JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 14, 2026

The Greater Johnstown City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Sylvia King called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Pastor Randy Sweet, Grove Avenue United Methodist Church, offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Sylvia King, Charles Arnone, Samuel Barber, Lorraine Brandon-Taylor, Mike Hamacek, Nicolas Spinelli, and Taylor Clark.

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Aimee Willett, Solicitor; Jennifer Burkhart, Executive Secretary; Mark Britton, Chief of Police; Jim McCann, Fire Chief; Brandon Palmer, EADS; Tony Penna, Recreation & Community Events Director; John Rutledge, Economic Development Director; Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director; Joel Valentine, Wessel & Co.; and Brennan Myers, Wessel & Co. were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor King requested a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2026.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barber.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS:

WESSEL & CO

Joel Valentine, Wessel & Co.; and Brennan Myers, Wessel & Co., were in attendance to present the Financial Statement Report from the 2025 Audit. Mr. Valentine noted the compliance-based single audit report would be presented at a later date.

Mr. Myers reviewed the government-wide statement of net position. He noted, at a high level, Wessel & Co. was issuing an unmodified opinion of the financial statement. He presented a comparative perspective, showing the current assets for the current year and the prior year. He noted, of the four separate pension funds, three were over 100 percent funded, and the fourth was almost 100 percent. He touched on deferred outflows, current liabilities, non-current liabilities, post-employment benefit obligations, and deferred inflows. He described the government-wide statement of activities that collected all of the fund financial statements on a current resource focus and made adjustments for long-term items.

Mr. Valentine reviewed the financials on a more current basis, similarly to the management of the day-to-day budget. He referred to a graph of the core service funds over a ten-year history, which reflected a history of positive revenue over expenses. He described a series of graphs providing the fund balance of unrestricted funds, core makeup of the general fund, general fund revenue, real estate taxes, earned income taxes, local municipal taxes, mercantile business privilege tax, the city's pension, and hospitalization expenses.

Mr. Myers explained the letters included with the audit. With the comments and observations letter, he noted the recommendations were grouped in different categories.

Mr. Hamacek asked if someone who is living in the city and working out of their home could be taxed. Mr. Valentine described the different categories of taxes, noting a W2 employee would fall under earned income tax, not mercantile.

Mr. Spinelli asked if progress had been made towards a procurement policy. Ms. Willett explained the steps taken towards a policy, which resulted in Council adopting a policy through an ordinance. Mr. Myers noted, due to the timing, the procurement policy would still be a finding in the single audit for 2025; however, he hoped the finding would go away with the 2026 audit.

Mr. Spinelli requested an explanation for the liquid fuels owes general fund balance line. Mr. Myers explained the eligible expenses that can be paid for using the liquid fuels; however, the liquid fuels had been paid for out of the general fund. He noted the liquid fuels is a special revenue fund which breaks even every year and then residual can be transferred to the general fund. He stated the City had a large buildup of cash in the liquid fuels, which could be moved or the City could spend down directly from the liquid fuels for items like paving or street lights. Discussion regarding liquid fuel funds ensued with Mr. Valentine noting the money is technically included in the fund balance.

Mr. Arnone commented on the hospitalization expenses, noting down the road a number of people will not qualify for long-term health benefits. Mr. Martynuska explained the benefits of a person would depend on the collected bargaining agreement at the time of their hire. He also explained how Act 47 in the mid 1990's incentivized people to retire early, and those people will lose their City health care upon becoming eligible for Medicare. He noted the expenses will eventually stabilize.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported meeting with the contractors for the Public Safety Building. He noted with construction soon commencing, City Council meetings would be relocated to another accessible location and advertisements would be posted.

Mr. Martynuska stated the meeting was not being broadcast as the videographer was out sick.

Regarding police contracts, a copy would be sent to Dale Borough for their review. Mr. Martynuska mentioned an RFP would be going out for two garbage trucks. He noted a couple of used ones were found at an economical price; however, an RFP was required as the vendor was not part of a governmental purchasing contract. He would meet with Maher Duessel to finalize the budget for the Council's review.

Mr. Martynuska reported the new Codes Director would soon be starting. The new fees schedule, once finalized, would help to capture additional items as an enhancement for revenue and services. He shared working through RAISE grant training through the FTA (Federal Transit Administration). He also noted the environmental studies came back clean for the Turjan Building and side lot at the Fairfield Fire Station. He looked to moving forward with acquisitions.

Mr. Hamacek asked who would conduct the inspections for the Public Safety Building. Mr. Martynuska replied inspections would be between CJL and Up Street; however, the City would also have people involved.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor questioned the role of the Codes Director. Mr. Martynuska explained the individual would be directing the department as the manager, completing field work, and following up with court filings. He noted Laurel Municipal would still be involved. It was also noted the Codes Director position was included in the wages and salary part of the budget.

Mayor King asked what Laurel Municipal would be doing if there was a Codes Director. Mr. Martynuska explained Laurel Municipal would still be issuing building permits. He added part of the new recommended fee schedule would be additional fees that would come back to the City based on the price or square footage of a project. Mayor King questioned if the City would be better off doing building permits themselves, instead of using Laurel Municipal and increasing fees. Mr. Clark agreed with Mayor King, noting the idea of bringing building permits back in-house was raised during the budget workshop. The idea of potentially employing a building codes officer was raised and briefly discussed before it was decided the topic would be better discussed during Executive Session.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked if Mr. Martynuska could explain how codes worked, particularly what the City does versus what Laurel Municipal does. Mr. Martynuska stated all complaints start with the City. The City then triages the complaint. If related to a building inspection or occupancy situation, the complaint is turned over to Laurel Municipal. If related to property maintenance, the complaint is handled by the Codes Department. Depending on the situation and if it is resolved, the complaint may proceed through the court system.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Aimee Willett, Solicitor, stated an Executive Session was held on September 21, 2026, regarding personnel. An Executive Session was also held on October 7, 2026, regarding personnel, police contracts, protection of public safety, and litigation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King highlighted the efforts of youth in Johnstown who put together a successful Central Park celebration. She thanked them for their efforts, noting the intent to make the event an annual one. She reported attending the Atta

Girl Golf League banquet with Ms. Brandon-Taylor. She noted the group has a league at Berkeley Springs, and the group was happy with the course. She stated Amtrak announced a second daily train through the Johnstown Station starting on November 18, 2026. She attended the ribbon cutting for the Broken Arrow Cafe across from the hospital at the former Bakers Loaf.

Mayor King commented the Chambers Economic Summit recently took place. Visitors spend $304 million per year in Cambria County. She also noted 17,000 people had used the Incline Plane since its reopening. She mentioned the Home Ownership Resource Fair highlighted the increase in property values in Johnstown.

Mayor King concluded her report by mentioning the good things happening in Johnstown. She stated the City was not sugarcoating any of the issues or problems but did not want to overshadow the accomplishments in Johnstown.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Clark reported on public safety. Regarding police, he noted an LSA grant for $900,000 had been submitted to Aspire. The department also applied for a Cops Grant for $300,000. The department received a non-discretionary $250,000 grant through Senator Langerholc's office. If received, the Cops Grant would help hire three more officers. Regarding community events with the police, he reported on recently hosting Coffee with a Cop. Additional events were held at Broken Arrow and Flood City Cafe. He noted the upcoming First Responders Christmas event. In 2025, the event had 210 children signed up, with each child receiving $150 for holiday shopping.

Mr. Clark shared the First Responders Ball is on November 14, 2026. He encouraged everyone to attend the event.

Regarding the Fire Department, Mr. Clark shared statistics from Chief McCann's report. In September 2026, there were 393 calls for service and 24 rental inspections. Mr. Clark also shared his attendance at an event with Mr. Martynuska and Mr. Barber where Representative Burns presented a $95,000 grant check to local churches. The grant is to fund equipment to publicly broadcast church services from sixteen local churches.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Martynuska to share additional information regarding the police contracts. Mr. Martynuska discussed reworking the contracts for the municipalities that the City provides police services for. The new formula is based on a per capita amount for each municipality. He noted Dale Borough is the first one due to be renewed, and the contract would soon be sent to the

Borough. Mr. Martynuska also commented that JFD had received a FEMA grant for equipment.

Mr. Clark mentioned JFD would need a vehicle to assist with removing items as they board up properties.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there had been any communication with Dale Borough regarding the police contract since the budget workshop. Ms. Willett noted Attorney Brian Litzinger recently reached out and indicated the Borough was interested in continuing police services and looked forward to the City's proposal.

Mr. Barber shared resident Milissa Teeter emailed her appreciation for JFD boarding up the house at 241-243 Laurel Avenue. Additionally, she thanked JPD for stopping teenagers from breaking into the property on October 8, 2026. She also thanked the Codes Department for condemning the property and cleaning up the property. Mr. Barber noted working with recreation in addition to safety with Mr. Clark. He asked Mr. Penna to discuss the golf course.

Tony Penna, Recreation & Community Events Director, provided updates on the golf course, referencing a report provided to Council. He shared a United States Golf Association (USGA) representative toured the course. The representative was fairly complimentary given the number of items that had not been addressed at the course prior to the City taking over management. He met with the nearby Army Corp of Engineers, who had volunteered their assistance with building repairs.

Mr. Penna commented on the grounds crew working with the Public Works department. He also noted the pro show crew was outstanding. Regarding an oversight committee, he shared intentions of having representatives from Council, the grounds crew, and experts in golf on the committee. He hoped to set up a meeting prior to the November Council meeting. He discussed updates to the course, events over the next year, and requests from the Atta Girls League. Regarding winter activities, he shared plans for sledding, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Mayor King asked if there was someone who could teach golf at the course. Mr. Penna replied several people on the committee may be interested in teaching. He also commented on youth and adaptive golf at the course. He thought lessons was a good suggestion. Regarding a youth league, he noted the school already has a golf team. He commented on the possibility of a youth tournament, noting the intent to speak to businesspeople at the next job fair regarding sponsorships. He emphasized the community goodwill surrounding the golf course.

Mr. Barber mentioned the course will eventually be cashless. Mr. Penna stated cashless was the intention. He shared pushback received on the idea of being cashless and the cost of a round. He also noted the pro shop would start carrying clothing again.

Mr. Spinelli commented on a nice article in the newspaper. Mr. Penna stated it was nice to be involved in something positive. He received wonderful messages. He was confident, with the people in place, the course could get back to where it needed to be and be a gem for the City.

Mr. Clark shared Nick Patton from the Lou Patton Foundation was very pleased with the improvements at the course and planned to keep the Foundation's yearly event at the course. Mr. Penna echoed Mr. Clark's remarks, noting the amount of goodwill and appreciation for the City's efforts on the course.

Mr. Arnone shared updates from GJWA, noting 98 new service applications for property transfers, 79 inactive accounts were reactivated, 15 service renewals, two mainline leak repairs, and 15 hydrants flushed during September 2026. He also shared updates regarding lead line replacement and renovations at the North Fork Dam. Regarding the sewer side, he shared 10,357 feet of mainline was inspected, 29 pressure tests were completed, and no new variances were approved.

Regarding Johnstown Housing Authority, he reported, as of September 30, 2026, public housing units were 97 percent occupied with 2,541 people across 1,361 apartments. Section 8 utilization was at 72 percent with 861 people living in 392 units. JHA is starting its fifth season of workshops in collaboration with JARI, Penn Highlands, and CareerLink. He also noted the JHA Family Self Sufficiency Program "On the Rise" continues to help public housing residents accomplish goals related to becoming less dependent on public housing.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor shared remarks on the Moxham Block Party held at the Russell House. She noted there was good community engagement and hundreds of people in attendance. She also mentioned Recovery in the Valley was a nice event although she was not able to attend. She noted events held at the Christ Center Community Church included one on aging well and a drug and alcohol program.

Mr. Spinelli shared remarks from the finance committee, noting he met with the Mayor, Mr. Martynuska, Ms. Burkhart, and Maher Duessel to review the proposed budget in an attempt to minimize any projected shortfall. He

highlighted Halloween activities in the City, including the Boneyard at Central Park, Zombie Crawl, Trunk or Treat, and scarecrows near City Hall.

Mr. Hamacek attended the Operation Beautiful Gala at the Conference Center. He noted the gala benefits a nonprofit that assists medically related hair loss, specifically for cancer patients. He stated the event had previously been held at the Richland Fire Hall, however, two years ago moved to downtown. He shared approximately 450 people attended the event.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READ

Ordinance #5384

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE DEVINE ALLEY a.k.a. ALWINE AND SKYLARK PLACE FROM FRANKLIN STREET TO KENNEDY AVENUE IN JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA AS A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

Mr. Martynuska noted the ordinance was related to a business expanding in the area.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. ~~10807~~
AMENDED RESOLUTION # 10816 TO AMEND CLERICAL ERROR

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH

FINANCING AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF THE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAM (ACRP).

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barber.

Mr. Martynuska stated ACRP was asking for the City's endorsement for an LSA grant for an elevator project. He noted there was initial confusion with the requested amount; however, the amount was corrected. Mayor King commented there was not a match from the City.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. ~~10808~~

AMENDED RESOLUTION # 10817 TO CORRECT CLERICAL ERROR

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY IN THE PURCHASE OF MULTI MOWERS/LAWN EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barber.

Mr. Martynuska confirmed the mowers were the ones listed in the capital fund, and the lease purchase was more economical for the City. There would be six payments of $46,874.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. ~~10809~~

AMENDED RESOLUTION # 10818 TO CORRECT CLERICAL ERROR

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, ENTERING INTO A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT WITH BISHOP MCCORT ACADEMY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

Chief Britton confirmed the school resource officer is Officer Chad Cypher. Mr. Martynuska confirmed the existing agreement expired, and the renewal was at a higher rate.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10810

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPOINTING ERIC D. HOCHFELD, ESQUIRE, AS ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN ZONING HEARING BOARD.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamacek.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10811

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ENTERING INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CAMBRIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 526 NAPOLEON STREET AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

It was noted the county wanted to demolish the building but was working through the City to get a better price on the demolition. The county would be paying for the demolition, not the City.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10812

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH LOCHER DEMOLITION AND EXCAVATING, LLC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $179.440.00 FOR CONTRACT CDBG 2026-1, CDBG STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PROGRAM TO DEMOLISH SEVENTEEN (17) STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

Mr. Barber made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone.

Mr. Martynuska confirmed 17 structures would be demolished for the price. Council Members agreed the price was good, especially for the time of year.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).

Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10813

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH LOCHER DEMOLITION AND EXCAVATING, LLC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $157.620.00 FOR CONTRACT CDBG 2026-2, CDBG STRUCTURE DEMOLITION PROGRAM TO DEMOLISH FIFTEEN (15) STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10814

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING THE EADS GROUP AS ENGINEER FOR THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Mr. Barber made a motion to table the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Mr. Spinelli (5)
Nays: Mayor King, Ms. Brandon-Taylor (2).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10815

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING A LAND MERGER OF FIVE PARCELS ALONG STRAYER STREET.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

Mr. Martynuska stated the merger was related to Best Window and Door Company. He noted the City was able to forgive some of the demolition liens to allow for the merger. He added the company had completed a lot of work including paving and remodeling the building. Mr. Arnone noted the owner came to the City about six months ago interested in using the City owned properties for parking.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark, Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor King noted all department reports were included in the Council packet. There were no questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Lloyd King, shared concerns regarding 511 Sheridan Street. He noted, following his remarks at a prior meeting, the grass was cut down. However, he stated a mess was left with long pieces of grass over his concrete wall. He requested additional cleanup when the City mows the vacant lot. He also stated the grass was left six to eight inches high and had grown tall again.

Judy DeAngelo commended everyone involved with the Central Park celebration. She had concerns regarding the renovations, which were alleviated by meeting with Mr. Clark. She suggested the City consider hanging flags with photos of veterans similar to East Taylor and Windber.

Mr. Arnone explained the City was already intending to hang flags for veterans; however, with Main Street being renovated over the next year, the project was on hold until after the renovations were completed.

Rob Forcey, Executive Director, Vision Together, provided updates on activities accomplished throughout the City. He shared Vision completed some cleanup around the City, particularly in Kernville, along Menoher Boulevard, and along the Mayer Trail near Buttermilk Falls. He also shared tree planting planned for around the City, including in front of GapVax, at PNG Park, and along various sidewalks. When asked, he noted one of the voids along Clinton Street would not be planted at the request of the resident.

Mr. Clark asked what kind of trees were being planted. Mr. Forcey replied the species varied. As an example, he noted the trees by GapVax were being selected to not require much maintenance and so they would not grow into the power lines. He added GapVax was taking responsibility of the trees moving forward, and employees were volunteering with the planting.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.