

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 13, 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.

Reverend Theodore Tisinger, Shiloh Baptist 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; John Rutledge, Economic Development Director; Mark Britton, Chief of Police; Jim McCann, Fire Chief; and Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director; were also present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor King requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2026.

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

Mr. Spinelli read a proclamation regarding ALS Awareness Month from the Office of the Mayor of the City of Johnstown.

"Whereas amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal, neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat and eventually breathe.

Whereas thousands of new amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, cases are

reported every year and estimates show that every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS. And whereas, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis. And whereas the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS. And whereas people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service. And whereas securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS. And whereas clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS. And whereas Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease.

Now, therefore, the City of Johnstown does hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month. We call upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease. In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania to be fixed this 13th day of May 2026, Sylvia King, Mayor, City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania."

#### PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Dustin Greene, 312 Chestnut Street, commented on Ordinance 5381. He requested clarification on the necessity of the changes. He stated recycling is not provided in the community like other townships. As a business owner, he has to hire an outside agency to pick up recycling. He stated, if recycling is going to become a law, then the City needs to make sure businesses have the resources needed.

Regarding the comprehensive plan, he commented on the information in the public hearing. He noted the importance of housing, transportation, jobs, and services. He questioned the need for the scanner being approved through Resolution 10768. He noted some of the cost for the scanner was through a grant; however, he questioned where the remainder of the cost would be coming from. Mr. Greene noted his appreciation for Resolution 10774. He stated the feral cat population was out of control, and he appreciated the City doing anything about it. He added the problem is challenging and more action was needed from agencies willing to step up and help.

Laura Huchel, 401 Park Avenue, spoke as a representative of Johnstown Animal Welfare Society (JAWS). She encouraged the Council to pass Resolution 10774, noting JAWS worked with Mr. Spinelli, Mr. Capriotti, Humane Society of Cambria County, the Seven Hearts Project and other organizations to work on a solution. The resolution would allow JAWS to blitz trap 26 cats in addition to the regular clinics they run each month, representing a net gain in the number of cats being fixed. She noted the program would only be for city cats, unlike their other clinics. The Humane Society will house the cats before and after surgery before JAWS returns the cats to their communities. The funds will pay for the cost of fixing the cats, rabies vaccinations, and supporting the Humane Society for the care and space while the cats are recovering. She added JAWS will be purchasing additional traps to support the program. She noted JAWS looked forward to continuing the partnership with the City and hoped to build better relationships with the City and other organizations. She added JAWS was also looked forward to working with and recruiting additional qualified trappers.

Ms. Huchel stated JAWS is an independent 501(c)(3) and started as a Vision 2025 Capture Team. She hoped, if the agreement was passed, JAWS would open up a separate fundraising program for people to direct funds to city cats.

Joseph Warhol, 44 Clover Street, commented Resolution 10774 was a great idea and anything being done is appreciated. He noted there was still a need for an animal control officer with there being dog problems in addition to the cats. He stated ordinances regarding feeding cats should be enforced, and only TNR programs should be feeding cats. He added a multifaceted approach was needed for the cat problem. Regarding Resolution 10768, he commented the cost could pay for 25 houses to be torn down. He challenged Council to walk up Coleman Avenue and see if they could find something better to spend the money on. He also noted a house on Hillside Court was actively falling down with bricks making their way down to the Jim Mayer trail.

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, commented on Resolution 10774. She stated \$4,000 to spay, neuter, and rabies vaccinate 26 cats was an exorbitant amount. She referred to a cat clinic that costs \$25 for male neuters and \$50 for female spays. She questioned the City choosing to work with JAWS on the program. She suggested it would be more cost effective for the City to purchase vouchers and allow residents to pick up vouchers at City Hall. She shared concerns she had with the Resolution, questioning if the Humane Society had approved working with JAWS and what would happen with the cats after recovery. She stressed the importance of returning the cats to their original locations. She explained the difference between stray cats and feral cats. She encouraged the Council to table or amend the contract due to the number of

variables. Regarding animal control, she stated, if the City fined people walking their dogs where prohibited, it would have the funds to pay for animal control.

Mr. Barber had questions about animal control. He asked Ms. Stanton if she recalled why Council eliminated the animal control officer position back in 2015 or 2016. Ms. Stanton replied there was not a feral cat problem when she left Council in December 2016. She stated, at the time, the City used an animal control officer at the shelter.

Mr. Barber noted researching the issue in an attempt to get an animal control officer for the City. He asked if Ms. Stanton could provide enlightenment from her time on Council. Ms. Stanton stated the money at the time was paid to the shelter whose services the City was utilizing.

#### REPORTS:

##### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Art Martynuska, City Manager, introduced Jeff McCauley who was attending the meeting on behalf of the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance. Mr. McCauley explained the Alliance was working in conjunction with the Governor's Office and PennDOT to install signage around the federally designated 9/11 Memorial Trail route in Pennsylvania. He was seeking approval from City Council to have wayfinding signage installed along the trail route within City limits. He noted information packets had been passed out to Council regarding the project and mentioned a couple of changes to the information in the packets. He explained the Alliance has funding to purchase the signs and pay for the installation following PennDOT regulations.

Mr. Martynuska asked if the project had received PennDOT approval. Mr. McCauley stated the Alliance has a license and maintenance agreement with PennDOT which he offered to send to Mr. Martynuska. The signage was approved for use through the Commonwealth and gave the Alliance the right to ingress and egress for installation and maintenance along state roads. He indicated a similar agreement could be written up for the local roads in the City.

Mr. Martynuska asked how many signs would be in the City and if the Alliance had already installed signs elsewhere. Mr. McCauley replied there would be six or eight signs in the City. The Alliance had already installed signs in Somerset County and was working to get municipal approvals throughout Pennsylvania. The five PennDOT districts the signs were being installed in had already

granted approval. He noted Ferndale Borough was waiting on the City to approve.

Mr. Arnone asked what the steps were needed to move forward. Mr. Martynuska replied there would be a resolution at the next meeting with approval through legal. He asked Mr. McCauley to send any resolutions or agreements executed with other municipalities as well as pictures of already installed signs. Mr. McCauley agreed to send the items requested along with a timeline for installation.

Mr. Martynuska next introduced Lauren Lazari to speak on Resolution 10772. Ms. Lazari explained a request had been submitted to Council regarding a cooperation agreement between Stackhouse Park, Inc. and the City. She noted the agreement was a requirement of the DCED grant for equipment to maintain the 277 acres of the park. She encouraged Council to consider signing the agreement to allow the trails to be maintained.

Mr. Martynuska asked what equipment was needed. Ms. Lazari replied a ranger and the \$27,565 price was fully through a grant with no funds needed from the City.

Mr. Arnone asked if Stackhouse Park, Inc. just needed the support of Council. Ms. Lazari affirmatively replied, noting because the City owns the property, DCED needs the grant to go through the City for reimbursement.

Ms. Willett asked if the price was from Costars. Ms. Lazari explained there were three bids. She noted everything was already in place for the purchase process with the only thing left being the agreement with the City. Ms. Lazari will email Ms. Willett a copy of the bids.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King explained the Youth City Council from the Greater Johnstown High School had been unable to attend the meeting. She noted the City would continue working with the Youth Council through the summer for their planned event in September. She added the Youth Council would also be part of one of the implementation teams for the comprehensive plan.

Regarding the West End Farmers Market, she reported the West End Business Association was planning on a Market for Sundays in the West End. Her final announcement related to a planned street resource fair to be held in Moxham with a tentative date of June 30, 2026. The fair was being organized with nonprofit groups. She noted one of the groups planning to attend helps

people work on expungements to put themselves in a better position to be employed.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Aimee Willett, Solicitor, reported City Council met in several Executive Sessions. On April 15, 2026, Council met to discuss personnel and litigation. On April 20, 2026, Council met to discuss the protection of public safety. On April 30, 2026, it met to discuss personnel. On May 11, 2026, City Council met to discuss acquisition of real estate, personnel, and litigation.

Ms. Willett noted, at the prior week's workshop meeting, concerns were shared regarding property maintenance in the City. She was conducting research and reviewing ordinances to make recommendations to Council on enhancing and revisiting ordinances. She hoped to provide a means for the City to track down and hold property owners accountable. She planned to recommend outreach to property owners in the City to educate owners on the requirements of property maintenance and garbage, permitting processes, and contact information. She hoped the two-part approach would improve maintenance and blight issues in the City.

Ms. Willett explained there had also been discussions regarding the challenges of the City in enforcing property maintenance citations, particularly related to tracking down property owners. She stated the changes being recommended would address the issues. She pointed out the magistrates in the community follow protocols for notifications for all citations including criminal cases. She noted the main difference between the City's citation cases and criminal cases is the police often interact with the defendant at some point prior to issuing the charge or citation. However, with the City's cases, many times the property owner is an out-of-state LLC, presenting unique challenges.

### COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mr. Clark volunteered to assist with the Youth City Council. He reported on attending the Woodvale community meeting where codes violations was a topic of discussion. He noted there had not been a Downtown Business Owners meeting in April and another was scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. He attended the walk in Moxham and prayer vigil. He thanked Mayor King and Father Matt Baum for organizing the evening. He noted it was a great event which brought the community together. He also thanked the community for the success of the fundraiser at Coney Island to assist the D'Angelo family in the wake of the fire at their house.

Mr. Barber reported on attending the electric bus event at Greater Johnstown High School. He also attended a promotion for the upcoming boxing match to be held at the Conference Center. Mr. Barber shared he is not a social media person. He noted the importance of building people up in the community and not tearing each other down. He wanted to dispel some of the rumors.

Mr. Barber asked Mr. Capriotti if it was true or false that a person had to go through City Council or the Manager's Office to file a code complaint. Mr. Capriotti confirmed code complaints can be filed by calling or contacting the codes department online.

Mr. Barber asked Mr. Arnone if Section 8 vouchers had been stopped and whether the City has any involvement in Section 8 or public housing in general. Mr. Arnone replied vouchers had been stopped for over a year. He also noted the City is not involved with public housing or Section 8.

Mr. Barber asked Chief Britton if the police force would be at full capacity at the end of May. Chief Britton explained the force would be full as of June 1st when the last officer hired starts. It will be the first time the force was completely filled since 2017. Mr. Barber commented he understood there had been recent issues but overall crime had been down recently. Chief Britton agreed, noting he had sent figures to Mr. Martynuska and he planned to report on them soon.

Mr. Arnone presented updates related to the City's public housing and water authority operations. For the water authority, he reported in April the Customer Service Department had received 73 new service applications for property transfers; 28 inactive accounts were reactivated; and 20 service renewals were completed. In addition, three mainline leaks were repaired; five hydrants were flushed; 1,380 feet of sewer line was jetted; and 15,843 feet of mainline was inspected. During April, work continued on the lead line replacement on Chandler Avenue and Stone Street. He mentioned the CCR report was available for public notice on the website. Pressure testing was almost 75 percent complete throughout the City.

Regarding the Housing Authority, Mr. Arnone reported as of April 2026, the housing population in the City was 2,603 people across 1,358 apartments. Section 8 utilization was at 75 percent with 921 people in 416 units. JHA is not accepting any Section 8 applications and has no plans of issuing new vouchers due to the lack of funding. He reported the next activity for the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant would be May 21st in Coopersdale. Residents will be able to review multiple redevelopment options.

Mr. Arnone shared planned Memorial Day events at Roxbury Park and Sandyvale Park. He encouraged people to attend the events, particularly at Sandyvale event which has a car show.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor reported on attending the Prospect neighborhood meeting where community involvement and the use of neighborhood funds was discussed, as well as codes issues. People at the meeting asked if there could be a cleanup located in their general area as many residents were unable to transport trash to the City's April event. She also attended the electric bus event. She noted the buses were a phenomenal idea for kids with sensory issues or autism as the buses are quiet. She attended a Bridgerton themed event at the Russell House hosted by Jada's Jazz Cafe and Impact 814.

Mr. Clark asked if the neighborhood funds Ms. Brandon-Taylor referenced was the \$10,000 to be spent by September. She confirmed he was correct. He was glad the money would be spent on something the neighborhood needed.

Mr. Spinelli extended praise to the Public Works department for the cleanup initiative where 34 dumpsters worth of garbage was collected from residents compared to 16 dumpsters last year. He thanked Mayor King and Father Baum for organizing the community gathering and candlelight vigil in light of the recent uptick in criminal activity. He noted it was nice to be out in the community speaking with residents. He encouraged people to attend the 12th Annual Taste and Tour in downtown on May 23, 2026. Regarding the continued work on the stray cat issue, he thanked Ms. Huchel, JAWS, the Humane Society and the Seven Hearts Project. He also thanked Cambria Veterinary Care for agreeing to help in an emergency capacity if any of the trapped cats needed emergency care.

Mr. Hamacek appreciated the prayer event in Moxham, and it was a step in the right direction. Regarding codes, he discovered a couple violations while taking a walk in the 9th Ward. He reported the violations to the codes officer and was pleased to see letters had already been sent out when he checked back ten days later. Mr. Hamacek apologized for the misunderstanding at prior week's workshop regarding the plans for the Public Safety Building. He reported on touring the building with UpStreet at which time he saw many of the issues in the building. He noted the basement definitely needs addressed as the rebar had been rotting away due to salt from the trucks and age of the building. He noted attending a meeting with CGL Engineering and UpStreet to discuss the scope of the project with regards to the plumbing and HVAC system. He was also able to learn about the planned electrical upgrades.

Mr. Clark reported on a new crosswalk across Franklin Street to Roxbury Park. He thanked Mr. Truscello for his assistance. He commented on the process with PennDOT for approval, noting the process was quite easy. He added nearby residents planned to monitor the area to see if the crosswalk helped with people speeding through the area.

Mayor King thanked Chief Britton and Chief McCann for attending the Moxham canvas and for having people from both police and fire attending. She noted such events are crime intervention tools that allow police officers the opportunity to be in the community and create positive interactions. She noted, if people have experienced a positive interaction, they are more likely to report problems.

PETITIONS:

None.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READ

Ordinance No. 5381

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4535 ADOPTED JULY 11, 1990 AMENDING 1068.01 DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Mr. Martynuska noted the City was told the definition had to be tightened up. Mr. Capriotti explained the change came up as a result of a grant awarded to the City. DEP noticed the ordinance lacked language defining what a community event was. The City worked with DEP to establish language that would satisfy their requirement in order for the City to use the grant. He noted the definition of community event was the only change to the ordinance which was established in 1990. He noted the recycling component was part of the original ordinance. He added recycling has been and continues to be part of the City's trash collection as delineated in the ordinance.

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).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 10767

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

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

Mr. Clark commented, when he had only been on the Council three months, he had voted no on a resolution related to the comprehensive plan. He stated, at the time, he did not fully understand the plan and the work that went into it. He has looked the comprehensive plan over multiple times and thanked everyone who worked to clean up language he had concerns about.

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. 10768

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF AN INTELLISCAN SCANNER UTILIZING FUNDS PROVIDED THROUGH AN APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) GRANT.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to amend a line item in the resolution from the number 340-00 to 570-00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spinelli 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).

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

Mr. Martynuska explained City staff had been wrestling with tons of documents requested on a daily basis for right-to-knows, litigation, or just everyday business. He noted the attic of City Hall as well as various offices throughout the City are stuffed with documents dating back over 100 years, some of which must be kept in perpetuity. In addition, a few years ago, the City adopted a records retention policy that mimics the state's policy. Through research in how to handle the documents, he came across a vendor who supplies a high-speed scanner. The same scanner is used by a number of states, including Pennsylvania. The scanner is able to scan between 600 and 1,000 pages per minute and can be programmed to label documents for storage. The labeling will make the documents searchable and reduce the labor intensity of retrieving the documents.

Mr. Martynuska acknowledged the \$231,000 was a huge price tag; however, there was a five-year commitment. After the five-years, the machine would belong to the City. He stated the ARC grant would pay for \$50,000 and another \$50,000 had been secured from DCED. The scanner itself was \$130,000 with the remaining amount being for software, maintenance, and upgrades. He had contacted other agencies in the City and county to offer the use of the machine for a fee. He explained the portability of the machine. He also noted, in addition to City staff, there was an opportunity to use summer interns to help digitize the documents.

Mr. Clark pointed out the machine could potentially help the City make revenue later on.

Mayor King requested a better explanation of funding. Mr. Martynuska reiterated the grant from ARC and the DCED funding. He stated the remainder of the payments for years three, four, and five would be funded through grants or the capital budget. The yearly total would be approximately \$46,000. He noted the ARC grant would pay for the first year and the DCED funds would pay for the second year.

Mr. Clark asked, if approved, what the time frame would be for the City to receive the machine. Mr. Martynuska expected the machine would be received within six weeks.

Mr. Hamacek asked if the City would have to continue paying for maintenance after the initial five years. Mr. Martynuska explained, after five years, the City would only pay if there was a needed software upgrade or something physically broke on the machine. He noted, in doing research, he did consider how often the machines needed repaired, which does not happen often.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there would be opportunities to seek out additional grant money, noting Aspire may be able to help. Mr. Martynuska confirmed there would be opportunities. Mr. Spinelli stated the paper documents would not go away and would eventually need to be digitized. He added the machine would not be any cheaper in the future. He stated Council had the opportunity to address the situation now with the caveat that additional funding is pursued to offset the cost.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked about the records retention policy. Mr. Martynuska explained the retention time varied by type of record. Ms. Willett offered to review the City codes. She noted there are specific requirements for documents that fit within certain laws. She added the range could be anywhere from two years to 100 years. Ms. Brandon-Taylor noted there was a need for the City to have a system in place to make the records retention policy attainable and manageable.

Mr. Hamacek asked whose job it would be to assign the process. Mr. Martynuska stated a training program would come with the package. He noted a big part of the process would be the labeling component, ensuring standardization. Mr. Hamacek asked if there would be any privacy issues if an intern is scanning the documents. Mr. Martynuska stated the interns would not even see the documents. He explained the documents are fed into the scanner from a three-foot stack, not individually. The scanner would label the pages as scanned into the system, allowing for easier searches.

Mayor King commented the scanner would be beneficial for the police department. Chief Britton agreed, noting the 100-year room houses homicide documents which must be retained for 100 years. Mr. Capriotti noted, regarding Mr. Hamacek's privacy concerns, police documents would be handled by someone in JPD, not by an intern.

Mr. Martynuska pointed out the data would be encrypted with cloud backups. He noted, if the paper documents were accidentally destroyed in a flood or fire, there is not backup. He also pointed out the scanner is designed to handle delicate documents.

Mayor King asked if Mr. Martynuska had physically seen the scanner in operation. Mr. Martynuska replied in the negative but noted observing demonstrations. Mr. Capriotti added City staff viewed demonstrations using a variety of papers and documents. The vendor also provided contacts for places using the scanner so the City could reach out for their experiences. Mayor King asked how a document would be able to be found. Mr. Martynuska explained the document coding would allow for searches in a number of different ways.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked if a search needed to be done, would the person need to go to the physical location of the scanner. Mr. Martynuska replied no. Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked if the scanner system would integrate with the City's existing computer system or an upgrade would be required. Mr. Martynuska confirmed the scanner would be compatible with what the City already used.

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. 10769

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AMENDMENTS  
TO THE FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024, AND  
FY 2025 CDBG PROGRAM YEARS.

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

Mr. Rutledge explained the money was being shifted because time was running out to use some of it. A new pilot program was being designed for home rehabilitation that needs repairs with costs beyond the CDBG guidelines. In addition, a program was created to purchase current housing stock for rehabilitation. After rehabilitation, the homes would be available for purchase. The first-time home buyer program was being eliminated, and the new program would help buyers with up to \$24,000 for cost assistance and down payment assistance, depending on the situation. With the program, the money from each sold property would be put back into the acquisition program, allowing the City to continue to put funds into housing.

Mr. Rutledge explained other funds were moved into projects like the Cypress Avenue playground project in Moxham. In addition, in 2026, because DCED already has housing funding, more money was allocated towards economic development for businesses. He noted, if the pilot programs work, DCED can continue to use funds to bring money back to the City. He also explained DCED is considering strategic ways in different neighborhoods for demolition.

Mr. Hamacek stated the programs seemed like excellent ideas. He asked if Mr. Rutledge had the staff for the programs. Mr. Rutledge noted Dave Williams would help with project management. He noted mechanics of the acquisition program were still being worked out. Mr. Hamacek stated the amount of paperwork may require another person. Mr. Rutledge replied DCED is sitting down with all of the programs to come up with a process. He has software which will help organize the programs with dates and reminders.

Mr. Hamacek commented brochures about the program would be beneficial. Mr. Rutledge replied resources would be available, and they were exploring small brochures. He also shared information regarding the lead grant program.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked if what would be done regarding previous applications for programs and if income levels would be changing. Mr. Rutledge stated HUD income guidelines would be changed in June. He explained his office is working through the list of previous applicants. He noted previous applicants may no longer be interested or may not live at the properties any longer. He explained the lead program is for owner-occupied properties.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor commented the new income levels may make programs more attainable for some people. She also commented on the idea of a snapshot with condensed information on the programs. Mr. Rutledge shared his reviewing tri-fold brochures once all of the programs are in line. He noted either himself, Mr. Williams, or Theresa Rowe sits down with residents to explain guidelines and applications to ensure residents understand the programs. Ms. Brandon-Taylor stated it may be useful for DCED to explain what people need to do to qualify for programs. Mr. Rutledge frequently attends neighborhood meetings to explain the programs and someone from the department would also be on hand at the Farmers Market on Fridays to provide resources.

Mr. Hamacek asked what would happen with the program if a resident failed to make payments. He wondered if the City would have a lien position. Mr. Rutledge confirmed the City would have a lien position. Mr. Hamacek provided additional clarification on how the liens might work.

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. 10770

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE FY 2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Clark seconded the motion, which 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. 10771

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 2026 TRANSIT VAN FOR PRISONER TRANSPORT.

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

Mr. Martynuska explained the van would replace an older vehicle being handed off to another City department for use. The funding was coming from a grant secured through Representative Burn's office.

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. 10772

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH

STACKHOUSE PARK TO ADMINISTER A DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) GRANT.

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

Mr. Clark commented he grew up around Stackhouse Park and was in it all the time. In his opinion, any cooperation the City has with the Park is a no-brainer.

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. 10773

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 ROLLBACK.

Mr. Barber made a motion to table the resolution. There was no second.

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

Mr. Martynuska explained the rollback will help City staff with removing the abandoned vehicles off of the streets and from private properties with proper notification per the recent authorization from City Council. He noted there was also money budgeted for a secure structure for vehicles involved in police investigations. In addition, the City would be able to tow city vehicles as needed instead of paying for an outside service. The rollback would also be used for other purposes as needed. He stated an RFP was put out for the vehicle and the money was budgeted for the line item. He added the vehicle would be a great benefit for everything the City is trying to accomplish.

Mr. Arnone asked if there were certain licenses and agreements with PennDOT and the state that were needed to do towing work. Mr. Truscello stated the biggest part of having the rollback would be the safety aspect for internal use. He explained how equipment is currently transported through the City. He also noted the rollback would be useful in the winter to salvage City vehicles when

they get caught in snow. Regarding licensing, he noted a salvage license would eventually be needed if the City planned to sell abandoned vehicles that they towed.

Mr. Barber noted the City does not currently have a salvage license. He asked if the rollback had already been purchased. Mr. Truscello replied the vehicle had not been purchased yet.

Mr. Spinelli asked how hard it would be to get a salvage license. Mr. Truscello stated the City would need to go through the state and he would have to look into specifics.

Mr. Hamacek asked how much the vehicle would have been if purchased new in 2018. Mr. Truscello stated it would have been around \$100,000 at the time with a new one in 2026 being around \$140,000. He noted the rollback being looked at had mainly transported lawn tractors and small front-end motors from a lawn care service.

Mr. Barber questioned the paid stamp on the paperwork. Mr. Martynuska explained the vehicle had not been purchased, and the wrong stamp had been used when the paperwork was received.

Mayor King asked if vehicles would be labeled with a sticker indicating a tow date if the vehicle was not moved. Mr. Truscello stated the police department would be handling marking vehicles. Mayor King then asked where vehicles would be towed to. Mr. Truscello stated the plan was to park vehicles in the lot next to the Fire Training School in Hornerstown.

Mayor King asked when Mr. Truscello expected to apply for the salvage license for the City. She noted at some point the towed vehicles would need to be dealt with. Mr. Truscello explained it takes time with the first step of acquiring the rollback and the next step being the salvage license.

Mr. Barber expressed concerns with purchasing the rollback prior to getting the salvage license. He noted he does not have a problem with having towing but felt there needed to be a process done correctly in the right way.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked if a CDL licensed operator would be needed once the weight of a towed vehicle was added to the weight of the rollback. Mr. Truscello stated a CDL license should not be needed, but Public Works already has employees with CDLs.

Mayor King noted the City was not in the business to function as a towing company with regards to accidents. Mr. Clark commented the intention was to eventually make revenue from the towing after proper licensing. Mr. Truscello commented to act as a towing business, the City would need more employees and a second rollback to run 24/7.

Mr. Barber asked if the City was taking property away from the fire department by using the lot at the training center. Mr. Truscello pointed out the City used the lot for the dumpster program. Mr. Barber noted his concerns stemmed from the City not having a salvage license to deal with the vehicles after they were towed which is why he had asked to table to motion.

Mr. Hamacek asked if the price listed would be negotiated. Mr. Martynuska explained he had already spoke with the owner and the price was what the RFP came in at. He also noted Mr. Truscello had been able to examine the rollback.

Ms. Willett commented the City would have to go through the same process as a private resident or business to get a salvage license.

Mr. Spinelli asked if the City was under a time constraint to purchase the rollback. Mr. Martynuska noted the only constraint would be if the vehicle was no longer available. He added in the original budget there were two vehicles budgeted but the number had been reduced to one through discussions with Council.

Mayor King understood Mr. Barber's position; however, the vehicles needed to be off of the streets.

Mr. Barber asked Ms. Willett if the City was allowed to tow vehicles off of the streets. Ms. Willett responded the City could tow abandoned vehicles provided the proper process was followed. She noted towing from private properties was a tougher question.

Mr. Clark commented the ordinance was passed to allow the City to deal with problem vehicles. He noted the City was not planning to just take vehicles and certain criteria needed to be followed with proper notice. He added the ordinance was passed to give the City teeth in dealing with nuisance vehicles.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: Mr. Barber (1).  
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10774

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH JOHNSTOWN ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY INC., ("JAWS") FOR TARGETED STRAY CAT TRAPPING, STERILIZATION AND LIMITED TREATMENT SERVICES.

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

Mr. Clark extended appreciation to Mr. Spinelli for all of his research and work as well as Ms. Huchel with JAWS. He noted the resolution was just a start to helping with the problem.

Mr. Spinelli stated, with the resolution, the City had the opportunity to start addressing the stray cat issue that has spread across the City. He noted stray cats was being used as an umbrella term to encompass feral cats. He thanked all of the people and organizations involved with the effort. He noted Council was voting on a pilot TNR program for one month, after which, if extended, amendments could be made to address the release aspect that drew the ire of Ms. Stanton. The first clinic was scheduled for June 20th and if it went well, a longer contract may be negotiated. His long-term goal is 12 clinics a year, possibly more frequently in the summer as the winter weather is not conducive to TNR programs.

Mr. Spinelli recognized there was talk about an animal control officer. He explained 12 clinics a year would cost roughly the same as an animal control officer and would spay or neuter 312 cats. He noted an animal control officer would not have anywhere to take trapped cats and would not be fixing the cats. He added it would be nice to have cooperation from surrounding municipalities. He pointed out the goal of the program is to put dollars directly towards the fight. He explained the costs involved. He noted JAWS was not getting rich off of the program and was a volunteer organization who was going to be doing the hard work. He stated a difference would not be seen overnight but eventually the program would make a difference to get a handle on the stray cat population.

Mr. Clark echoed Mr. Spinelli's comments on cooperation from other municipalities. He noted intergovernmental cooperation would be nice as the problem in the City could spread to other areas.

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, Police Chief, reported JPD handled about 3,300 calls in April 2026 as well as one officer completing about 250 traffic stops. JPD also worked with Codes to establish the ORI. JPD received grants with the assistance of Frank Burns' office and Senator Langerholc's office. The grants will help purchase new PTU, neighborhood cameras, and license plate readers. Chief Britton was continuing to work with Aspire on available grants to purchase much-needed items for the Police Department.

He reported on a saturation patrol from April 29, 2026, in which there were 25 traffic stops with two people arrested. He thanked law enforcement partners who helped with search warrants. He noted Senator Langerholc rode along with the men and women who took time away from their families to help keep the streets of Johnstown safe. He reported speaking with PLCB in relation to Slammin' Sams.

Chief Britton stated CIT training continues, and two officers completed DRE training. He reported, over the summer, there would be a dedicated officer for the downtown area doing foot and bike patrol. After considering new tire replacements for existing bikes, Eastmont Auto reached out and donated funds

to purchase a new patrol bike. The officer will be centralized on the parking garages and business district.

Chief Britton shared JPD is starting to prepare for the backpack project over the summer as well as National Night Out. Chief Britton also shared it was National Law Enforcement Memorial Week. He noted the job is difficult, and there were 109 officers lost in the line of duty last year. He asked for the officers and their families to be kept in Council's prayers. He also acknowledged the recent Memorial week for firefighters.

### CODES

Mike Capriotti, Assistant City Manager, provided a recap of his written report. In the month of April 2026, 136 violations were issued; 23 lien verifications were completed; 30 rental inspections were completed; and nine abandoned vehicles were towed. One property was sent to Laurel Municipal for remediation, and seven properties were condemned. He reported both codes officers were completing training. He also commented on the ORI training completed with the assistance of JPD that enables the codes officers to file criminal citations with the magistrate instead of asking JPD for assistance. He explained the notification process used for abandoned vehicles. Having the ORI will make the codes department more efficient.

Mr. Barber asked if the police had to be present when the tow truck came to tow a vehicle. Chief Britton confirmed JPD has to issue the tow ticket, and they usually stay to ensure there are no issues while the vehicle is being towed.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director, reported Public Works has been working on timing for lights throughout the City to help save some money. Lights were replaced on Johns Street and at Sargent's Stadium at the Point in the parking lot. Repairs were completed twice at Phoebe Court Tunnel in Woodvale and at the traffic light on the Hickory Street Bridge. He noted a dusk to dawn sensor would be added to the Napoleon Street Bridge. Public Works is working to cut the grass at all of the playgrounds. He also noted knotweed was removed, and fencing repairs were completed at the Iolite playground in Woodvale. A new bench is being purchased for Honan Street playground.

Mr. Truscello reported on cleanup efforts in the City for garbage and to clear storm drains. He also reported on the citywide cleanup that happened April 6 through April 25, 2026. He noted there were 34 dumpsters collected with 298

tires off rims, and 70 tires on rims. He did not have a number of televisions collected but noted it was about five to six trailers full. He also reported the roof of the Public Safety Building was complete.

Mr. Arnone asked if park benches had been saved from Central Park. Mr. Truscello explained the bench at the playground was associated with a grant and had to be replaced with the same kind of bench. He explained the benches removed from Central Park had been placed throughout the City.

Mr. Arnone stated that a resident reported there was a huge flag in bad condition on D Street by the ballfield and cemetery. He asked if Public Works could take a look at it. Mr. Truscello agreed to look.

Mr. Clark asked if Mr. Truscello could provide insight on the grass cutting schedule through the City. He noted there were a lot of empty lots. Mr. Truscello explained there are currently three crews cutting grass with the playgrounds being the first priority. After the playgrounds are complete, the lots will be cut along with other areas. He noted the crews are on a rotation schedule. Mr. Clark asked how many parcels of ground there were. Mr. Truscello estimated 15 playgrounds and 30 parcels of land.

#### FINANCE

None.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jim McCann, Fire Chief, reported, in April 2026, the Fire Department responded to 295 calls for service. There were two major fires. He noted the department continues to assist the Codes Department. The department also continues to work with the Red Cross on the smoke detector program as well as fire safety. JFD ramped up facility tours of commercial properties for preplanning and fire safety inspections. The written portion of the promotional exams took place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the oral interviews took place at the beginning of May. He is waiting for Civil Service to approve the final testing scores. He also noted the Department is always doing community involvement.

#### RECREATION

None.

### COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

John Rutledge, Economic Development Director, reported in April he attended a proposal meeting in State College and attended the Planning Commission meeting. He thanked Council for reviewing the amendments in Resolution 10769 and approving them.

Regarding the comprehensive plan he thanked everyone involved in the process. He noted the project was not just his but was everybody's project.

Mayor King asked how many surveys were sent out for the comprehensive plan. Mr. Rutledge replied there were over 10,000 surveys sent out with 700 responses. Mayor King pointed out Mr. Rutledge made every attempt to have public input. She pointed out the majority of the responses came from students who have taken the time to be involved in the process while adults are the ones complaining.

Mr. Rutledge shared information on the downtown Farmers Market. He noted 19 vendors have signed up with several musicians. Sponsors include Wessel & Company, Sargent's, In First Bank, Somerset Trust, First Summit Bank and CamTran. The Farmers Market is on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. except for Juneteenth and July 3rd at the corner of Market and Main Streets.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

None.

### ENGINEER REPORT

None.

### PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Dorothy Clark, 1058 Boyd Avenue, commented on efforts to clean up littering. She noted her community held a cleanup day on April 11, 2026, spanning from Elizabeth Court to Warner Street and from Valley Pike to Osbourne Street. Through the efforts of ten volunteers, they collected over 40 lawn and leaf bags of garbage. She did not have a problem with the restoration of Central Park but did have a problem with the roads leading to the park being filled with garbage and debris. She stated you cannot complain about a problem unless you are willing to be a part of the solution.

She stated the solution is education starting with the youth in the community. She commented the job of the police is to clean the streets of crime, not garbage. She proposed several ideas to help with littering including a citywide cleanup day, a coloring contest for elementary and middle schools, high school students designing graphics with original slogans, and signs regarding littering fines along heavily traveled roads. Ms. Clark concluded by asking for Council's help.

Mayor King agreed with Ms. Clark's statements, noting fines for littering should be increased and more signage was needed. Mr. Barber commented he especially liked Ms. Clark's ideas with the children.

Joseph Warhol, 44 Clover Street, noted he lives near Slammin' Sams. He expressed frustration and anger over nearby gunfire. He noted there have been six gunshot calls in five years with one bullet hitting his house in the wall above his kid's bed. He noted the City had used their nuisance ordinance to close a place in the past.

Mr. Arnone pointed out Chief Britton had reported working with PLCB. Mr. Warhol stated a two-pronged approach could be used with the City enforcing nuisance property laws and ordinances. He listed several issues which could potentially be addressed through ordinances. He also urged everyone to contact PLCB individually regarding the situation.

Mr. Clark agreed with Mr. Warhol. Mr. Warhol echoed his earlier statements, asking for something to be done. He noted it was one thing to hear loud music or a bar fight, but the gunfire was too much to bear.

Mrs. Warhol commented that her mother lives with them and is afraid. Mr. Warhol noted that half of his neighbors are also afraid but are also too scared to go to the PLCB. He added marches were nice, and he liked the idea of peace and unity, but more was needed.

#### RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

Mayor King stated the next regular meeting was scheduled for June 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.