

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

The Greater Johnstown City Council met in a stated session for the public hearing of the comprehensive plan. Mayor Sylvia King called the meeting to order at 5:03 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 Burkhart, Executive Secretary; and Kate Tunney, Rothschild Doyno Collaborative, were also present

Amy Willet, Solicitor, noted the hearing was being conducted as a requirement for municipal comprehensive plans in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 302 of Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code. Prior to the hearing, input from stakeholders in and adjacent to the City was welcomed. The county, all contiguous municipalities, and the Greater Johnstown School District, all received copies of the draft and were invited to comment. In addition, in accordance with Section 302, the Planning Commission held a public meeting on May 5, 2026, to discuss the proposed comprehensive plan prior to the plan being forwarded to City Council for consideration. She noted the review process began internally in October 2024, and the hearing followed a 19-month review of the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dustin Greene, 312 Chestnut Street, commented, as a business owner, seeing the most problems with public transportation. He noted that a good number of residents do not have a car and rely on public transportation to get to and from work. He was working on a study using CamTran data. He stated, in most jurisdictions in the City, there is not bus transportation on Sundays and limited buses from Richland after 3:00 p.m., which leads to few job opportunities. He also noted transportation to business districts downtown can take an hour. In many cases, residents can find a way to work but struggle with getting home in the evening.

Mr. Greene encouraged transportation be heavily reviewed, questioning why CamTran is not doing more for the community with a surplus and additional

money given to them from the county this year. He stated a landmark change was not needed, but evening and Sunday routes could be fixed. He encouraged Council to go on Google and look at how long their normal day's routine would take based on public transportation. In addition to jobs, he noted residents cannot enjoy recreational activities when limited by transportation. He added joy turns into ethics and work. He also encouraged the public to attend City Council meetings, noting if the public does not speak up to Council on their needs, then they will not get what they need. He concluded by hoping the comprehensive plan will be taken seriously.

HEARING: CITY OF JOHNSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mayor King read a prepared statement.

"The City of Johnstown will receive public comment regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan. Following the public comment period, the plan will be presented by Rothschild Doyno Collaborative. The Draft Comprehensive Plan has been available for public review and comment since February 16, 2026, on the City's website at johnstownpa.gov, and in physical copy at City Hall, Cambria County Library, and Johnstown Housing Authority.

The Comprehensive Plan has satisfied the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and may be considered for adoption by City Council by resolution at the regular scheduled meeting following the Public Hearing on May 13, 2026."

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PRESENTATION BY ROTHSCHILD DOYNO COLLABORATIVE

Kate Tunney, Rothschild Doyno Collaborative, noted her pleasure in working with the City of Johnstown over the past 19 months in putting together the comprehensive plan. She explained the plan is intended to be a vision that reflects the goals of residents and what the City would like to see for the future. The plan outlines strategies to help the City reach milestones to be able to implement the plan. She noted the plan was on a ten-year horizon.

Ms. Tunney reviewed the planning process, which went through several phases from understanding the existing conditions, plan development by looking at different strategies and recommendations, and the approval process. She noted, throughout the timeline, there were opportunities for the public to engage in the plan. Regarding community input, there was an event at Unity in the Park; an online survey, listening sessions with neighborhood group leaders, and more than 20 interviews with public, private and nonprofit

groups. Focus groups reviewed city services, open space, and jobs to gather additional information. While doing community engagement, Rothschild Doyno mapped feedback from residents to ensure all neighborhoods were represented.

Ms. Tunney reported, at the Unity in the Park event, opportunities were recognized that included nature, housing, businesses and jobs. She noted some of the opportunities were also challenges. Regarding the online survey, there were 764 responses, 600 of which were from City residents. She added there were many individuals invested in Johnstown but live outside of the City, so Rothschild wanted to ensure the majority of responses were from residents. She also noted a large percentage of responses were from youth.

Ms. Tunney pointed out strengths mentioned were fire and EMS services, cost of living, and proximity of parks and open spaces. Weaknesses included road and sidewalk conditions, general infrastructure, property maintenance, economic development, jobs, and code enforcement. When asked to prioritize goals, residents highlighted addressing blight, improving infrastructures, supporting local businesses, enhancing public safety, and fostering the City's public image.

Goals represented in the plan included increasing home ownership, attracting residents who both live and work in the City, and expanding job training opportunities. She noted, while there was a lot happening in Johnstown, there was potential for greater opportunities for jobs for people without college degrees and increasing living wage jobs within the City. She added, as the City's tax base is expanded and expendable income is increased, the Council would see opportunities for growth to create a continually active city.

Ms. Tunney explained the recommendations included ways to make the City more attractive and welcoming to increase the quality of life and bring more residents to live and play in the City. She noted, in Johnstown, there are a number of public/private entities whose partnerships can be helpful as the City finds resources and avenues for funding components outlined in the comprehensive plan. The plan was structured along six core focus areas having the biggest issues within the city: Housing, jobs, environment, mobility, community, and services.

Ms. Tunney highlighted recommendations from each of the six focus areas, noting each area also listed key issues to address. For housing, she suggested ensuring neighborhoods were well maintained and have pride of place. Regarding jobs, she recommended broadcasting that Johnstown is open and welcoming, providing opportunities for the local economy and attracting

businesses to the City. Recommendations for the environment include ensuring the environment is healthy and promoting resident health by elevating green space. Regarding transportation and mobility, she suggested confirming neighborhoods are easy to get around and providing access to amenities, services and jobs, so people can connect the resources needed to thrive. Regarding community, she pointed out resident engagement is a key part of the city. Finally, in reference to services, the recommendation was to guarantee the City is operating at its best efficiency to serve the needs of residences and businesses.

Ms. Tunney reviewed the structure of the plan. The first chapter provides the information and data that established the recommendations. Each section is structured to be stand-alone where the context of goals is laid out with existing conditions, key information, trends, partners, strategies, time horizons and recommendations. The recommendations identify which ones are City led and sorted by priority. She noted the land use section was also broken out, recognizing improvements or changes to land use and the zoning ordinance that would be necessary to see the comprehensive plan to the next step.

Ms. Tunney explained the most important goal was to make sure the plan did not sit on a shelf. With the plan structured around core issues, there is a launching point for implementation teams. While the plan has a ten-year horizon, the teams would be focused on the near term, working to set up strategic plans that will take the next steps to implement action items on the ground. She noted the teams should be comprised of various individuals, including neighborhood group leaders, residents, and key stakeholders. The teams should also report back regularly to City Council and the Planning Commission.

Rothschild Doyno provided recommendations of ways to strengthen neighborhood groups. They also identified the next two steps recommended as planning steps. The first step would be updating the zoning ordinance and revamping the zoning code. The second step is a study addressing the vacant and underutilized land within the City, recognizing some land may be better for open space and some better used for housing.

Ms. Tunney mentioned that the plan was made available to the public in February 2026, at which time about 70 comments were received from the public. The feedback was incorporated into the draft plan. She also noted a letter was included from Cambria County Planning Commission, expressing support for the plan.

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Mr. Barber agreed with Mr. Greene's concerns. He asked for a meeting to be arranged with the county commissioners to address concerns with CamTran. Mr. Martynuska offered to arrange a meeting.

Mayor King appreciated the hard work put into creating the plan. She looked forward to the implementation of the plan, particularly to working with youth in the City.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5:28 p.m.