

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 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 6:01 p.m.

Reverend Horner, Franklin Street 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, Nicolas Spinelli, Mike Hamacek

Taylor Clark was absent from the meeting.

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

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, commented on Resolution 10787. She stated the resolution would be paying Johnstown Animal Welfare Society (JAWS) for trapping cats while permitting JAWS to keep the cats and then sell them. She noted many people are trapping cats without getting paid to just help cats. She also stated the City would be permitting JAWS to buy equipment. She felt it would be more cost effective for the City to purchase traps, loan the traps to residents, and provide TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) vouchers. She questioned if the budget had been amended to fund the TNR program with JAWS. In addition, Ms. Stanton noted there was more to animal control than just TNR and cats. She stated there are loose dogs in the City attacking residents and other dogs. She specifically noted people were walking dogs in Roxbury Park despite an ordinance prohibiting dog walking. She added the fines for the ordinance were not being enforced. Ms. Stanton stated an animal control officer could be hired and paid for using the salary from the Assistant City Manager, which she stated the City did not need. She asked Council to

confirm or deny if there was still an Assistant City Manager. She encouraged Mr. Barber to make a motion to hire an animal control officer.

Mayor King thanked Ms. Stanton for her comments.

Laurel Huchel, 401 Park Avenue, shared remarks related to Resolution 10787. As president of JAWS, she thanked the City for taking the initial step to help JAWS host the initial TNR blitz. She reported residents in the blitz area were pleased to know cats near them would not be reproducing. She explained JAWS noted, while conducting the blitz, many kittens with health issues, adding JAWS tried to take in as many kittens as possible for treatment. She noted Ms. Stanton mentioned JAWS keeping cats. She explained JAWS does want the option to keep some cats for adoption purposes; however, it does not sell cats. There is an adoption fee charged to help defray the costs of vaccines and tests. Any cats kept through the blitz program would be adopted at a reduced fee. She noted JAWS did pay the City for one fixing with the last blitz to keep the cat. She noted the resolution would set up a system to designate the reduced adoption fee in exchange for JAWS keeping friendly cats.

Ms. Huchel noted JAWS is a 501c3 nonprofit and is not a big business. She summarized the proposed resolution, noting the agreement extended into the following year, allowing the City time to amend the budget as needed. She explained the program equipment mentioned included better, more human traps from Tomahawk, a portable air conditioner for the space cats were convalescing in, bowls which could be inserted into the traps, and special chemicals to clean areas where the cats were kept.

Ms. Huchel stated an animal control officer would be wonderful but futile without a municipal animal shelter. She added it would be nice to have someone doing enforcement, even on a part-time basis. She congratulated the City on taking the first steps to aid in the crisis. She mentioned the first blitz was a success, with all cats surviving surgery, being vaccinated and then returned to their neighborhoods.

Mr. Barber questioned the costs for TNR. Ms. Huchel noted the costs can vary but JAWS has a relationship with Allegheny Spay Neuter. The JAWS cost is \$55 per male plus \$10 for the rabies vaccine. The cost for a female is \$75 plus \$10 for the rabies vaccine.

Mr. Barber assumed there was also a cost to keep the cats. Ms. Huchel confirmed JAWS cannot guarantee they can catch 26 cats in one night, so it has to house

the cats for a few days prior to surgery. After surgery, male cats have to be kept for one day and female cats two to four days.

Mr. Spinelli asked if a July date had been scheduled. Ms. Huchel replied their veterinary partner has availability for July 20th if the Council votes favorably for the resolution.

Mr. Barber asked, if cats were trapped by other residents and bring the cats to JAWS, would the cats fall into the program with the City. Ms. Huchel explained JAWS is open to receiving new volunteers. JAWS is the keepers of the program as there is protocol to follow for each cat trapped. She noted Ms. Stanton was welcomed to volunteer with JAWS. She stated there was not a mechanism for members of the public to trap for the program without going through JAWS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor King requested a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2026; Special Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2026; and Regular Meeting Minutes for June 10, 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. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported the City had gone live with the new parking system on Main Street and some of the side streets. He noted the old system would continue to be up and running for a few weeks before removing the meter heads. Mr. Martynuska explained the benefits of the new parking system. He noted there were 47 kiosks placed throughout the downtown area for phase one of the program. The kiosks still accept coins in addition to app payments. He explained, with the new kiosks, there is a new ticketing system. He noted, at the next meeting, he would be asking for approval of a new vehicle immobilization system called a Barnacle. The new system would be

easier than the old boot system and would attach via suction to a windshield. The resident would be able to pay the fine and receive a code to remove the device which can be returned to City Hall or one of two receptacles.

Regarding the Public Safety Building, he noted July 8, 2026 was the deadline for the bid opening. Only a few bids were received, and after speaking with legal, UpStreet, and PennBid, the deadline would be extended a few days to allow for any additional bids. He explained, in speaking with vendors, it seemed as if some were interested in the project but were being pulled in too many directions with other projects, particularly the Homer City Power Plant and the new AI data center.

Mr. Martynuska reported on a few CDs that came due for projects. The CDs were renewed renewal funding with a higher rate on the return than expected. He noted, with Council's permission, he intended to withhold some of the funds to match DCED funds for demolition. He explained there was a demolition list. To complete the entire list, a little over a million dollars was needed.

Mr. Martynuska commented on resolutions, noting there was one in the packet for street paving which is accomplished through liquid fuel funds. He noted discussions regarding how many additional streets could be paved. He also discussed lot cutting, noting three contractors were sent information regarding about 100 lots. He awaited quotes for initial cuts as well as maintenance cuts. He noted the City is also working on cutting down knotweed in various areas.

Mr. Arnone noted there had been pipe work done along part of the 200 block of Main Street. He asked if additional work was going to be done in the area as a temporary patch had been put in, but the area had not been paved. Mr. Martynuska stated he would look into the issue, and Mr. Truscello noted he would go down and take a look.

Mr. Spinelli asked if a notice had gone out to potential bidders regarding the extension of the deadline for the Public Safety Building. Mr. Martynuska stated there was a mechanism through PennBid; however, UpStreet had also reached out to potential bidders.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there was a timeline for the blight demolitions. Mr. Martynuska stated staff is currently working on the Act 90s. He also noted about 35 or 40 structures had been blue lined from the main list as needing to come down right away. Mr. Martynuska also explained there are environmental guidelines that need to be followed, including building proximity and time gaps between demolitions when the properties are close together.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King thanked everyone involved with the Street Resource Fair held in June. She noted there was another one tentatively planned for August 13th on Fairfield Avenue. She also noted the success of the Juneteenth event and the State of the City. She was pleased to attend the Gunter graduation ceremony. She was surprised and pleased to see the work being done in the community by volunteers through the program. She attended the boxing match and the 250th celebrations of America, noting the parade was great. She thanked the Johnstown Police Department for the bike giveaway. She also noted Families R Us was continuing with block parties. She attended the Ethnic Fest press conference where a new logo was revealed for the 39th year of the event. She noted August 4th is the National Night Out event. Mayor King commented the City is actively working with neighborhood groups, leaders, and the police department to help stimulate goodwill, kindness and to share resources.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Aimee Willett, Esquire, Solicitor, reported on Executive Sessions held since the June meeting. An Executive Session was held on June 10, 2026, to discuss personnel and litigation. There was an Executive Session on June 15, 2026, to discuss personnel. A third Executive Session was held on June 23, 2026, to discuss litigation and City security.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mr. Hamacek reported the Planning Commission was looking into zoning to verify zoning was right in the right places. He also noted Kate Deater started on July 7, 2026, with the Planning Commission and would be a good asset. He reported on attending the State of the City and stated Mayor King and Mr. Martynuska did an excellent job reporting on the City.

Mr. Spinelli reported on his experience with the cat trapping blitz. He was there on multiple days to help trap and see where the cats were being housed at the Human Society. He added that much goes into the process. He stated, while the blitzes may not be a perfect solution, they are a step in the right direction. He also noted the efforts were interorganizational with the City, JAWS, the Humane Society, and Allegheny Spay and Neuter Clinic. He was happy to work to make the program better with any productive suggestions; however, he added the current model can at least be replicated at a reasonably cost-effective price. He commented on the impact of the program between neutering cats and getting kittens off of the streets before they are old enough

to reproduce. He noted having residents pick up traps at City Hall would likely not work on the scale of the current program.

Mayor King agreed with Mr. Spinelli's remarks, noting it was important to keep to one organization instead of multiple people trying to do the work.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor provided remarks on the resource fair held in Moxham in June. She noted many people came specifically for the resources; however, people stayed to experience the fair. She added it was nice to see kids playing in the yard and having the community come together. She also noted the haircuts were a phenomenal draw. She mentioned attending the boxing match.

Mr. Arnone provided updates from the Water Authority. He reported in June ten services were renewed, three mainline leaks repaired, 36 hydrants were flushed, 10,664 feet of sewer main was jetted, and 394 feet of mainline was inspected. He noted the five-month project on Chandler and Stone Avenues was completed with approximately 3,000 feet of mainline replaced and 65 new services added at no cost to customers. He also reported, as of the end of June, the system was 76.9 percent pressure tested.

Regarding the Johnstown Housing Authority, he reported the units were 97 percent occupied with 2,609 people across 1,360 apartments. Section 8 utilization was at 74 percent, and there were 910 people living in 409 units with Section 8. He emphasized no applications were being accepted for Section 8 due to insufficient funding. He also thanked Vision Together, 1889 Foundation, Safe Spaces, and all other organizations who helped with the community fairs. He shared JHA recently purchased two parcels in Coopersdale through the county tax auction. One lot had already been cleared, and JHA maintenance was working to clean up the other lot.

Mr. Arnone thanked the City for allowing the American Legion to lead the parade down Main Street, sharing it was the first time since World War II. He also noted the American Legion had completed restrooms on the second floor of their hall, which was open for use by any of the unions.

Mr. Barber commented the boxing match was a success. He also thought the parade and resource fair were phenomenal events.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Barber for coordinating the barbers for the resource fair.

PETITIONS:

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 10783

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION ("AMTRAK") AND THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN INCREASING THE APPROVED AMOUNT OF THE FINAL COSTS THAT AMTRAK WILL REIMBURSE THE CITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE DESIGN, PERMITTING AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT AMTRAK'S STORMWATER NEEDS AT THE TRAIN STATION.

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

Brandon Palmer, EADS explained the first reimbursement agreement was now five years old. EADS went through the permitting process to upsize a storm outfall on Walnut Street and Amtrak will be reimbursing the City for the project as they are tying in the stormwater infrastructure for the train station.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli, Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10784

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH KUKURIN CONTRACTING INC. AWARDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONTRACT 2023-01 WALNUT STREET STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

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

Brandon Palmer, EADS, explained the resolution was for the outfall mentioned in the previous resolution. He noted the bid was open for 30 days, and four bids were

received. Kukurin had the lowest bid. He also noted the situation was unique as the river wall had to be bored through however all Army Corps clearances had been received. The Council discussed the bid received from Guyer Bros., noting it was much higher than the other bids.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10785

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, EXONERATING AND/OR CORRECTING DELINQUENT TAXES FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND OWNED BY GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY, PURCHASED FROM JOHNSTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ON OCTOBER 24, 2025.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor King seconded the motion.

Ms. Willett explained the property in question was purchased by GJWA in 2025 from JRA. In the interim, a tax bill was issued even though the property was exempt. GJWA received a delinquent notice in 2026 and reached out to request exoneration. She recommended Council approve the resolution.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10786

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, THAT THE CITY HEREBY APPROVES AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY AND THE SCHOOL

DISTRICT FOR THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE,
REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND FUNDING OF A SCHOOL ZONE
TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND RELATED TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES AT
GREATER JOHNSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

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

Mr. Martynuska explained the signal was for Garfield and the school district had assumed responsibility for putting in the light and taking care of it. Mr. Spinelli commented the school district just needed the permission of whomever owned the street.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10787

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

Mayor King made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Arnone seconded the motion.

Mr. Barber asked if it would be more cost effective to only neuter the male cats. Mr. Spinelli explained it is tough to identify the sex of the cat outside of the traps. He also noted sometimes, even upon inspection, it was difficult to determine the sex. He asked Ms. Huchel to confirm his explanation, which she did, adding even if you think all of the male cats in an area are sterilized, a female cat will find a way to get pregnant.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10788

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH QUAKER SALES CORPORATION AWARDING CONTRACT 2026-01 MISCELLANEOUS PAVING PROJECT (WYNN AVE, LLOYD CT. GAUTIER ST, ALDERMAN ALLEY, ALMIRA ST, AGNES AVE, HILLCREST ST, GOOD ST.)

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

Mr. Spinelli requested bid documentation be provided in the future even if there is only one bid.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli, Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10789

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Brandon-Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Martynuska stated the City solicited appointments for various committees and boards. Two people applied for the loan review committee and were vetted for qualifications. He noted, overall, a limited number of people submitted applications for the various committees and boards. The two people are Tony Kassander and Jasmin LaRue.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor asked what the qualifications were. Mr. Martynuska stated the qualifications vary by board and commission.

Mr. Spinelli asked if the committee planned to be more active, noting there were limited funds. Mayor King stated Mr. Rutledge would address the committee during his presentation.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None. (0).

Abstain: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martynuska shared information regarding the Big Boy steam locomotive passing through Johnstown on July 11. The Council discussed street closures and timing of the passage.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Martynuska reported he had requested a sit-down meeting with CamTran.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mark Britton, Police Chief, reported, for June 2026, officers handled 3,048 dispatches for service. 30 people were taken into custody on outstanding warrants. One new officer, Mark Meek, was welcomed to JPD, bringing JPD to full staffing. An arrest was made after a short foot pursuit for the homicide of Frederick Myers, Jr.

Chief Britton reported, after extensive training, two JPD officers are certified drug recognition experts and four officers were sworn into the Cambria County DUI Task Force. The officers took part in the PSP organized "Operation Nighthawk" on June 12 and June 13, 2026, which prioritized the Johnstown area. Chief Britton also reported on saturation details focused on violent crime, illegal weapons, and narcotics. A search warrant was executed in the West End leading to the seizure of illegally possessed weapons and narcotics.

Chief Britton mentioned events with the JPD. In addition to the previously mentioned bike giveaway, JPD was involved with a Bless the Badge ceremony and the Juneteenth parade. Officers and the K9 unit participated in

the Middle Taylor Township 250th parade and a Touch-a-Truck event on June 27th. JPD was also preparing for the backpack project and National Night Out. He noted Captain Price contacted a number of other departments and organizations for National Night Out. He asked for dunk tank volunteers as he was dunked 74 times last year.

Chief Britton reported an officer was beginning training for large truck inspections. Traffic enforcement was being done within the Coopersdale area under a highway grant. In addition, JPD has been watching the crosswalk at Conemaugh hospital and issuing citations. He also commented on the street closures for the Big Boy train passing through.

Mayor King asked about the traffic accident in Moxham. She noted there is speeding in the neighborhood and also asked if the driver was 18 years old. Chief Britton stated the driver was 17, so his name would not be released. He elaborated on the accident, noting excessive speed was involved. Four people were injured in the vehicle, and they are waiting for alcohol testing to come back from the hospital.

Mr. Arnone commented Slammin' Sams had been closed.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there was an update on the Moxham substation. Chief Britton explained the logistics involved in a possible substation. He noted there have been extra patrols concentrated in the area. He confirmed the RiteAid building would not be a possible location.

Mayor King requested the new police officers be brought to the next City Council meeting for introductions.

Mr. Barber commented he likes seeing officers playing basketball when they have the chance. Chief Britton shared the officers who usually play with the community are currently on night shift.

Mr. Arnone responded to Mr. Spinelli's questions about the Moxham substation. He noted the substation was a part of the conversation, but there was no guarantee there would be one. He added the saturation of patrols has worked better than having building with someone sitting in it. Mr. Spinelli stated he was a big proponent of the saturation patrols but wanted to ensure due diligence was done regarding a substation. Mr. Martynuska noted the substation was always a possibility but staffing also needed to be considered.

Mr. Barber commented he would prefer to see the City have animal control officers and a place to house them.

Chief Britton noted applying for the Cops grant and awaited a response.

CODES

Mr. Martynuska reported the Codes Department entered 200 code violations into the Edmunds system in June. In June, there were 35 lien verifications, 20 rental inspections, and 15 follow-ups were closed. Shawn Stiffler and Jen Combs completed rental inspection training. He noted Council was provided with a property maintenance report from Laurel Municipal with updated court dates. He noted the Codes Department was now able to run criminal complaints in addition to civil complaints.

Mr. Martynuska pointed out a highlight from the Codes report is the list of building permits issued in June. He noted ten or 11 of the 38 permits issued were for solar panels. The total cost of the work for building permits is \$1.9 million. He explained the rest of the Codes report are the various violations as requested by Council.

Mr. Spinelli asked who was the head of the Codes Department. Mr. Martynuska stated he was currently the head, noting there were internal changes being discussed, and personnel issues could be discussed in Executive Session.

PUBLIC WORKS

Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director, provided a recap of his prepared report included in the Council packet. He noted work at Roxbury Park included replacing the office roof, installing new batting cages, removing poisonous plants on the hillside and starting the curb cut and sidewalks. He reported on the removal of knotweed in Hill Place and the start of knotweed removal in Prospect. He mentioned a street sweeper would be going through the area once the trimming was complete.

Mr. Truscello reported on various work completed throughout the City on inlets, street lights, steps on O'Connor and Saylor Street, weeds, and potholes. Yard waste was also picked up on request for residents. He explained work completed in the downtown area in preparation for the Fourth of July parade. He also noted the playgrounds were being cut each week along with common grounds owned by the City coming into and out of the City.

Mr. Truscello shared 14 public works employees had completed flagger training and would be certified for three years. Millings were spread along two miles of Honon Ave. The millings came from the gas companies work in the Moxham area, so they did not cost the City anything.

Regarding the handicap entrance to the Court House, he reported the first concrete pour for the walls would happen the following day followed by the base the following week. The election would be installing a disconnect box with two extra receptacles for Christmas lights.

Mr. Hamacek commented on the lights in Roxbury Park, noting he had been informed a lady fell about two weeks prior as it was hard to see. Mr. Truscello explained the existing lighting in the park but offered to investigate the situation. He requested Mr. Hamacek find out more information on where in the park the resident was when she fell.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jim McCann, Fire Chief, reported in May the Fire Department responded to 251 calls for service in addition to 42 additional activities which were non-emergency. No major fires were reported in June. He shared JFD took a big role in the 250 parade and fireworks. He commended JFD firefighters for taking their own time to volunteer for the event. He also noted JFD continues to assist the Codes Department rental inspections and training.

Chief McCann reported the new reporting system is up and running, largely thanks to Assistant Chief Boyle. JFD continues to partner with the Red Cross for smoke detectors and hands only CPR. He noted JFD is one of the only fire departments in the nation doing the hands only CPR training through the Red Cross. He shared JFD has been working hand in hand with JPD on events like the bike giveaway. He also reported JFD continues to do training and has partnered recently with the coroner's office for training.

Chief McCann reported on cooling centers which were opened up in partnership with local agencies. He noted the cooling centers were well attended and were currently discontinued as the temperatures had dropped; however, agencies were on-call to open again if needed. He explained work had been done over the late spring and summer to have a permanent warming shelter for the winter.

Chief McCann noted many certification classes were coming up, and the department is recognized throughout the Commonwealth as being highly certified. He shared JFD continues to do neighborhood walks. JFD has also been doing evening training at the facility on Oak Street and recently trained with the Department of Corrections Firebirds response team out of Somerset State Prison.

FINANCE

Mr. Martynuska recapped the finance report as Maher Duessel was unable to attend the meeting due to a company commitment. He noted the report was included in the packet for Council's review. He highlighted areas of the report, including tax collection, general fund expenditures, and debt service.

RECREATION

Tony Penna, Recreation & Community Events Director, reported on recreation projects around the City. He stated there were several events happening at Roxbury Park with concerns expressed about the softball field. He reported Mr. Truscello examined the field. New chain link or mesh would be ordered and installed at the end of the season. In addition, bumps in the field would be evened out to make the field feel safer for both Bishop McCourt and seniors who use the field.

He shared comments on the boxing event. There was a total profit of \$5,000. He thanked the City for their support. He noted Castle Boxing is a 501c3 nonprofit and all profits made go back into boxing. He explained the benefits and opportunities of having boxing available in the community. He shared there is another event tentatively planned for October 3 or 10, 2026. He reiterated thanks to everyone who assisted with the event.

Mr. Penna shared updates to Sargent's Stadium including advertising sales which will run starting September 1st through September 1, 2027. He explained his main current project is getting updated photos of all of the playground for a PowerPoint so Council would be able to see all of the work completed and have a full status update on the playgrounds. He also reported working on a massive plan for another City controlled facility in addition to facility updates at Sargent's Stadium.

Regarding the tennis courts at Roxbury Park, he noted the bid would be opening for the resurfacing as well as AAABA field updates. His final update was regarding potential concerts to be held at Sargent's Stadium. Pending seat renumbering and ensuring proper power, there is a potential concert pending for Labor Day weekend.

Mr. Hamacek asked who does the walkthrough of Sargent's Stadium at the close of the season before winter. Mr. Penna explained he usually does walkthroughs with Mr. Truscello and Mr. Martynuska. He also noted there is usually a walkthrough with the Mill Rats. Mr. Hamacek requested to also be involved.

Mr. Arnone commented on fryer maintenance at the concession stands. He noted the fryers were too expensive to replace so upkeep was important. Mr. Penna noted the Mill Rats were very opinionated during negotiations to keep the fryers open so the City worked with them. He stated the City would continue maintaining the fryers to ensure they were in good working order. Mr. Arnone noted there was a company out of Bedford which would pay for used oil for recycling.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

John Rutledge, Economic Development Director, reviewed highlights from his report. He noted the pilot program helped DCED inspect houses that could not be repaired under the original CDBG program. He noted examining the CDBG program to see what adjustments can be made to assist more people with issues like furnaces, roofs, and hot water tanks. Regarding blighted properties, he was working with the list prepared by Mr. Martynuska.

Mr. Rutledge reported the Facade program was reaching the end, and DCED would be reapplying next year for the program. He shared the Farmer's Market was going great, and there had been a large influx of people at the market with resource information being publicized. He reported on heading to Harrisburg for a workshop to find out the amount of the next lead grant.

Mr. Rutledge commented there was a lot happening related to housing in the City including possibly property acquisition through the land bank for rehab. He shared information on the loan program. He noted there was only one application; however, a lot of money had been brought back into the program with contacting people with outstanding loans. He reviewed the loan programs and thought the City should keep with the job development one and look at ways to create grants and opportunities for businesses to come down to the City.

Regarding the loan review committee, he noted there was only the one application to review, and once the new members were on the committee, he would have a meeting with them to touch base regarding plans moving forward.

Mr. Spinelli asked if there was money available for loans. Mr. Rutledge confirmed there was money. Mr. Spinelli commented the problem seemed to be people not applying and asked if there were efforts underway to ask people to apply. Mr. Rutledge confirmed he has talked to businesses and people regarding loan opportunities, but many were looking for grants.

Mr. Rutledge also commented on demolition, noting he hoped to have bids put out in August and September. Mr. Hamacek asked how much money DCED had for demolitions. Mr. Rutledge confirmed there was approximately \$397,000, noting when he started the money was scattered all over and he has worked on cleanup. He understood everyone wants to see the properties torn down, but there had been much effort involved in creating the list, taking photos, and entering information into Edmunds. He noted Codes can also continue to add to the list.

HUMAN RESOURCES

None.

ENGINEER REPORT

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Anthony Cromer, 310 Conway Court, commented he would volunteer for the dunk tank during National Night Out. He shared remarks on his efforts to work towards stopping gun violence. He was looking for grants to help pay for things like office space and travel. He touched on his work completed to date. Mr. Cromer also commented on a large pothole forming on Conway Court. He asked about getting fire extinguishers in Prospect.

Mr. Barber commented the street was owned by JHA, and they would have to take care of the pothole. He also noted the fire extinguishers would be the responsibility of JHA.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.