

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 8, 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 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Chris Valente, director of New Day and pastor of Bridge to Life 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, Taylor Clark, Nicolas Spinelli, Mike Hamacek

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Mike Capriotti, Assistant City Manager; Aimee Willett, Solicitor; Jennifer Burkhart, Executive Secretary; Owen Falvo, DCED Fiscal Officer; Mark Britton, Chief of Police; Jim McCann, Fire Chief; Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director; Lavona Smith, HR Manager/Records Retention Manager; Brandon Palmer, EADS; Caleb Harrington, CTR Payroll; and Anthony Penna, Recreation Director, were also present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor King requested a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2026 and the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2026.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King shared a proclamation.

"Whereas April 11, 2026, marks the 58th anniversary of the passage of the U.S. Fair Housing Law, Title 8 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which enunciates a national policy of fair housing without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, familial status and handicap and mandates fair housing opportunities for all citizens. And whereas, the Fair Housing Law prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of

residential housing based on race, color, creed, national origin, sex, familial status or handicap. And whereas, the assistance of fair housing legislation renders to citizens in their efforts to gain access to affordable housing is considerable, though perhaps intangible. And whereas, the commitment and effort of the public and the government must continue to assure such access to fair housing for all Americans. And whereas, the City of Johnstown, historically has proven its support for the concept of and the right to fair housing. Now therefore, I, Sylvia King, Mayor of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, do hereby join in the national celebration in the pursuit of the shared goal and responsibility of providing equal housing opportunity for all citizens. Being further resolved that I, Sylvia King, Mayor of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to hereby declare the month of April 2026 to be Fair Housing Month in the City of Johnstown."

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Art Martynuska, City Manager, introduced Caleb Harrington, CTR Payroll, to discuss CTR's payroll process.

Mr. Harrington provided a brief background of CTR, a family owned, business based out of Warrendale, Pennsylvania. If contracted, CTR would essentially consult and assist the City with payroll. The payroll would not be completely outsourced to CTR. CTR would be taking care of federal, state, and local tax filings; processing direct deposits and paychecks; and complete quarterly and annual payroll tax filings.

Mr. Martynuska stated CTR was highly recommended by both the City's auditing firm and Maher Duessel. He noted working with CTR would lead to a reduction in the number of staff needed to process payroll as it would ease the burden on the City. The City would still have a hand in payroll production to ensure a system of checks and balances with internal controls. He added the proposal is still under review but would come in as more economical for the City.

Mr. Harrington stated CTR recently started working with the Borough in Portage. In addition, CTR works with a number of boroughs and local municipalities in the greater Pittsburgh area along with several clients in Johnstown.

Mayor King asked if CTR would be spending any time at City Hall; and if so, how often.

Mr. Harrington stated CTR would come in person for training. He noted, while based in Greensburg, he is responsible for the territory that includes Johnstown and is usually in town at least once a week. In addition, CTR does quarterly reviews and would have two dedicated points of contact for the City.

Mr. Martynuska requested Mr. Harrington describe how the CTR system would interact with the current accounting system.

Mr. Harrington explained CTR has the ability to directly integrate with the existing system used by the City. The City would be able to export files out of the existing system, and CTR would be able to import the information directly into their system. From an efficiency standpoint, he noted the process would be quick and accurate.

Mr. Barber asked who was currently CTR's biggest client.

Mr. Harrington stated CTR has a variety of clients ranging from a single employee up to about 1,200 employees. He was willing to supply references to the Council upon request.

Mr. Barber clarified he was interested in CTR's largest municipality account number-wise without names.

Mr. Harrington replied the largest municipality account would be around 150 to 200 employees. He noted Johnstown was around 115 employees.

Mr. Martynuska reported the dumpster program was operating smoothly at the fire training facility on Oak Street. The program is scheduled to run through April 26, 2026, and funded through the state. He also noted a couple of clean-up days were being scheduled for the 8th Ward and Moxham. He noted, during neighborhood meetings, he informed residents if they had neighborhood clean-up days, the residents can coordinate with Public Works for assistance. Regarding Pro Disposal, he reminded everyone, if a large item needed to be picked up, Pro Disposal should be contacted directly. Pro Disposal is also working on a mapping system reflecting the times and locations of the pick-ups. The mapping system will be available on the City's new website.

Mr. Martynuska shared an updated list of street sweeping evenings, and nights will also be available on the new website for reference. He noted there had been recent press regarding the golf course. He stated there was an upcoming

meeting with the golf course operator and legal counsel to discuss further courses of action. He added there had previously been issues identified that would be further investigated.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King announced an Executive Session was held on March 11, 2026, for personnel and litigation reasons.

Mayor King shared upcoming meetings for April 2026 including the Prospect Community Meeting on April 15; Moxham Community Meeting on April 16; and Woodvale Community Meeting on April 14. She noted that the Martin Luther King celebration at Johnstown High School with the NAACP and Johnstown Symphony Orchestra was rescheduled from January to April 12. She also mentioned volunteers were needed for tree planting at Central Park scheduled for April 25. She shared the National Day of Prayer on May 7, 2026.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mr. Hamacek discussed his attending the Planning Commission meeting on April 7, 2026. The Commission voted to approve the 2025 Annual Report with forthcoming revisions. The report will be provided to the Council to review. He also attended the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) meeting hosted by Representative Frank Burns at the War Memorial. The KOZ would allow new businesses in the KOZ that meet requirements to be free from state taxes. The planned area is 40 acres in the city with a total of 300 acres in Cambria County. He also noted there would be an upcoming meeting with JRA regarding plans for the Pocket Park on Main Street.

Mr. Spinelli noted attending the Johnstown Rising Civics Fair as a judge on March 25, 2026. He thanked Christian Wrabley for hosting the event and the students who presented. He appreciated seeing young people care about their community and considering ways to make Johnstown a better place.

Mr. Spinelli reported on working on solutions to address the stray cat issue. He spoke with representatives from JAWS, the 7 Hearts Projects, Nardecchia Spay and Neuter, and Cambria County Humane Society. He also attended a class on April 1, 2026, on stray cat trapping hosted by JAWS and Dr. Dalin

at UPJ. After the class, a productive, wide-ranging discussion was held with a number of representatives from organizations. Mr. Spinelli recognized local organizations already host mobile spay and neuter clinics. He stated a key theme that has emerged from conversations was the difficulty of planning and hosting mobile clinics on a consistent basis due to funding constraints and limited veterinary availability. He noted working on a potential framework where the City can align budgeted funds with the volunteer capacity of organizations to systematically trap cats and transport them to subsidized clinics on a more regular basis. He added challenges remain with veterinary schedules; however, he spoke to one clinic who was receptive to increasing the frequency of clinics. He also has connected with a local veterinarian who is willing to assist in emergency situations during the post-surgery recovery period.

Mr. Spinelli was optimistic that a more detailed and actionable plan may be ready for discussion at the next workshop and Council meetings. He invited Laura Huchel, founder of JAWS and former Council member, to give her perspective and fill in on any additional information.

Charlene Stanton interrupted the meeting to show objection to Ms. Huchel presenting. Mayor King redirected the meeting back to Ms. Huchel.

Ms. Huchel thanked Mayor King and Mr. Capriotti for attending the meeting on stray cats. She stated there needed to be a way to target city stray cats and not cats from other municipal areas through an organization or individuals with a capacity beyond what is already being done. She could not speak for any organizations beyond JAWS. Ms. Huchel stated JAWS has found through their TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) efforts, many of the cats are adoptable, which while it can help get cats off of streets, adoption is not conducive to high-volume turnover. She stated the city is already past every critical mass crisis point for cats in the city.

Ms. Huchel stated efforts needed to be targeted for any measurable difference. She noted, while stray cats do not live very long, if they can be prevented from reproducing, the situation becomes better. Vaccination can also help keep cats relatively healthy. She explained conversations had concluded that an organization was needed to take on the administrative burden of a program to spay or neuter 26 cats in a given month without opening slots up to the public. She stated there were many dots to connect including volunteer hours, housing cats during recovery, and coordinating pickups and drop-offs.

Ms. Huchel appreciated Council's attention to the situation and hoped financial support would be provided. She stated the bare minimum of fixing a cat and providing a rabies vaccination is around \$90. If a cat is brought in with additional health concerns, euthanizing the cat can cost even more. She stated a way forward would be for Council to help with cost while organizations rearrange their resources to help.

Ms. Huchel shared that JAWS membership is open to anyone who traps in the city and meets their criteria. She hoped to see a brighter future for animals in the city.

Mr. Martynuska requested clarification on the costs of spaying or neutering and vaccines.

Ms. Huchel stated the \$90 to \$100 includes the vaccines in addition to the spay or neuter. The cost can vary depending on the clinic used as well as the organization handling the matter. She stated JAWS was fortunate to have a discounted program that comes out to be less than the general public's cost. In addition, she explained surgery for a female cat is considered major surgery, which is more involved and requires more time, creating an additional limitation on the number of female cats which can be taken care of during a clinic.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Spinelli for bringing Ms. Huchel to the meeting to assist with his report.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor reported attending the Prospect Neighborhood Meeting where neighborhood cleanup and resident concerns regarding abandoned vehicles were discussed. In addition, there was discussion on how their neighborhood money could be spent to improve their area. She also attended the ACRP Annual Beach Party. The proceeds from the event went towards assistance for individuals with autism. She attended the civics event at Johnstown High School. She was impressed with the effort students made in their presentations. She reported meeting with Ryan Traovato from FAVOR Laurel Highlands to discuss their program that prepares individuals for employment. She noted FAVOR is working with Goodwill to utilize their services in providing a work history for individuals integrating back into society.

Mr. Arnone reported on attending the Veterans Appreciation Day at the Masonic Temple on March 27, 2026. He noted the event included displays of items used during deployments, outreach from several places, a speaker from Harrisburg, a light breakfast, and a lunch. He shared, as World War II and

Korean veterans are lost, Vietnam veterans are becoming the older veterans in the community with average ages between 70 and 80 years old. He appreciated seeing Vietnam veterans being acknowledged for their service. He recommended all Council members attend next year if possible.

Mr. Arnone reported the Water Authority is in the process of collecting information for the lead line program. 73 percent of pressure testing is complete in the city. He noted work started on the new face of the North Fork Dam. He explained the project will take about a year and half to complete. He recommended people view the work being done.

Mr. Arnone also reported statistics for the Housing Authority. As of February 28, 2026, public housing units in Johnstown were 96 percent occupied with 2,573 people across 1,348 apartments. Section 8 utilization was at 75 percent with 722 out of 960 vouchers under lease. He stated the Housing Authority is not accepting any Section 8 applications and no new vouchers will be issued due to a lack of funding. He reported renovations over the next year and a half at the Oakhurst Housing community including new metal roofs for all 70 buildings including the community center. In addition, the parking areas will be updated and cleaned up.

Mr. Barber thanked Discover Downtown for the Bunny Hop Easter event held at the Cambria County Library. He also recognized the annual chili cookoff at Kastle Boxing as a phenomenal event. He recently had coffee at Her Table next to Classic Elements and recommended the cafe as a nice place to have meetings. He has also enjoyed seeing children at the playgrounds with the warmer weather. He recently toured the condos being constructed by Johnstown Capital across from Ameriserv and wrapping around Main Street. He noted it was good to see more places for rent in the downtown area.

Mr. Clark reported, at the last Downtown Business Owners meeting, there was a presentation by John Rutledge and DCED. He stated business owners presented concerns in the past regarding potential grant information, which is why he was trying to get DCED involved in the meetings. Amy Bradley also attended the meeting to present on what the Chamber of Commerce does as a tool in the city.

Mr. Clark attended the Moxham Community meeting where Mr. Rutledge unveiled plans for the Cypress Avenue Park. He hoped all of the grant funding was secured soon for the park. In addition, he noted the fire department had a CPR class and defibrillator class during the meeting.

Mr. Clark mentioned attending the civics event was his favorite event since starting on Council. He had preconceived notions of being a judge at the event; however, he was blown away by what the students accomplished. He felt it was incredible to see the concerns and solutions presented by the students.

Mr. Clark attended the KOZ presentation. He recommended anyone interested from either a business or personal standpoint should get details from Representative Burn's office or PA-DCED as there is a good number of parameters around who qualify. He noted the deadline is October 1, 2026.

Mr. Clark announced, when the weather breaks, the scheduled crosswalk across Franklin Street from Plainfield into Roxbury Park would be going up. He thanked the Public Works department for removing tree limbs from the top of Roxbury Park before they hurt someone or damaged property.

Mr. Clark commented on a recent fire on Church Avenue. He noted one of the families involved was the D'Angelo family. Mike D'Angelo worked for the City for over 30 years. He noted a second family, Ceara McCray and Tim Kranz, were also affected by the fire. He stated on April 18, 2026, Coney Island would host a benefit to assist the families. He added, in addition to contributions at Coney Island, Primo's Pizza has a collection. A separate bank account was also set up at First National Bank for the D'Angelo's.

PETITIONS:

None.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READ

Ordinance No. 5379

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5375, ADOPTED DECEMBER 10, 2025, AMENDING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026.

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 5380

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE TOWHEE PLACE FROM VINE STREET TO ROWLEY ALLEY IN JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 10761

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND SIGN AL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY IN THE PURCHASE OF 6 WIRELESS MOBILE VEHICLE LIFTS.

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

Mayor King asked if the request was due to current work on larger vehicles.

Mr. Truscello explained the current in-ground lift, which could lift up to 75,000 pounds, is broken down and has not worked for many years. He stated the next best thing to a new in-ground lift would be lifts that are slid underneath the vehicle wheels and lift the vehicle up while work is being done underneath.

Mayor King questioned if it was more cost-efficient to purchase the mobile lifts instead of repairing the existing lift or installing a new in-ground lift. Mr. Truscello outlined what would be involved with getting the current lift out for repairs.

Mr. Arnone asked about the cost difference between buying new and repairing the existing lift. Mr. Truscello estimated there was about a \$20,000 difference.

Mayor King questioned whether the batteries for the lifts would need to be purchased separately and the batter life expectancy. Mr. Truscello explained the batteries came with the lifts and the life expectancy depended on how much the lifts were used.

Mr. Clark commented on the different estimates, which ranged from \$68,000 at RDI to \$89,000 at Alan Tye. He questioned if there were differences in the guarantees with the cost differences. Mr. Truscello replied to the warranties for all the companies were basically the same.

Mr. Truscello reviewed where the lift companies were based out of. He added there were a number of companies around the area, who had mobile lifts including CamTran and PennDOT. He also noted the lifts he was looking at were wireless versions.

Mr. Clark appreciated the different bids. He wanted to ensure if Council went with the lowest bid from RDI, and then not have guarantees for down the road.

Mr. Spinelli noted Mr. Truscello stated the warranties were comparable. He asked if the services were also comparable.

Mr. Truscello noted the Alan Tye service was good as they were close. He checked on the services for two of other companies. One did not provide answers, and one has service out of New Jersey.

Mr. Barber asked if the lifts were a need or a want. Mr. Truscello confirmed the lifts were needed.

Mayor King noted the price was over budget as the lift line item was only budgeted for \$50,000. Mr. Martynuska explained money was shifted from another line item to cover the cost.

Mr. Hamacek asked if Mr. Truscello had determined what needed repaired or if he had someone look at the lift. Mr. Truscello explained the needed repairs to the lift. He reiterated the lift is not repairable in its condition.

Mr. Barber asked if anyone who specifically works on lifts had been in to look at the lift. Mr. Truscello had looked at the lift as he was there during the installation. He added, if needed, he would get someone else in to look at the lift.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked, with the lowest bid of \$68,000, if Mr. Truscello would need to have additional parts like jacks in order to use the lifts.

Mr. Truscello stated there were additional parts that could be purchased such as jacks or a bridge to go across two of the lifts. However, he would not need any additional pieces to use the lifts as they came.

Mr. Hamacek asked if he would have another way to change brakes or tires if the lifts could not be used for those jobs. Mr. Truscello noted the garage has a regular jack and jack stands to use.

Mr. Martynuska asked if the mobile lifts could be used in areas where work normally could not be done. Mr. Truscello confirmed, with the lifts being mobile and battery operated, the lifts could be used anywhere flat where the vehicle and lifts would fit.

Mr. Barber asked what was shifted in the budget to allocate the funds for the lifts. Mr. Martynuska stated there was a line item for two tow trucks. One of the tow trucks was deleted to move the funds.

When asked by Mr. Clark, Mr. Truscello confirmed the lifts were more important than a second tow truck. He elaborated that the current in-ground lift was unusable. Due to the leak, he had pumped all the oil from the back of the lift into two 55-gallon drums.

Mr. Spinelli asked Ms. Willet if the resolution had to have the company name listed in addition to the total cost. Ms. Willet replied the price was sufficient in the resolution as it was specific to only one company.

Mr. Hamacek asked if there were environmental concerns from the leak. Mr. Truscello confirmed there were no environmental concerns as he had removed the oil, and there was no sump pump for water in the pit.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10762

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE GREENWAYS, TRAILS & RECREATIONAL PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYPRESS PARK.

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

Mr. Falvo stated the resolution, in addition to Resolution No. 10763, was to apply for a grant to help match the CDBG funds for Cypress Park. He noted Mr. Rutledge wanted to find additional grant funding with the size of the project as more funding would produce a more complete project. He also noted Mr. Rutledge was working with EADS on the development planning of the park.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10763

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYPRESS PARK.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10764

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM (FMP) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY & THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FOR THE ST. CLAIR RUN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT.

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

Mr. Palmer explained EADS has been applying for the grant for since about 2015. He stated the issue was with the retaining wall behind the funeral home on J Street. He noted the wall had gotten worse over the years. The problem originally started on one side of the street towards J Street and has now extended down to the end of Alexander Street. He was not sure the \$500,000 would take care of the project; however, it was the maximum amount that could be applied for and would be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Martynuska was also going to approach the county for assistance. He added, as research was done on the problem, an old resolution was found from 1996 which he believed was still in effect. The resolution related to maintenance of the waterway and involved multiple groups. He would have legal review the language and determine enforcement.

Mr. Palmer stated EADS reached out to the Army Corps for funding in 2019 or 2020 with no response. He added if the grant was awarded, there would be a better chance of additional funding.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10765

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 ONE DUMP TRUCK W/PLOW.

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

Mr. Barber asked for confirmation that a new dump truck with plow was needed. Mr. Truscello confirmed he was correct.

Mr. Arnone questioned the age of the trucks in the current fleet. Mr. Truscello stated the youngest truck was from 2024 and the oldest from 1994.

Mr. Spinelli questioned the size of the truck and wondered if the truck was a big one or a tandem axle. Mr. Truscello confirmed the truck was a tandem axle with a plow, tailgate spreaders, and wing plow. He explained the use of the current trucks in the fleet.

Mr. Spinelli asked if the one quote received was in line with what Mr. Truscello expected. Mr. Truscello confirmed the quote was in line with expectations. He added there was a second bid; however, the one selected would allow the entire truck to be built by one company.

Mr. Clark added the interest rate quoted was at a very rate which shocked him. He stressed the need for updating the fleet.

Mayor King stated the truck was over budget. Mr. Martynuska explained the money from the second tow truck was being divided between the mobile lifts and the plow truck. He also confirmed one tow truck was still in the budget.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10766

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EADS GROUP TO EVALUATE & MAKE REVISIONS TO THE CITY'S STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANT (NPDES PERMIT/MS4) AND PERFORM CONVERSION OF THE CITY'S SANITARY TO STORM SEWER MAPPING.

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

Mr. Palmer explained DEP, as part of the MS4 program, inspects part of the City storm system every five years. He was at the DEP inspections in 2018 and 2023. The resolution would be addressing violations and non-compliance items addressed in the 2023 inspection report. With DEP doing another inspection in a couple of years, Mr. Palmer stated DEP would want to see that the City had addressed their concerns. The second part of the resolution

would be to get the old sanitary system mapped. He added there was approximately 200,000 feet of pipe unmapped throughout the city.

Mr. Martynuska commented the initial proposal from EADS had a third part. Mr. Palmer stated the third would have been between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to do outfall inspections on the City's 250 storm outfalls from the streams. He explained, to save the City money, EADS could show Public Works how to check the outfalls and then Public Works could do the job instead of EADS. He noted the outfalls should be inspected every five years. If flow is found when it is not raining, then there should be yearly inspections.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mark Britton, Chief of Police, provided a summary of the police department's monthly report. He reported the department handled about 2,857 dispatch calls during March along with taking 11 people into custody on outstanding warrants. Regarding community activities, he was invited to tour Flood City Youth Fitness Academy which he enjoyed. He completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training as a coordinator. He will also be attending training in September 2026 with Detective Schwartz to be certified to teach a 40-hour CIT course. Officer Jones will be attending CIT training at Penn Highlands April 13-17, 2026.

Chief Britton reported the department is in the process of purchasing a new prisoner transport unit through DCED funding and Representative Burn's office. He also noted grant paperwork had been completed with Senator

Langerholz's office for \$150,000 to purchase automated license plate readers and cameras. A crime prevention grant was used to purchase seven new ballistic vests for officers out of the nine officers due for new vests this year.

Chief Britton stated the department is working with the Codes Department and Mr. Capriotti with regards to abandoned vehicles. He also reported an application was completed to send an officer to Pennsylvania State Police training for commercial vehicle inspections. If selected, the officer will start training in July 2026. He also noted upcoming training for officers. He stated one new officer started his training in March and another officer will begin training on April 20, 2026.

Chief Britton noted the transition to the new reporting system, Pathfinder, was complete. The new system is more officer-friendly than the old system.

Chief Britton shared the Cambria County District Attorney's office partnered with the department to purchase four Glock 45T firearms, which use paintball-like rounds for training purposes. He stated using the firearms in simulation training helps officers learn the proper and safe way to clear rooms and deal with different situations. He also noted the firearms can be used for community training to allow Council members to experience what police officers do on a daily basis.

Mr. Arnone thanked Chief Britton for assisting in the return of a wallet he found lying on the street a couple weeks prior.

Mr. Martynuska mentioned he found a cell phone in front of ACRP about a week ago. The phone was turned into the department and can be claimed by identification and unlocking the phone.

CODES

Mike Capriotti, Assistant City Manager, highlighted a few items from his report. He echoed Mr. Martynuska's remarks regarding the spring cleanup during the month of April. He added a specific list of what is not allowed on Facebook and the City website.

Mr. Capriotti shared a new codes officer started and will likely attend the May Council meeting. She has attended trainings with the department's other codes officer. They are both studying for their certification exam.

Mr. Capriotti extended appreciation to Chief Britton and the police department for their assistance in working on the illegal dumping problem in

the City. He noted a number of violators had been identified, charged and brought to court resulting in reimbursements to the City for cleanup as well as additional fines and fees. He encouraged the public to take advantage of the dump site set up by the City for April.

Mr. Capriotti highlighted the police department assisting with identifying abandoned vehicles. He noted, with the new abandoned vehicle ordinance passed by Council, the codes department and police department can work towards removing the vehicles. Close to 100 vehicles have been identified. Mr. Capriotti cautioned it will take time to remove all the vehicles and the list is being prioritized by location and condition.

Council members raised specific concerns about vehicles. Mr. Capriotti noted the locations but reminded Council, the vehicles were probably already on the list for removal.

Mr. Barber referred to the written report from Laurel Municipal and asked who was the "boss" mentioned in the report. He specifically noted the report had seven instances where it was stated property owner identifiers were found but evidence was destroyed and the person was waiting on direction from their boss.

Mr. Capriotti explained the report was referring to an employee, who had been assigned to work in the Johnstown area and deleted information from his computer when being terminated from his job. The information being deleted has put Laurel Municipal in the position of recapturing missing information. He also explained additional lines on the report. He noted, in some cases, the property owner could not be reached by the magistrates, at which time the codes department tries other ways to find the owners. He added the LLCs can be particularly challenging to track down.

Mr. Barber questioned who the boss is. He noted Laurel Municipal works for the City.

Mr. Capriotti stated Laurel is contracted with the City; however, they have their own people in charge, and he is not their direct boss.

Mr. Barber expressed frustration at the length of time some of the cases have taken.

Mr. Capriotti stated the court system takes time. He could not speak to the length of time and process it takes for the magistrate to get a case on the docket. He added it may have taken a long time to get the paperwork served to the property owners.

Mr. Hamacek asked if the City receives a discount due to the lost information.

Mr. Capriotti responded the codes department is tracking any cases that were turned over to Laurel and had not made it through the process due to missing or deleted information. The cases are being reactivated, and the City will be holding Laurel to following up with the cases. He also confirmed the City would not be charged again for the work.

Mr. Barber shared concerns about the residents who are living next to the properties in question.

Mayor King stated Mr. Barber seemed to feel if the cases were taking that long, then perhaps Laurel was not effective, and the City might need to reconsider using their services. Mr. Capriotti noted the decision would be up to City Council.

Mr. Barber questioned why nobody had looked at the report until now to see that there were cases stretching back a year.

Mr. Capriotti noted the City had been using Laurel for one year. He explained the property maintenance report City Council was reviewing was the first one of its kind received by the City. He noted past reports were generated by the employee who had been terminated. He added, with the new report, the City can continue to follow up on cases.

Mr. Martynuska recently met with Mr. Capriotti and the magistrate. At that time, the magistrate explained the process a case goes through in their system. The suggestion was made that it may be more effective and efficient for cases to be filed directly in Ebensburg at the County Court. He was working to set up a meeting with Judge Fleming to discuss the situation.

Mr. Clark requested an update regarding a specific property which a resident had complained about a year ago. The property in question had multiple violations including broken windows, falling gutters, general disrepair, and high grass. He added only the high grass had been addressed. Mr. Clark also noted, in the past, the City had considered doing a multi-agency, city-wide sweep for codes and then forming a separate court to address the issues. He asked if the idea was still being considered.

Mr. Barber stated the codes were being made too complicated and reiterated his frustration with the process.

Mr. Capriotti stated the process Mr. Barber had explained was only the first step in the entire process. Once a violation was determined, the next step is tracking down the property owner to hold them accountable. He explained the City is trying to be more aggressive, which is why additional codes officers are being hired.

Mr. Capriotti addressed Mr. Clark's concerns about a specific property. He noted, in March 2026, the property owner submitted remediation plans. He noted she was probably given 30 or 45 days to complete the plans or to show progress once the weather cleared.

Mayor King mentioned Mr. Forcey could potentially provide information for Hosanna which has a program to assist with home repairs.

PUBLIC WORKS

Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director, provided an update on Public Works operations. Public Works has returned to daylight shifts with the exception of two nighttime shifts for street sweeping. He noted the Christmas decorations from Main Street were all removed.

Mr. Arnone asked if there was only one street sweeper. Mr. Truscello stated there were two sweepers, but generally only one was run at a time as there were only a couple of equipment operators. He stated one runs at night with one running during the day to clean up areas throughout the City as needed.

Mayor King asked if there was an updated street sweeping schedule. Mr. Truscello replied the schedule was on the website and offered to get her a copy. He shared Public Works had cleaned up the branches and leaves along Von Lunen Road and had opened the storm sewers. In addition, at Roxbury Park, tree branches were removed. He noted the department would be trimming additional trees back.

He reported the department put in new parking spaces underneath the underpass along Somerset Street across from the cancer center. The new spots were requested by the center who have hired new employees.

He also reported on various repairs to storm sewers, manholes, and pipes throughout the City. Public Works were working on cleaning up and repairing lights in the parking garages. He added power washing of the stairwells in the garages would soon be starting.

Mayor King asked if the lights along the sidewalk by the Pasquerilla Center had been repaired. Mr. Truscello noted the lights have been installed during the LED project. It was determined the timers were set incorrectly during installation and since been corrected to be off during the day and on at night. He added the same issue was discovered at the ITC parking garage and was being corrected.

Mr. Hamacek pointed out there was at least one door rotting at the bottom at the Lincoln Street garage. Mr. Truscello noted the particular door was probably not specified on his list; however, most of the doors in the garages needed to be replaced or removed due to rotting.

Mr. Hamacek mentioned a resident had complained about the weeds at the city yard on Hudson Street. Mr. Truscello stated they had picked up debris leftover from the snow melting; however, they would have someone address the weeds.

Mr. Spinelli thanked Public Works for their quick handling of a dead raccoon in one of the neighborhoods.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jim McCann, Fire Chief, reported that the Fire Department responded to a total of 405 calls for service during March 2026. He noted, when he discusses call volume, the number does not include any additional activities by the department, such as safety checks, rental inspections, and training. He added training significantly ramped up after he started in June 2025. He pointed out there were significant fires in the City in March 2026 including the one mentioned by Mr. Clark.

Chief McCann shared the department received a grant from the State Fire Commissioner's office for \$16,255 to be used towards new personal protective equipment. He added, in the fire department, gear does not last as long as other departments due to call volume and fires.

He noted the department is continuing to assist the codes department with rental inspections as well as boarding up and securing properties. The partnership with the Red Cross continues with the installation of smoke detectors. He shared the importance of having working smoke detectors for early fire detection. He noted, in the last month, 90 smoke detectors were installed in 23 different residences.

Chief McCann stated the department has started a hands only CPR program which they are rolling out across the city. He also shared that the department is continuing to conduct fire safety and employee safety training. They recently completed a fire drill at Cambria County Head Start.

He shared the department recently switched to new reporting and new alerting software. The new user-friendly software will allow for the department to dig deeper into reporting and allow for reports to be generated for Council. He noted, in addition to training fire department staff, he plans to train city staff on the software as vehicle maintenance information can be entered into the program.

Chief McCann highlighted the number of Fire Service instructors in the department is a significant cost savings as training can be done in-house without bringing in outside instructors. Regarding community outreach, he shared a number of organizations met to work on warming shelters to ensure everything is ready to go next winter.

Mr. Hamacek commented the department had removed wires down on Railroad Street due to a fire. He thought there may be additional wires on another pole that needed examined.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

Owen Falvo, DCED Fiscal Officer, reported DCED attending a number of events and meetings in March. He provided updates on ongoing DCED projects. The Market on Main Street is ongoing and currently awaiting receipt of the intercreditor agreement from other participating funding agencies. Bids are open until April 21, 2026, for the Flood City Youth Fitness Academy and the Iolite expansion project.

Mr. Falvo also provided updates on the Owner-Occupied Rehab Program, the Home Buyer Rehabilitation Program, Property Demolition projects, and the Sewer Lateral Assistance Program. He noted, for the HOME-ARP ongoing projects, Victim Services is in the construction phase of four non-congregate shelter apartments and Women's Help Center is ongoing with bids. The final residence for the ARPA lead-based paint program is awaiting the contractor start date. The FACADE program has one applicant finalized and being awarded in April with two applicants working through the process to get quotes. Ten additional businesses have expressed interest, and staff is working with them.

Mr. Falvo reported the new City website is about 90 percent complete. Staff are ensuring all information is up to date and accurate. Interactive forms for residents are being developed to improve overall convenience and accessibility.

The loan program remains similar to prior months with 24 active loans, 18 of which are paid and current, two loans are 30 days past due, two in collection payment plans, and two with ongoing collection efforts.

Mr. Falvo provided 2026 dates for the Farmers Market of May 15, 22, and 29; June 5, 12, and 26; July 10, 17, 24, and 31; August 7, 14, 21, and 28; September 4, 11, 18, and 25; and October 2, 9, and 16, 2026. He noted they are actively looking for vendors and sponsors. He encouraged anyone interested to reach out.

Mr. Falvo stated the GIS software is being tested to resolve any issues before going live. Regarding the comprehensive plan, he noted it had been released for public review and comment on the City's website along with hard copies available at City Hall, Johnstown Housing Authority, and Cambria County Library.

Mr. Arnone requested the Farmers Market dates be put on the website.

Mr. Hamacek asked if the fee schedule for the Farmers Market could also be listed.

Mr. Falvo confirmed the dates and fees would be listed as well as sponsorship information.

Mr. Clark commented the Farmers Market fee was a good deal at \$75 for the season.

Mr. Falvo encouraged early applications, allowing for easier planning and processing.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Lavonna Smith, HR Manager/Records Retention Manager, provided HR updates.

She reported hiring one electrician, one codes enforcement officer, one equipment operator, and one laborer. She added they were still looking to hire one codes person and one mechanic. Anyone interested could stop in at City Hall to speak with her.

Ms. Smith reported reviewing Aflac benefits with all new hires. She has also been meeting with various groups to review potential medical, dental, and vision insurances for 2027. Once all information is gathered, she intends to

review the options with her department to choose the best options. Nine employees signed up for an in-person retirement education session with Eric from Mission Square.

Regarding right-to-know requests, she stated there were currently eight active requests. She also reviewed professional development for herself and Josie Hutzler.

ENGINEER REPORT

Brandon Palmer, EADS, reported plans to put the Walnut Street Storm project out for bids later in April 2026. He noted all permits and clearances had been approved. He added EADS is currently coordinating with the Heritage Association as there will be disturbance in the parking lot at PNG Park.

EADS is looking at replacing the sidewalk along Franklin Street from the Band Shell at Roxbury Park to the old U-Rent building. EADS is working on the highway occupancy permit from the state as well as working on the plans and specs. Public Works will be completing the project once the permit is approved.

Mr. Arnone requested Mr. Palmer look at the spring on Franklin Street past St. Vincent de Paul's. He noted the spring is in a bare piece of grass and running all over the place.

Mr. Palmer will look at the spring. He noted there would be a need for storm inlets or something to direct the water into the storm lines.

Mr. Palmer noted EADS is working with Mr. Rutledge on the Iolite Park in Woodvale. He added the money needs to be spent by June, so the project is being fast-tracked.

RECREATION

Anthony Penna, Recreation Director, discussed his involvement with the Cypress Park plans. He noted the community groups had a vision for the playground and were unable to get funding, so their input was included in the plans. He added the plans were not finalized but included a fenced-in play area, a covered area, and basketball courts. The entire area would be surrounded by a locking fence and would be open from dawn to dusk.

Mr. Penna reported on sending out an email detailing the new marking plan for the space captured in the Mill Rats deal. The plan is preliminary, and he welcomed feedback.

He discussed receiving several phone calls regarding the hockey rink. He noted there were issues with the asphalt along the boards and rollerblades being caught. He was looking at cost-effective solutions. He added he would be speaking with the gentleman who put the rink in for his suggestions.

Mr. Penna was excited to share, starting on April 18, 2026, weather permitting, boys and girls flag football would be starting. He stated they would be renting Sargent Stadium at the Point on Sunday evenings, which would allow for four fields being used at a time for skills, drills, and games. He explained some of the details, noting the aim was 100 boys and 100 girls, and they were planning for the cost to be about \$75 per child.

Mr. Penna also shared an update on the Roxbury tennis courts. He stated the project would be put out to bid and would involve resurfacing the courts. In addition, bids have been put out for the backstop for the AAABA field and press box. He noted the majority of the money is coming from ARPA funds and is being spent on parks. A grant and a match were received to cover the tennis courts.

Mr. Penna shared plans that were being made for the cleanup days in the third week of May. He noted, this year, there was a goal to involve students on the Friday of the event and community stakeholders and groups on Saturday. He added last year mulch was added to all of the playgrounds while this year the goal was to clean up the playgrounds. He noted gathering updated information and photos of the playgrounds, so Council can view what needs done.

Mr. Penna was excited to share the City would be copromoting events in the area and at the conference center starting with the boxing match in June 2026. He noted it was a great opportunity to show unity.

Mr. Clark commented on the planned advertisements on the Washington Street side of Sargent Stadium. He noted the setup was a wonderful idea.

Mr. Barber asked about the time for the initials flag football event on April 18, 2026. Mr. Penna replied there was a planned start time of 5:00 p.m. with flyers to be released soon. He noted he has been talking with Mr. Rutledge about streamlining communications through the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Rob Forcey, Director, Vision Together, shared plans for the tree planting at Central Park on April 25, 2026. He noted there would be about 50 volunteers planting 43 trees that day. In addition, Milkies would be planting a dozen bigger trees. The bigger trees would be about 5 inches in diameter or larger and would weigh in the area of about three tons, requiring special equipment. The trees planted by volunteers would be smaller, at around 100 to 150 pounds.

Mr. Forcey provided a breakdown of areas in the City where trees were planted last year including both fruit and non-fruit trees. Areas included Oakhurst, Coopersdale, Solomon Run Homes, Wire Mill, West End Garden, YMCA Garden, Women's Help Center, the former Sheesley site, Sandyvale Gardens, and near the Conemaugh Gap overlook near the West End. Replacements were also put along gaps along City sidewalks.

Regarding Mayor Kings earlier request, he shared Hosanna Industries helps with home repairs on owner-occupied houses. Anyone interested in their assistance can contact Hosanna through their website.

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, raised objections to when the timer was started for public comments. She shared her thoughts on the City Council meetings noting the Council circumvents laws, codes and procedures. She commented on recent lawsuits brought against the City by John DeBartola and herself. She objected to Mr. Spinelli calling on a City resident to speak during his neighborhood report time and added it was unfair to allow Ms. Huchel to speak on the same topic other residents wished to speak on.

Ms. Stanton stated she has been asking for assistance with TNR for cats for the past three years. She was aware of the organizations mentioned during the meetings but stated the organizations do not trap cats and only help after citizens trap cats. She explained her goal is to have the City fund TNR clinics for people who are trapping cats and paying for TNR out of their own pockets.

Lindy Yutzy, 160 Barron Avenue, commented on feral cats. She shared the story of her cat, Tinkerbelle, who was rescued off of the street. She paid for a number of cats to be spayed or neutered. She explained her foster daughter recently attempted to help a cat with kittens under a car in the Oakhurst area. She stated her daughter was served an eviction notice in the process, which was traumatic as she was trying to be a part of the solution. She asked for help for feral cats who need spayed, neutered, and fed. She pleaded with City Council

to help be a part of solving the stray cat problem and to save animals from starving, being hit by cars, beat or worse.

Tracy Thomas, Jacoby Street, addressed the issue of dogs being off of their leashes. She noted there is a City ordinance requiring dogs to be leashed to prevent running at large. On March 22, 2026, she was walking her dog around the Jacoby Street playground when the dog was attacked by two pit bulls that were not on leashes. The man with the dogs had three kids and a third dog on a leash. She stated the incident was caught on tape, and the man was heard saying they had to get the dogs home before the police arrived. She noted, when police arrived, she was told it was the fourth pit bull attack in 24 hours. Ms. Thomas emphasized that she does not blame the dogs. She stated the owners are negligent in not leashing their dogs. She concluded by stating the City was responsible to protect residents and their animals.

Dustin Greene, 312 Chestnut Street, presented concerns over the Agenda from the Planning Commission meeting. He noted he did not attend the meeting due to the agenda not containing any items. However, while he had not listened to the meeting yet, he was told there were discussions regarding budgets during the meeting. He added meetings should follow the agendas to allow the public to attend if they wanted to. He noted there seemed to be information shared at the Downtown Business Owners meeting that would benefit businesses in Cambria City and the West End. He hoped the information would be shared at the West End Business meeting and in the future at the Cambria City meeting. Mr. Greene asked if the KOZ meeting was public and noted he saw people shaking their heads. He stated he would have attended the meeting if he had known about it. He suggested meetings should be streamed online to spread messages through the community.

Mr. Greene shared he still has an issue with the conference center. He stated there is a \$500 buyout in the lease after five years. He questioned the lights being fixed and asked if the City would get the money back after the conference center is sold. He thanked Mr. Truscello for speaking with him about street sweeping after he wrote the City Manager. He appreciated Public Works for working on cleaning up the City.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

Mayor King stated the next regular meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.