

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

The Greater Johnstown City Council met in a stated session for special business.
Mayor Sylvia King called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor King 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, Taylor Clark, Michael Hamacek, Nicolas Spinelli, Lorraine Brandon-Taylor

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Mike Capriotti, Assistant City Manager; Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director; Aimee Willett, Solicitor; Jennifer Burkhardt, Executive Secretary; Lavona Smith, HR Manager/Records Retention Manager; Jim McCann, Fire Chief; Tony Penna, Recreation Director; John Rutledge, Economic Development Director; and Mark Britton, Police Chief were also present

WORKSHOP ITEMS

1. Public Safety Building Project

Art Martynuska, City Manager provided an update on the Public Safety Building Project. He stated the architect and design team had been in multiple times to meet with staff, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director, Assistant City Manager, and himself. The week prior to the meeting, a drone was brought in to capture the facade of the building which is more accurate than using ladders. In addition, a drilling rig was scheduled for March 6 to start core sampling where the elevator is proposed. He added preliminary sketches of the elevator design would be shared. He noted the most economical version of the elevator is a stone edifice at the bottom with a glass elevator.

Mr. Martynuska stated the architect and design team are looking at all aspects of the building, floor by floor, including HVAC, plumbing, and electrical. He shared emails are being exchanged multiple times on a daily basis and things are moving quickly. He explained structural changes that will be needed such as the rearrangement of Council Chambers. He added there will be limited elevator access for restricted floors.

Mr. Martynuska explained proposed changes for the ground floor including new jail cells, restroom facilities, and a processing area. He noted all changes

will be ADA acceptable and the construction methods used will suffice for floodplain codes.

Regarding electrical, Mr. Martynuska explained how electrical service was redone in the early 1990's and the existing problems as a result. He stated one of the first priorities will be getting the electrical fixed to the main electrical services. He noted the process will be phased with department heads knowing when power will be shut off to a particular area. Plumbing will also be zoned with shut-offs for each floor instead of only one shut-off in the basement. In addition to new HVAC, he anticipates 40 to 50 percent of the windows will be replaced. Columns in the basement are also being examined. He noted a full environmental including air and lead sampling was going to be done on the building.

Mr. Martynuska noted seven of the nine items on the Department of Labor and Industry's checklist were completed with the last items being related to air quality, asbestos and the basement columns.

Mr. Martynuska shared during the process, they have found original contracts from when the building was built, manuals for the Gainwell fire alarm system, and original blueprints. He shared some of the history of the building including personnel and structure changes. He added Mr. Truscello is working with a former fire chief who has a copy of the book from when the building was dedicated in 1924.

Mr. Martynuska reported working with UpStreet has been very good and noted it was good to have a hometown firm working with the City.

Mr. Arnone asked about the elevator foundation. He noted there have been problems with water in the basement and wanted to make sure nothing porous would be used.

Mr. Martynuska explained the elevator would be a traction or lift elevator and would not go above the roof or into the basement.

Mr. Clark asked about the glass possibly being used.

Mr. Martynuska confirmed the glass would be similar to hospital elevators and was more economical than using brick. He explained the elevator would be ADA acceptable and go to the ground floor. He noted there would be a walkway with lights to get to the elevator. The current elevator would also remain in use with the police elevator being out of service unless needed to go to the

basement. He added, with the water problems in the basement, auxiliary heat is being considered for the basement in addition to the existing sump pumps.

2. RAISE Grant

Mr. Martynuska provided Council members with a project overview from the RAISE Grant. He noted the scope of the project had changed slightly due to adjustments when the new administration came into D.C. and the RAISE Grant shifted to the BUILD Grant. He explained he worked with Mr. Capriotti to revise the original document to ensure nothing would run afoul of the intentions of the new administration. He added other municipalities, such as Killington, Vermont had lost their grant entirely.

Mr. Martynuska explained Main Street from one end to the other was planned to be a total rebuild from the ground up. The planned project included new walkways, roads, lights, and traffic signals. In addition, it was planned to eliminate bump-outs for additional parking. He noted it's an all-encompassing project and is being done in lockstep with the Heritage Johnstown at the Railroad Station and CamTran. He added Heritage and CamTran are developing their own plans however they are in a cooperative with the City and bi-weekly meetings are being held.

Mr. Martynuska reported the biggest change from the original proposal was the changed from a dedicated, separated bike lane to a shared bike lane marked with chevrons on Main Street.

Mr. Capriotti explained the bike lane change was made as other projects had been pulled because of a dedicated versus shared lane. He added in the big scheme of things, the shared lane will also allow for parking to be increased.

Mr. Arnone asked what kind of trees were planned, noting roots have caused issues.

Mr. Capriotti replied columnar trees were planned as they would grow up and not out.

Mr. Martynuska added the columnar trees would also drop leaves that shrivel and wash down drains. Currently, the leaves drop and block drains and gutters causing water and ice buildup.

Mr. Clark asked if grates made of vulcanized rubber would be used in place of steel grates. The rubber grates help to prevent things from getting caught up in the grates themselves.

Mr. Martynuska noted the rubber grates were being used with Central Park. He explained the porous material is very durable and has the advantage of being easier to cut if needed to allow for tree root growth. He added the permeability was tested with CGL dumping water on it to see how the water would soak through.

Mayor King asked what the purpose was the Main Street committee being formed.

Mr. Martynuska explained the committee would primarily allow for ease of information from the Council and the City to business owners and occupants of Main Street. He noted while the project was very cast in stone and would not have many changes, some input to things like lightning might be needed. He reiterated the main purpose of the committee would be to keep the public informed and in the loop of how things were being done.

Mr. Martynuska also noted PennElec had recently informed the City there would be a move in the next couple of years, likely 2027, to replace all of the lights in the City with LED lighting. He added the City may have some say as to the hue and shade of the lights.

Mr. Martynuska added input may also be needed regarding signage. He explained the City has been working with Visit Johnstown on a branding task force. The task force plans to present Council with signage being considered in the near future. However, the Main Street committee may have input on the wayfinding and informational signage used downtown.

Mayor King asked if Heritage and CamTran were up to date with their part of the project.

Mr. Martynuska replied, based on his knowledge, both organizations were up to date. He noted there have been frequent meetings and conversations. He noted there have been some changes to project scopes but he did not want to speak for either organization. He did note one of the train station projects that had been scaled back involved part of the freight terminal may be excluded from the passenger terminal project. He added there is a secondary project at the train station in which Norfolk Southern is rebuilding the passenger platform and doing things like new drainage and a new elevator.

Mr. Spinelli asked if municipalities were losing funds because they were refusing to put in a bike lane.

Mr. Martynuska replied, to the best of his knowledge, what had happened in Killington was they had a number of references to EV charging stations which

did not meet the litmus test of the new administration in D.C. He could not speak to that being the specific reason for their funding lost but noted funding was lost due to some of the things in their project.

Mr. Spinelli clarified the bike lane scope change went from a designated lane taking up one side of the parking into parking on both sides with a shared bike lane similar to the existing lane on Washington Street. He noted bikes already ride with traffic along Main Street.

Mr. Martynuska stated the hope was a more dedicated area would help with safety.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there would be physical barriers separating the bikes from traffic.

Mr. Martynuska responded the physical barriers had to be eliminated.

Mr. Spinelli noted crossing Washington Street on a bike was dangerous and stated he was all for putting bike lanes where possible.

Mr. Martynuska explained, despite recent talk, Main Street would remain one-way and would not return to two-way traffic. Mr. Barber suggested it was the perfect time to discuss returning two-way traffic to Main Street. It was noted the scope was already submitted to the Federal Transit Administration and could not be changed. Council and staff discussed possible reasoning for why Main Street was originally changed to one-way traffic.

Mr. Capriotti noted part the CamTran project was plans to have a dedicated turn lane for the bus depot and they were working with PennDOT for approval. Mr. Martynuska added the turn lane would be at the end of Main Street and would allow for buses to turn left out of the center without swinging into traffic.

Mr. Arnone referred to the turn lane near the hospital on Franklin Street as a possible example.

Mr. Clark stated he would like to double-check regarding two-way traffic on Main Street. He explained transportation is a huge problem in the area. He added two-way traffic on Main Street would invite people to come through the center of the City.

Mr. Hamacek commented business owners would need to careful with salt. He cited problems with spalling when Ebensburg did their concrete sidewalks and too much salt was used.

Mr. Martynuska responded the City was limited on sealing the concrete due to potential environmental issues.

Mr. Spinelli noted he liked the idea of a single material whenever possible, noting there were uneven areas where brick and concrete were used together. He shared concerns regarding the height of the curbs.

Chief Britton shared the curbs were required to be eight inches on stated highways. He explained how the curbs and sidewalks are poured to the correct height. Mr. Truscillo added the total depth of the curb has to be 18 inches as specified by PennDOT. Mr. Arnone noted the depth was due to the weight of the road pushing out.

Discussion ensued regarding curb depth standards. Mr. Spinelli asked if there would be any flexibility with Main Street with the understanding it was a PennDOT highway but was also the main street of the downtown area.

Mr. Arnone noted the corners were ADA accessible throughout the City including being level to the ground and having rubber dots.

Mr. Spinelli responded he likes the accessibility factors but would like a little more ease on and off the street.

Mr. Barber noted all of the sidewalks and curbs would be the same along Main Street.

Chief Britton added the height was for safety to prevent cars from exiting the road.

Mr. Spinelli stated there should be a way to balance new design and safety. He added eight-inch curbs were excessive along Main Street where traffic mostly moseys along.

Mayor King asked if the curbs were lower along handicap spaces indicated by blue markings.

Mr. Barber stated the state law was 18-inch-deep curbs from bottom to top regardless if there was handicap parking. Mr. Capriotti added eight inches was required to be above road surface.

Mr. Spinelli noted while it was good the corners were accessible, he had concerns if someone parked in the middle of a block and then needed to get to a corner to get onto the sidewalk. He understood nothing could be done, but it would be nice to have shallower curbs.

Mr. Hamacek added another issue was the curbs would start out at eight inches but the next time the road was paved, the road would likely not be milled and the curb would lose height when pavement was added.

3. Business Security Camera Initiative

Mr. Martynuska reported City staff was meeting with potential vendors for security cameras including Motorola and Verkada. He noted all possible options were being weighed with the goal being to make the initiative as open-ended as possible. He added they did not want the system to be so proprietary that people would be required to use one company over another. The plan is to have a cloud-based system to prevent the need of going back to a server or storage device for information. In addition, most of the systems being looked at have a ten-year warranty.

Mr. Martynuska explained there would be mandatory things if a business were to be a part of the initiative. For example, if the City were to assist the business financially with a security system, the business would be required to be a part of the system going into the real-time crime center. The system would be accessible for officers on scene, giving them a leg up on intel. He noted when looking at crime statistics, the number of crimes solved with similar systems is outstanding.

Chief Britton shared one example of Hagerstown, Maryland where the homicide rate has been cut in half. Hagerstown also recently had two homicides but both perpetrators were in custody within half an hour due to the camera system.

Mr. Martynuska reviewed the ways in which the camera system becomes a force multiplier for the police department such as tracking license plates, using physical descriptions to find someone, and even turning into the direction of shots fired. He added there are also advantages of the system from a fire protection standpoint such as heat detectors, locating victims, and tracking first responders.

Mr. Martynuska stated staff is working on securing funds for the initiative. He mentioned the Safe Cities grant as one possibility and noted the congressional funding cycle was coming up in the next couple of weeks. He hoped the initiative would be funding entirely by grants but noted some may require a match.

Mayor King asked what a business would need to do if they were interested in being a part of the camera program.

Mr. Martynuska replied once the program was up and running, he anticipated a business would fill out an application stating they wanted to put in a system. He added the City would need to internally decide on a cap for matching funds but noted if a business wanted to go further, additional funds could be found through other sources.

When asked by Mr. Barber, Mr. Martynuska clarified if a business did not want to be a part of the real-time crime center, the City would not provide funding for cameras.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there would be options to pick and choose what features the system would have. Mr. Martynuska confirmed it would be a cafeteria type program.

Mayor King asked how soon the system would be available.

Chief Britton stated the application for the Safer Cities grant was just received two weeks prior. He noted he had already secured letters of support from the community including Greater Johnstown High School, JRA, and the Housing Authority. He stated grant deadlines vary but most grants he looked at in the last year, took a couple of months to get back.

Mr. Martynuska reviewed the process a business or non-profit would take if they were interested. He added the program would receive community support from fundraising organizations.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked who would install the cameras, if there would be a dedicated company or if a business could choose their own installation company.

Mr. Martynuska noted businesses could choose their own vendor for installation. He noted the only caveat would be whatever system or vendor they choose has to be compatible with the City's system. He also noted City's system was being chosen to be open-ended and most systems would just require an interface to the cloud. He added if a business had an existing, compatible system, they would only need to spend money for the interface which would be about one thousand dollars.

Mr. Spinelli asked what the incentive would be for a company who already has a camera system for tying into the City system.

Mr. Martynuska stated the biggest incentive would be increased safety but it may also help businesses with insurance rates. He reiterated the thousand dollars would

be to tap into the system and being a part of the system would not be mandatory.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Martynuska stated he wanted share updates on conversations being held over the prior week regarding animal control. He noted guest speakers at the Council meetings has spoke very eloquently about animal control.

Mr. Capriotti stated he had started reaching out to surrounding municipalities as well as Altoona. He noted Altoona was the only one he reached which has an active animal control officer program. He explained how Altoona's officer works, and they work in conjunction with the Humane Society in the Altoona area. He shared the issue Johnstown would have is that the local Human Society is not currently equipped to partner with the City as they have done in the past. He added Chief Britton is working with a group in Westmoreland County to get a chip reader to assist with lost animals.

Mr. Capriotti explained there may potential to partner with the Humane Society once they had their new facility operational as a place to temporarily house animals. He added both Human Societies in Cambria County and Westmoreland County were no-kill shelters which has led to dogs being housed at the shelters for six to eight years. He noted if the City did something similar it may become cost prohibitive. He stated at the current time, the City would need to be more aggressive in finding owners. He mentioned an incident in the West End being under control.

Chief Britton stated the police had been able to identify the owners of three of the loose dogs. Multiple citations had been sent and filed at the magistrate's office so he hoped the situation was resolved.

Mr. Capriotti stated he was working on a couple of scenarios to present to the Council including a cooperative arrangement with an organization to shelter animals as well as the cost of the City building their own shelter and having staff.

Mayor King asked if Mr. Capriotti had spoke with anybody else in Cambria County as other locations had to be having similar issues.

Mr. Capriotti replied the same issues were everywhere. He added from his personal experience as a Moxham resident, the main issue was the cat population. He noted local groups like JAWS were doing a great job with TNR however the rate at which cats reproduce is almost uncontrollable. He added, in speaking

to other municipalities, he learned local groups are trying to limit the population but that no shelters are accepting cats.

Mr. Spinelli stated the private conversations he has had reflect the information shared by Mr. Capriotti. He stated there needs to be a widespread commitment to spaying and neutering. He added the only way to put a dent in the animal population is to spay or neuter multiple cats every day.

Mr. Hamacek stated the City would need to hire somebody to do the kind of work Mr. Spinelli suggested.

Mr. Capriotti added local vets are booked months in advance. He did not know how a vet would be able to carve out time to help with the situation while still managing their day to day practice.

Mr. Spinelli questioned if it would be possible to explore avenues like a Penn State satellite campus where there might be a single vet who could oversee multiple vets in training.

Mr. Capriotti agreed exploring alternate avenues would be worth it. He noted an additional complication is having the space to house the animals for at least 24 hours post-surgery to ensure they are safe to be released. He added there were logistics to consider when executing TNR on a large scale as suggested.

Mr. Spinelli stated anything short of a couple thousand animals being spayed/neutered each year would not put a dent in the problem. He added cats are a bigger problem than dogs and stray cats are a bigger problem than cats who got out of a house. He noted while on the campaign trail, he noticed people were feeding the stray cats on their front porches which he believed to be a code violation.

Mr. Barber stated it was not a code violation to put food out for an animal. Mr. Martynuska noted it was codified a few years prior to allow for the feeding of stray animals.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor questioned the reproduction age for cats. Mr. Capriotti clarified reproduction can start at around six months old which is a significant challenge.

Mr. Spinelli continued to question the rationale for allowing people to feed animals.

Mr. Arnone explained it was not his idea to allow for animals to be fed but it likely resulted as a push from City citizens who did not want to see animals starve, freeze or be killed.

Mr. Spinelli stated people should be discouraged from feeding animals.

Mr. Capriotti noted additional issues can arise when feeding stray cats such as racoons showing up.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department

Mark Britton, Police Chief reported in February, officers handled 2,600 total dispatches. Nine people were taken into custody with outstanding warrants. The Department partnered with Victim Services on February 13th to participate in the National Red Sands Project to bring awareness to human trafficking. Chief Britton also shared a warrant was served on February 19 with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General which lead to the arrest of multiple wanted persons tied to a large drug network responsible for traveling large quantities of heroin and fentanyl into Johnstown.

Chief Britton shared the Department participated in a safety meeting with the Johnstown Head Start program on Broad Street. Captain Dan Price was able to offer the Head Start program insight and the Department may do future trainings with the program. On February 21st the Department partnered with Breaking Barriers on a successful community clothing giveaway. He also noted on February 24th, the Department hosted Attorney General Dave Sunday who spoke at the Public Safety Building regarding the takedown on February 19th.

Chief Britton shared one officer was being hired on March 16th and the Department will have an active hire list for the first time since 2017. He also noted two bulletproof vests were being donated for two K-9's. He planned to have a presentation when the vests are received.

Mr. Arnone asked if the two black vehicles would be marked as K-9 vehicles.

Chief Britton stated the decision would be up to administration.

Community Economic Development

John Rutledge, Economic Development Director shared he attended Planning Commission Meeting in February where they discussed the GIS map. He noted DCED is currently testing the system put together by Hildebrand and the comprehensive plan is out for public comment. He also attended the Prospect United Neighborhood Meeting, West End Business Meeting and Soup Kitchen Resource Discussion.

Mr. Rutledge provided updates to ongoing CDBG funding projects including the Market on Main Street; Flood City Youth Fitness Academy; Owner Occupied Program; First Time Home Buyer Program; Property Demolition; and Sewer Lateral Assistance Program.

Regarding HOME-ARP projects he stated Victim Services is currently in the construction phase of four non-congregate shelter apartments. The Women's Help Center is putting their project out for bid in mid-March.

Mr. Rutledge touched on the Lead Base Paint project, FACADE program, and City website. Regarding the Loan Program, he shared 18 of 24 loans were paid and current in February. Two loans are more than 30 days past due, two loans are in collection payment plans, and two loans are past due with ongoing efforts to collect.

Mr. Rutledge shared dates were being finalized for the Farmers Market.

Mr. Arnone asked if there was a way to create an incentive for contractors to come into the system to complete work. He noted the Housing Authority had created an incentive program for contractors for Section 8.

Mr. Rutledge stated DCED is working on another budget through the state to try to get more money to get more contractors service certified. He hoped to provide a report in April regarding contractors.

He also shared a small grant was received to do marketing and advertising. DCED planned to hand out trifold at the Farmers Market describing programs offered by DCED and the City.

Mr. Hamacek commented the comprehensive plan showed 64 percent of adult residents surveyed thought manufacturing jobs would be important while only six percent of youth wanted to pursue a career in manufacturing. He asked if the youth were asked what they wanted to do. He added when people are

young, they may not be searching out manufacturing but if they do not have a career path, they often end up in manufacturing.

Mr. Rutledge replied he would have to see if there was any detail in the survey responses. He encouraged everyone to respond to the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Martynuska commented there was an interactive zoning map on the old website which will also be available on the new website. He also noted Mr. Rutledge had been meeting with department heads regarding what information they wanted on the website and how their individual tabs would be set up.

Recreation

Tony Penna, Recreation Director noted a new Youth Student Council which may be a good place to get some of Mr. Hamacek's questions answered regarding careers youth are interested in. He shared how careers are being discussed at the high school and the different roles people at the school are playing with regards to career paths.

Mr. Penna shared updates regarding the Miracle League at Roxbury Park. He shared the Miracle League project had reached a million dollars in funding. He noted there were a number of benefits for Roxbury Park including camera that might be able to be integrated into the camera initiative program. The ballpark will also be open at all times and can be used by other programs in addition to the Miracle League. The overall cost will be between 1.7 and 3 million dollars. If the full amount is raised, there are plans for a fully ADA accessible playground.

Mr. Penna noted meetings had been held with the City Pony League in which coaches gave out contracts and discussed rule changes with umpires. Separate meetings were held with the Colt League coaches.

Mr. Penna stated the second annual Volunteer Playground Cleanup Day was being planned. Last year, every playground in the City was cleaned up and new mulch was added. He anticipated this year would focus more on clean-up and documenting things that may need upgraded or fixed. He planned on updating the playground PowerPoint.

Mr. Penna stated he is working with an outside firm regarding the advertising at Sargent's Stadium at the Point as secured in the Mill Rats contract. Considerations include ad size, placement and cost. He noted plans include advertisements along both Washington and John Streets as well as possibly facing the river.

Mr. Penna shared 2026 represents the hundredth anniversary of the stadium with the first game having been played on July 5, 1926. He added one of the first night baseball games in the country was played there in 1930. He shared some additional history of the stadium. He noted celebrations are being planned and a preliminary logo would be presented to the Council soon.

Regarding work at Roxbury, he noted bids were out for the tennis courts and baseball field. A new batting cage was installed and an old press box had been torn down and would be replaced.

Mr. Arnone commented on the celebrations being planned for July 5th. He noted at least half a dozen charitable groups had approached him who were interested. If Central Park was opened, a party there would be a good idea.

Mr. Penna stated the celebrations would be a cooperative effort. A parade was also being discussed and the Mill Rats were planning a special game with special jerseys. He added consideration is also being taken for the July 4th event. He noted there is excitement to celebrate a historic landmark.

Mr. Penna reported Safe Spaces is working on being mobile over the summer to hold events at various playgrounds. Verbal agreements were in place to have events at Oakhurst playground, one of the Moxham playgrounds and Wood Street.

Mr. Penna also reported discussions were taking place with an out-of-town group who was looking to bring an ABA basketball franchise to Johnstown. He noted the current ABA is a functional, semi-pro league several steps down from the NBA.

Mr. Penna stated the Families Are Us community event would be held on August 1, 2026 at Roxbury Park.

Mr. Clark asked if any of the Miracle League funds were from Pirates charities.

Mr. Penna responded the Pirates had not come through yet but they had committed to between \$200,000 and \$300,000. He noted a few other big ones have not come through yet with funding but were anticipated.

Mr. Clark noted projects like Miracle League and Central Park being ahead of schedule has been one of the best things seen in the City recently.

Public Works

Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director stated February was spent plowing snow, salting and clearing the main roads. He noted with the warmer weather, they are working on clearing gravel from sidewalks and bridges. The street sweepers are also running with the warmer weather. He added Halite Alley in Prospect was opened up and crews were cleaning up debris and knotweed. Public Works is also working on patching potholes.

Mr. Truscello noted the incorrect lights had been ordered for the ballroom at the conference center but the correct ones were ordered and would be installed soon.

Mr. Truscello reported he spoke with the company doing the roof of the Public Safety Building and they anticipated starting work within a month as the weather warmed up. He also mentioned the police vehicles Mr. Arnone asked about would stay on patrol and would be wrapped.

Mr. Arnone mentioned the possibility of working with the Housing Authority for maintenance and fuel. Mr. Martynuska stated he had already prepared numbers for Mike Albert from the Housing Authority.

Regarding Roxbury Park, Mr. Truscello stated the restrooms were being finished and would be opened within a couple of days after the paint dried on the floor.

Mr. Arnone asked if it was possible to consider restrooms near the bandshell in the future. He noted there were restrooms in the center and there would be restroom installed near the Miracle League field. It would be nice to add restrooms at the bandshell end of the park as well. He also mentioned moving the recycling bins.

It was noted it was already planned to move the recycling bins to Hornerstown to allow space for ADA parking with the Miracle League field.

Regarding restrooms, Mr. Truscello stated the sewer line and cost would need looked into.

Mr. Arnone noted it was a dream list but restrooms at the bandshell end were needed to make the park 100 percent functional for everybody.

Mr. Truscello commented special mobile units might be one way to go. He noted he was already looking at pricing for mobile units for Sargent's Stadium at the Point.

Mr. Penna stated nothing could be done to the bandshell itself due to the historic nature. It was suggested restrooms could be put near the hockey rink nearby.

Human Resources

Lavona Smith, HR Manager/Records Retention Manager stated she had begun preparation early for benefits and open enrollment. She added she was exploring medical, dental and vision rates. She also reached out to a consultant with Liberty Insurance Agency to discuss organizational things for open enrollment moving forward. She noted her efforts were to intended to make sure the City was informed and made good decisions for open enrollment in the future.

Regarding personnel, Ms. Smith reported four new laborers had been hired. She also shared applicants had been interviewed for codes, the electrician position, mechanic position and equipment operators.

Ms. Smith stated she was continuing to review job descriptions with Mr. Martynuska and Mr. Capriotti.

Regarding workplace safety and incident reporting, she noted ten incidents were reported in February with six workers compensation claims filed. The six claims remain open and have adjusters assigned.

Ms. Smith stated she was continuing to audit personnel files with the assistance of Josie Hutzler to ensure each file had all of the required documents. Ms. Hutzler also assumed right-to-know duties as of August 13, 2025. Since assuming the role she has done 117 right-to-know and Act 22 requests. There are currently eight open requests. Of the completed 109 requests, 106 were right-to-know and 11 were Act 22.

Mayor King asked what an Act 22 request was.

Ms. Smith explained Act 22 requests were things that might be under investigation or related to police activity.

Mr. Hamacek asked about the workers comp claims. Ms. Smith confirmed the six claims were out of 114 employees and none of the claims were serious.

Ms. Smith also noted Ms. Hutzler and herself participate in trainings regarding right-to-know and Sunshine Law. In addition Ms. Smith is doing supervisory and leadership training through the United States military.

Fire Department

Jim McCann, Fire Chief reported the Fire Department responded to 329 calls for service in February. He noted there were major fires within the City in addition to assisting Franklin Borough. He added one firefighter was injured at the Daniel Street fire but had been treated and was back to work. An occupant was brought out of the fire on Steel Street and transported to Conemaugh for treatment. The occupant has since been released.

Chief McCann noted the Fire Department is continuing to assist Codes with rental inspections throughout the City. In addition the Department is continuing to work on their inventory which they keep tight track of.

Chief McCann stated the Department is continuing to work with American Red Cross to perform home safety visits and install smoke detectors. A recent push in Woodvale resulted in a lot of requests for installation. He noted over 100 detectors were installed during February. The Department is also working with the Red Cross on their hands-on CPR program. He recognized the importance of getting knowledge and understanding of CPR into the community.

Chief McCann shared he is continuing to work with the Salvation Army and Soup Kitchen. He added there are discussions happening regarding long-term solutions instead of just reacting to weather.

Chief McCann stated training is continuing within the Department in between the busy call volume. He noted the Department is fortunate to have state certified instructors in-house to assist with training.

Chief McCann shared Captain Sean Carnahan retired effective March 1, 2026 after 20 years of service. A new hire was scheduled to start from the eligibility list. He also noted in April there will be an entire evaluation of the Fire Department including equipment and personnel. He added the Department, along with the Police Department, is continuing its relationship Victim Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Dustin Greene, 312 Chestnut Street, recognized the online streaming of the meetings was very helpful for when he was unable to attend in person. He suggested replacing the microphones and suggested hiring a consultant to address transmission issues.

Mr. Greene shared concerns regarding the speed of vehicles coming off of Roosevelt Boulevard into Cambria City. He noted the same concerns were raised at the Planning Commission meeting the day before. He asked that something be done regarding vehicle speeds like signs or rumble strips. In particular he was concerned with the corner near 3rd Avenue and where Power Street begins and Roosevelt Boulevard ends. Mr. Greene also mentioned the lights in Cambria City need to be fixed or replaced. He noted the blue and purple colors are a result of phosphors falling off.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:00 p.m.