted in the amount of \$24.448 million for the train station intermodal bus station, Inclined Plane and Main Street and urban connectivity trails. Bipartisan support letters were received from Governor Wolf, Senators Casey and Toomey, Representatives John Joyce and G.T. Thompson.

Mr. Janakovic commented that funding for four additional employees to cut grass was provided but that only two remain.

The Mayor indicated that \$19 million of the \$24 million received from the sewer sale went to fund the pension fund.

Mr. Janakovic mentioned that Mr. Rietscha's first chicken coop was a 4-H project.

CITY SOLICITOR

Elizabeth Benjamin, Esquire, City Solicitor, stated amendments to Bill No. 6 of 2021 had been prepared and included in the packet. She summarized that the amendments correct some typographical errors, add further plain language explanation to each amendment, addresses the City Manager question and adds further clarity to the Home Rule Charter.

Ms. Benjamin explained that two different versions of the amendments are included in the packet but that Council would need to choose which one to move forward with, make a motion to amend and make a motion to adopt as amended. That it will then be referred to the county to be included on the ballot for referendum.

CITY ENGINEER

Bruce Graham, Gibson-Thomas Engineering, spoke previously regarding an existing storm water line that would need repaired on Fairfield Avenue.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mr. Britt recognized the First Responders, Police, and Fire companies for their efforts during Thunder in the Valley.

He talked about a painting project on Main Street.

Mr. Arnone noted that sewer work continues in the Central Business District and Old Conemaugh Borough. He indicated that there were 45 successful pressure testings completed in the month of June. 50 percent of the structures in the City are now in compliance.

Cross reference of the building data and the sewage GIS mapping has commenced and is to accurately identify correct number of dwellings, EDUs in the GIS system.

Year to date GJWA has removed 70 lead services, disconnected over 30 abandoned services and within the past ten years has replaced nearly 2,000 lead services.

Mr. Arnone indicated that the GJWA has completed a scientific comprehensive analysis comparing Authority water to bottled water and findings would be available next month.

As Council's representative on the Johnstown Housing Authority, he provided an update on statistic information related to the population of the public housing

communities located within the City of Johnstown. He stated, as of June 30, 2021, the total population of the public housing communities as 2,671, Section Eight voucher holders totaling 867. Forty-seven (47) of the people living in poverty are being assisted.

Mr. Arnone indicated that three scholarships will be awarded this year, and one public housing resident and two residents of Section Eight housing will be chosen. Community rooms have been reopened for activities.

He noted a meeting with the Chief and two captains regarding better security and improved relationships. He will provide a detailed report at next month's meeting.

Sheridan Street will be addressed, the stone will be removed and eventually paved.

Mr. Vitovich reported that Public Works set up and tore down for Thunder in the Valley, weeds were cut back in the gateways, and maintained baseball fields at Sargent's Stadium and Roxbury Park. Yard waste was also picked up.

There was discussion regarding whether steel spikes would ruin or destroy the new turf being installed at Sargent's Stadium. It was noted that turf shoes or soft spikes are recommended. Any worn out spots would be replaced per the ten-year warranty. Mr. Vitovich suggested that the use of steel spikes be banned. The manufacturer would be contacted regarding the matter.

Mrs. Mock reported the community gardens and flower boxes are doing well. Mini cleanups are being held in the West End.

She talked about an email that was sent regarding the pile of dirt in an alley in Old Conemaugh Borough that was placed by the owner so no one could get through while sewer work was being done. She questioned whether the conveyance of the alley to the owner was legal.

The City Manager noted that the tax map clearly showed that to be private property, there was no alley, and the abutting properties join each other. There was further discussion regarding the matter.

Mrs. Mock questioned the condition of the walls at Sam's Run should a major storm occur. It was noted there is no danger of collapse and a call had been placed to DEP with regard to the owner of the river wall.

Reverend King announced that the Community Foundation will be holding a Founder's Day celebration on August 11 at the Quemahoning Dam.

She noted the Cambria County Planning Commission met with the residents of Prospect regarding the safety of William Penn Avenue. A plan with PennDOT is in the works regarding that matter.

Mr. Campagna will ensure residents that the weeds don't grow out onto the highway in the location of the box homes that were demolished. A plan to make the area a nice entranceway into the City is being considered.

Reverend King reported that Mr. Campagna and Public Works will begin work on the Minersville Playground.

A Kernville cleanup is scheduled for this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and volunteers will meet at the GJWA parking lot.

Reverend King reminded all that there are multiple places to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and offered assistance to anyone who may need help in that regard.

Mayor Janakovic reminded everybody to support the upcoming AAABA event starting Monday, August 2.

COUNCIL UPDATES

1. Planning Commission Minutes of June 2, 2021.
2. Civil Service Board Minutes of May 17, 2021.
3. Civil Service Board Minutes of June 21, 2021.
4. Letter of June 30, 2021 from Cambria County Library.
5. Letter of July 8, 2021 from Flood City Youth Fitness Academy.

PETITIONS:

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ:

BILL NO. 6 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ADOPTED BY VOTERS ON MAY 18, 1993, MADE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 1994 AND AMENDED NOVEMBER 2ND, 2010 BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS PERTAINING TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER AND CERTAIN FINANCIAL PROVISIONS IN ORDER TO UPDATE CERTAIN

PROCEDURES FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPROVING AND ENSURING
EFFICIENCY IN THE CONDUCT OF CITY BUSINESS.

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

Ms. Benjamin explained that these proposed amendments reflect Council's discussion at the most recent workshop in June, and these amendments were distributed in the packets consisting of Draft 1 and Draft 2.

She explained that amendments to this bill consist of correction to minor typographical errors, the addition of a plain language explanation for each amendment, a reorder of the amendment to move the City Manager question to the end and within the City Manger question itself adjusting the language so that it references adoption of an ordinance as being the means by which Council would establish the parameters for any residency requirement for the City Manager.

Ms. Benjamin further explained that the difference between the two Drafts is whether it will say, to permit City Council to require the City Manager to be a resident of the City and to amend geographic area and timeframe for establishing such residency by ordinance or by Administrative Code.

Ms. Benjamin and Mr. Penatzer recommended that the change be done by ordinance. She suggested that Council discuss the matter now and a motion be made regarding the matter.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to amend Bill No. 6 in accordance with Draft 1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitovich and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone (6).

Nays: None (0).

Mayor Janakovic explained the matter has to go to referendum, and it was not Council's decision. Ultimately, it was the voter's decision whether this happens or not.

Mr. Vitovich made a motion to approve final document Bill No. 6 of 2021 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt and passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (6).

Nays: None (0).

BILL NO. 7 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4719 PASSED FINALLY APRIL 12, 1995 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 5062 PASSED FINALLY MARCH 24, 2010 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5225 PASSED FINALLY MARCH 8, 2017 TITLED: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PERSONNEL POLICY FOR ALL CITY OF JOHNSTOWN EMPLOYEES BY FURTHER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN BY FURTHER AMENDING THE ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN UPDATED PERSONNEL MANUAL TO INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE PERSONNEL ORDINANCE FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

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

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (6).

Nays: None (0)

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ:

BILL NO. 8 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ORDINANCE NO. 4964 ADOPTED APRIL 13, 2005 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5086 PASSED JUNE 22, 2011; ORDINANCE NO 5119 PASSED JANUARY 23, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5139 PASSED NOVEMBER 27, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5191 PASSED DECEMBER 9, 2015; ORDINANCE NO. 5256 PASSED JULY 11, 2018; ORDINANCE NO. 5309 PASSED JANUARY 13, 2021; AND ORDINANCE NO. 5314 PASSED JUNE 9, 2021 BY PROHIBITING PARKING IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL YARDS AND EXCLUDING CERTAIN TYPES OF BARRIERS FROM THE DEFINITION OF FENCE.

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

Mayor Janakovic was concerned that residents that have gravel or permanent things not be penalized. There was further discussion regarding the intention of the ordinance and whether or not to amend the language for the next reading.

Mr. Penatzer suggested that if any changes are made, that the ordinance should be put on next month for a first reading again.

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

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic (6).

Nays: None (0)

BILL NO. 9 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER 614 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TITLED "ANIMALS" BY PROHIBITING HARBORING OF LIVESTOCK OR FOWLS.

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

Mrs. Mock suggested that a method be established to ensure that residents who have chickens are in compliance.

Ms. Benjamin explained that the way the ordinance is written, that nobody can raise livestock or fowl unless special permission is granted by Council. She read the current ordinance into the record verbatim. Mayor Janakovic suggested that Codes grant the special permission and not Council. There was further discussion.

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

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King (6).

Nays: None (0)

Mrs. Mock noted for the record that something would have to be done if someone lives next door to a chicken coop that has a very unpleasant odor. It was noted that there would be follow up on that matter also.

BILL NO. 10 OF 2021, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, ORDINANCE NO. 4964, ADOPTED APRIL 13, 2005 AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5086 PASSED JUNE 22, 2011; ORDINANCE NO. 5119 PASSED JANUARY 23, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5139 PASSED NOVEMBER 27, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5191 PASSED DECEMBER 9, 2015; ORDINANCE NO.

5256 PASSED JULY 11, 2018; ORDINANCE NO. 5309 PASSED JANUARY 13, 2021; AND ORDINANCE NO. 5314 PASSED JUNE 9, 2021 BY AMENDING ARTICLE VII - SIGNS, AMENDING THE TYPES AND SIZES OF SIGNS PERMITTED IN THE VARIOUS ZONING DISTRICTS.

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

Mr. Dubnansky explained that the size limit is being increased on larger buildings, particularly industrial buildings. This change was made to be more reflective of what was acceptable for both the horizontal and vertical size of the building.

He further explained that language was added for those wanting to do projected displays for signage which is not currently reflected in the ordinance.

A final change would separate sections involving traditional neighborhood and historic overlay districts. There was further discussion regarding the signage changes.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (6).

Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 10434

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER AND/OR THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER CONRAD BUILDING LOCATED AT 303 FRANKLIN STREET IN JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

The City Manager explained this investigation was done by DEP. It was noted that Steel Valley Contractors accepted responsibility for the infraction and agreed to pay the entire fine.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King,
Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich (6).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10435

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF QUAKER SALES CORPORATION FOR MILLING AND PAVING OF HOPP AVENUE, OSBORNE STREET (FROM RAILROAD TRACKS TO FRANKLIN STREET) BARNETT STREET, VON LUNEN ROAD, 900 PLACE, THORN PLACE, CLEVELAND STREET, PORTION OF FREDRICK STREET (CENTRAL TO PARK) WESLEY ALLEY AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT AND TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SAME, FOR A TOTAL FEE OF \$743,425.00.

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

There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,
Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone (6).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10436

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH LOCHER DEMOLITION & EXCAVATING, LLC., SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$144,650.00 THROUGH THE CDBG STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PROGRAM TO

DEMOLISH SIXTEEN (16) STRUCTURES THROUGH THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

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

Mr. Arnone asked inspectors to make sure there was no debris left behind.
The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (6).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10437

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO STONE PLANNING, LLC FOR A STUDY OF ENTERTAINMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TO MAXIMIZE USAGE AT SARGENT'S STADIUM, 1ST SUMMIT ARENA AND THE STATE THEATRE.

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

There was further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich,
Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt (6).
Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10438

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING THE CAMBRIA COUNTY TREASURER AS REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ANY/ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF REAL ESTATE TAXES.

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

Mr. Penatzer explained there was no financial difference, but the county expressed an interest and it would be good practice to cooperate with them. He stated this was certainly not any reflection on Berkheimer, which will continue to be the tax collection agency for other taxes.

Ms. Benjamin explained this would be effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 and then renewed unless terminated.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone,
Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic (6).

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 10439

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO HALLSTROM-CLARK ELECTRIC, LLC. FOR LIGHTING AT SARGENT'S STADIUM.

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

Mr. Arnone reminded members that a City employee died trying to fix these lights and it had been that long since they had been repaired.

Mayor Janakovic thanked Mr. Campagna and Mr. Dubnansky for helping to get the price reduced with some negotiating. There was further discussion.

Mr. Dubnansky noted a new scoreboard had been installed, picnic tables and umbrellas are available, and shade covers will be forthcoming. A new press box was installed as well. He noted there would be discussion in September with regard to concerts at the stadium.

Mr. Campagna commented that a football press box at the 50-yard line is being considered. Scoreboard advertising will be implemented. New cameras will make the stadium more attractive.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,
Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King (6).
Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

1. American Rescue Plan Funding

Mr. Penatzer noted there is a limited list of projects that the funding could be used for, including replacement of lost revenue, economic stabilization for households and businesses, storm water improvements and tourism.

Mr. Dubnansky explained that a program of mini grants will be prepared to help provide money to residents for home repairs and weatherization projects. Mr. Penatzer suggested a simple program to distribute some of the funding to pay rent and buy food. Mr. Dubnansky noted that \$1.1 million was awarded to 41 businesses through the CARES Fund last year.

Mr. Penatzer recommended uses of funding could include repair of the Stackhouse Park retention pond, Sam's Run, the Fairfield Avenue project. He further suggested that among others, the Convention Center, 1st Summit Arena may be eligible for the funding.

Council will schedule public meetings once it learns what types of projects would be eligible for the funding.

2. Vision 2025 Contribution

It was noted this group has helped pushed the City forward and was suggested some of the funding be utilized to help Vision plan and implement key projects within the community. There would be further discussion regarding this at the next meeting.

3. Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Penatzer referred Council members to the plan for further discussion. He thanked Mr. Ritter and all department heads for helping to compile the report.

He explained that the Capital Plan is required to be submitted to Council three months prior to the budget presentation. He stated the 5-year plan outlines the amount of money that was expected to be spent each of those years on Capital projects. Mr. Penatzer offered further explanation of the plan. Members were advised to review the detailed plan.

4. Landbank

There was discussion whether the City should create its own land bank separate from the County. There was further discussion.

Mr. Penatzer recommended that an agreement for administering land banks be sought with the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority.

5. Fire Training Site

Mr. Penatzer commented that the property that the fire training site is located on had been sold, and a new site would need to be acquired. He noted that the Chief would like to acquire property from the County Conservation Authority and was seeking Council's approval to spend up to \$10,000 for a site.

There was discussion with regard to improvements next year to the exterior concrete work at the Fairfield Avenue Station as well as future interior improvements and concrete work and interior improvements at the Ash Street Station.

Replacement of the radio system, hose and gear, hydraulic rescue tools would also need to be considered as a general fund expenditure. The 2006 ladder would need to be refurbished in the future.

Mr. Penatzer suggested preservation work continue to be done at City Hall. He suggested that rehab work be done to the Washington Street Parking Lot and noted some major projects at the Pasquerilla Center.

6. United Way/Farmers' Market

Mr. Penatzer recommended an agreement between the City and United Way of the Laurel Highlands implementing a system for processing SNAP, EBT and debit cards.

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

Yeas: Mr. Vitovich, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic,
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock (6).

Nays: None (0).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONAGENDA ITEMS

Lindsey Brumback, 1301 Virginia Avenue, addressed concerns regarding a rat problem in her neighborhood. Ms. Brumback commented that her vegetable garden which supplies vegetables for her family was destroyed by the rats and all had to be uprooted. Ms. Brumback stated she had paid for professional pest control and that did not help. She commented that a more frequent trash pickup might be helpful.

She also mentioned that her boyfriend did apply for the position of grass cutter in the City but never received a call back. He would be willing to use his own equipment to cut grass in the neighborhood to help with the rodent problem.

Mr. Penatzer commented that the City will try to enforce the rule that residents only place garbage for pickup out the night before. Mr. Vitovich offered a suggestion to help get rid of the problem. There was further discussion.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021

Wednesday, July 14, 2021
Stated Meeting, continued

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