



Village of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 1, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sean Stanearth Called to Order the Village of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Cheryl Robertson; present, Bill Van Gundy; present, Bob Orsini; present, Sharon Hendren; present, Mayor Sean Stanearth; present, David Keck; present, Carol Van Deest; present.

IN ATTENDANCE – STAFF: Jack Liggett-Service Director, Don Corbin-Chief of Police, Jim Blair-Zoning Inspector, Patti Barlitt-Service Department, Tim Perry-Service Department, Jamie Decker-Village Engineer;CH2M Hill, Teresa Monroe-Clerk of Council

IN ATTENDANCE – PUBLIC: Charlie Sullivan, Bruce Toll and Gordon Cromwell - American Legion Post 254, Robert Reffitt

INVOCATION: Given by Councilman Bill Van Gundy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING IN: Auxiliary Police Officer Robert Reffitt

Robert Reffitt took the oath of office and was sworn in as a Johnstown Auxiliary Police Officer by Mayor Sean Stanearth. Bob spent thirty three years as a Columbus Police Officer and spent four years as a Police Officer at Otterbein College after his retirement.

MOTION: To adopt the amended agenda

Mayor Sean Stanearth noted the amended agenda and asked for a motion to approve. David Keck moved to adopt the amended agenda. Carol Van Deest seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanearth; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes. **The motion passed 7-0**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 18, 2014

Mayor Sean Staneart asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Cheryl Robertson noted the date of the Sheriff's sale was wrong it should be April 4, 2014. Bob Orsini noted the adjournment motion passed 7-0 not 5-0; Clerk of Council confirmed, and noted the corrections to be made.

Bob Orsini moved to approve the March 18, 2014 Council minutes as corrected. Mayor Sean Staneart seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Staneart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes. **The motion passed 7-0**

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Brownie Troop 661

Mayor Staneart read a note from the Brownie Troop. They are happy about the new shelter house that the Village put up near the Recreation Center and also had several ideas for other improvements of the park area. They would also like to see some more family friendly events held at the Opera House. Mayor Staneart said that it is nice to see the young people having some of the same ideas that we are currently looking to address.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Staneart opened the floor for Public Comment.

1. Gordon Cromwell from American Legion Post 254 said that he wanted to clarify an article featured in the Johnstown Independent on their lease of the Recreation Center from the Village. The Village of Johnstown owns 10.8 acres of land on which the facility sits but the lease of the Recreation Center building would not include the complete property, only approximately 2 acres. A lease agreement has not been finalized as of yet.
2. Bruce Tolle from American Legion Post 254 said that the Burger Bash fundraiser they held at Wendy's restaurant was very successful and they will be able to do it again up to four times per year. He thanked the Village for the publicity.

There were no further comments and Mayor Staneart closed Public Comment.

LEGISLATION

A. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-15 A Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into an Agreement to Participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation Contract for Rock Salt. *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Mayor Staneart introduced the resolution and said this is a little different from years past. Jack Liggett said that due to the salt shortage that many communities experienced this winter; Ohio Department of Transportation is issuing two separate salt contracts for the upcoming 2014 summer and 2014-2015 winter seasons. The summer salt contract will allow us to fill our salt bins from what was depleted this winter and although it is difficult to predict what the snowfall will be next year, the winter contract will ensure availability for future use. The amounts being ordered with the contract are being based on an average use over the past three years.

David Keck congratulated and thanked Jack for steering us in the right direction last year as Johnstown was not on the list of communities that did incur the salt shortage. Mr. Keck said that it is not an exact science.

Bill Van Gundy moved to approve. Sharon Hendren seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

The motion passed 7-0

B. RESOLUTION 2014-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN TO ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT A SPECIFIED PRICE. *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Mayor Stanart introduced the resolution and the date of the Sheriff's sale change was noted again and will be corrected by the Clerk of Council.

Sharon Hendren moved to adopt the Resolution with the correct date. Mayor Sean Stanart seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; no, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

The motion passed 6-1

C. RESOLUTION 14-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO APPOINT A FULL TIME POLICE DISPATCHER. *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Mayor Sean Stanart introduced the resolution and said that Sandy Patrick, currently a part-time dispatcher would be filling the position of full time dispatcher Josh Belcher who had resigned. Chief Corbin said Sandy would be starting at a lesser salary than the dispatcher that left. Bob Orsini asked Chief Corbin if Sandy as a full time employee would have access to benefits. Chief Corbin said that yes she would, however in his conversation with her she is currently receiving benefits with her retirement and would not need ours. Mr. Orsini asked Chief if he was comfortable with that conversation, that her price tag will be her hourly wage. Chief said that he was. Mr. Orsini asked if it was right to have someone in that position on hourly vs. salary with the potential for overtime. Chief Corbin said that he does not believe there is a position that is salary in that area. Bill Van Gundy asked would this affect her with PERS. Jack answered that he believed her new member contributions submitted to PERS would be held in a separate fund. David Keck added that when she fully retires she will have the option to collect that fund with interest as a lump or in payments. It will not increase her current retirement benefit; it will be a separate payment. Cheryl Robertson asked what the difference between Sandy's pay and the previous dispatcher's pay was. Chief answered that Sandy was a part time dispatcher so her hourly wage was less and the dispatcher who resigned he thought was on the second step of his salary scale so he was at a higher rate than what Sandy will start at. Cheryl asked if Sandy would eventually be eligible for this second step. Chief said yes. Bill Van Gundy asked if she would be on probation for any length of time. Jack said he wouldn't think so, that she was already a long time part time dispatcher and had been full time a number of years before that. She was in good standing with the Village. Chief Corbin concurred that she would not have a probationary period.

Bill Van Gundy moved to approve. David Keck seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

The motion passed 7-0

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bob Orsini directed a concern toward Zoning Inspector Jim Blair and said he noticed that Lash Chevrolet has updated their poles with some new wraps. Mr. Orsini said that he was of the understanding that they were in violation of Code by having those signs on a pole and now they have actually improved upon something that is already a violation. Mr. Orsini asked where and how we are addressing this. Mr. Blair said that this has been an ongoing legal process and he could check with our Law Director for current details. Mr. Orsini said that he just wanted to be sure it was being addressed.
2. Regarding the property for sale next to the condos in Leafy Dell; David Keck asked if we were at the point with the owners this year that they will keep the yard maintenance contracted so it doesn't become overgrown again. Mr. Blair said yes he did speak with the owner. Mr. Blair also said that in cases of property owners not taking proper steps to maintain a property after repeated warning the Village now has the ability to have the work done and then the cost assessed to the property tax bill.
3. Carol Van Deest said she wanted to make note to the Street Department; thank you for getting the bike path signs up, the spring banners up, and also all the hard work this winter.
4. Jack Liggett said that the dog waste station in Bigelow Park is being used quiet a lot and it was definitely worth installing.
5. Mayor Stanart said that he had an item from Jim Lenner to discuss. Mr. Lenner and Finance Director Heber Howard have been reviewing and drafting the 2014 budget and unfortunately with anticipated revenues coming in and our anticipated expenses, we will be in a position of having to take out of our carryover. Mr. Lenner wants to know if Council is willing to take out of the carryover or if they would like the Finance Committee to meet and address this to put together a budget that does not eat into our carryover. The timeline he would like is review of the budget draft by this Saturday making their adjustments to have a new draft for the Finance Director by Wednesday of next week. This schedule would allow Council plenty of time to review changes and if agreed upon possibly have the first reading at the next Village Council meeting on April 15th. The general consensus of Council was to have the Finance Committee meet.
6. Jack said that he wanted to discuss the Transportation Asset Management (TAM) project. Jim Lenner submitted a memo (Attachment A) to Village Council members to better illustrate a paving and maintenance plan for the Village. Mr. Lenner noted in his memo that this plan is contingent on financial decisions. Jack Liggett reviewed the memo's financial plan and the proposed street reconstruction map with Council. Jamie Decker, Village Engineer, was available during the discussion as well. The project plan chart identifies proposed funding, project costs,

and the project years. There was a correction to the dollar amount of \$241,000 listed for S. Kasson; the dollar amount should be \$210,000 which will ultimately change the borrowed amount. Jack was asked for clarification on the financial responsibility difference between the green and the red on the chart. Jack said the green section is phase 1 and funding has already been identified for these projects and that they have gone through the budget, the money is available in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to take care of three million dollars of this funding. The funding comes through grants and a loan that would be paid out of the CIP. The available amount to pay from the CIP comes from loan debt being paid off for the Village Administration building. In 2018 there will be other debts that drop off freeing up more of the CIP. The red lists the next phase of road projects but funding has not been identified for these yet. In the year 2018 the next Council would need to review this plan and see if more or less could be done. Other funding options discussed among Council members and Staff included municipal income tax, road levies and grant options. Jack said that tonight he was looking for approval from Council to investigate the bonding, get the actual numbers and commence with phase 1 of this project.

Mayor Stanart said that he supports the overall concept "but something that needs to be looked at when we look at this entire project is that we are taking all the equity that we have to borrow, all of our borrowing power (and that is what the CIP is), and maxing it out until 2040." He said he believes "there just isn't enough money and these things were not looked at in the past and we are having to deal with the consequences of no reserves, no budgeting plan built up for the roads and we have a daunting amount of money that needs to be spent and we don't have it." He said that he cannot go through with a plan that doesn't allow us to fix any other roads, other than what is on this list, until 2040. He said it feels like maxing out a credit card and does not want to drain the CIP. His recommendation is to look into the other options such as a tax levy or increase and giving voters the option, or shrinking the project list to use a smaller percentage of the CIP and get those roads paid off before moving on to other roads. Jack said that he does not believe we will max out 100 percent of the CIP because in 2018 we will have other debt drop off and the next group of roads can be discussed at that time. Mayor Stanart said that by utilizing the CIP we have now, some of these projects can be done and then in 2018 there would be a choice to expend all of that Capital Improvements; right now if we do these, we would be expending all of our CIP for the next for years. Mayor Stanart believes this could cost us opportunities in economic development.

David Keck said that "the bottom line is that it is Jack's job is to run the Service Department and he has been a part of presenting a program here that as much as he can with what's there and what's possible, correct and maintain what we have. Our job is political because it is a decision on prioritizing, on taxes, on all those kind of considerations that are not really Jack's job, so he has really done his job." Bob Orsini said that he agrees with Mayor Stanart's points; he said that he is not prepared to max out our available credit, even for four years, without giving the people of Johnstown the opportunity to weigh in on the decision, it is not a hidden issue that our roads need to be addressed. He believes there is some misconception about how things are paid for and it is our responsibility to get information out there. He would like to see the community have the opportunity to voice their opinions at the ballot box and see how far they are willing to go to get some of these improvements done; ultimately it is their money being spent. Also he said that under no circumstances would he see himself putting an entity in a situation where they

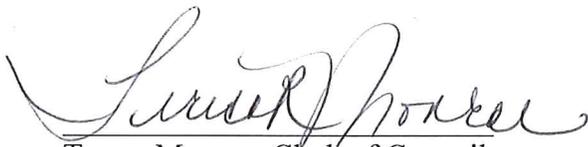
could not capitalize on opportunity. When businesses move, they move now and if we cannot accommodate, facilitate, and participate, then someone else will and that opportunity goes away and that is not a one or two year opportunity lost, it is a fifty or hundred year opportunity lost. Bob said he doesn't want to diminish what was done with this plan but we should be cautious with how we proceed, this plan is fantastic and if we had the funding it would be a home run. His question to fellow Council members was 1.) Do we agree with the assessment on the roads and 2.) If we were going to change this plan in any way, what that would look like? So that we can start taking steps to move it forward whether it's all, some, or none. What is the next step? Mayor Stanearth said he thinks all agree that "we like what we see but can we afford what we see?" It was asked if the Finance Director could get Council a spreadsheet of our 1 percent income tax and what that generates then showing ¼ percent increment increases. Carol Van Deest said that we have been lucky to have State Routes 62 and 37 maintained for us but a community has to take care of themselves and we do have a responsibility to do something. Mayor Stanearth did note that we have invested in a crack sealer and a maintenance package is needed. Council agrees that larger discussion with Village Manager is also needed, this is a big decision and there could be multiple ways to attack this, with many options and Council was not prepared to make a decision to move forward with this proposed plan tonight.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, Bill Van Gundy moved to adjourn. Mayor Sean Stanearth seconded and all were in favor.

Motion passed 7-0.

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Teresa Monroe, Clerk of Council

APPROVED AS PRESENTED



Mayor Sean Stanearth

