JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 9, 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 6:06 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, Lorraine Brandon-Taylor, Mike Hamacek, Nicolas Spinelli, and Taylor Clark.

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Aimee Willett, Solicitor; Jon Tilelli, Maher Duessel; Jennifer Burkhart, Executive Secretary; Mark Britton, Chief of Police; Jim McCann, Fire Chief; Brandon Palmer, EADS; John Rutledge, Economic Development Director; and Carmen Truscello, Public Works Director, were also present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor King requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2026.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King shared a proclamation for Sargent's Group.

"Whereas the appearance of our public and private buildings significantly contributes to the pride, spirit, and overall aesthetic of our community. And whereas the beautification of buildings enhances the environment, promotes community engagement, and supports economic development by attracting visitors, residents, and businesses, the Sargent's Group has demonstrated outstanding initiative, dedication and creativity in the beautification and

improvement of its property in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. And whereas these efforts serve as a model of civic responsibility and inspire others to take similar action towards improving and maintaining the beauty of our shared spaces. Now, therefore, I, Reverend Sylvia King, Mayor of the City of Johnstown, hereby recognize and commend the exemplary work and commitment to excellence displayed in the beautification of the Sargent's Group in Johnstown, Pennsylvania."

Mayor King reported on September 8, 2026 she presented a proclamation to the Greater Johnstown School District, recognizing September as perfect attendance month. She noted the school district was encouraging students to come to school on a regular basis through presentations in the community and efforts to remove any barriers there may be to regular attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, discussed the appointee to the Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA). He expressed frustration that the Agenda did not list the name of the planned appointee. He reported details from the JHA's draft 2027 Annual PHA Plan. He cited concerns with the number of public housing relative to the population of Johnstown as well as concerns with the number of people moving to the City from outside of Cambria County. He suggested actions that should be taken including right sizing, ending the pipeline, shifting capital spending from quantity to quality, and prioritizing economic vitality over subsidy expansion. He stated Council should appoint a person to the JHA board who would shake things up and address issues.

Milissa Teeter, 161 Sheridan Street, discussed Ordinance 5382. She cited specific concerns regarding 163 Sheridan Street and a lack of action regarding grass and weeds on the property. She additionally noted code violations at 241-243 Laurel Avenue across from Garfield Middle School, stating the weeds on the property were overgrown to a point where school children were using the road to go around the property. Additional concerns included cats, loose siding, and an unsecured window. She noted the property was last sold in March to an out-of-state owner and no property maintenance had occurred.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jon Tilelli, Maher Duessel, reviewed a slideshow of the financial report through July provided in the Council's meeting packet. Regarding cash balances, he noted the cash balances were slightly lower than normal due to three pay periods in

July. In terms of general fund revenues and expenses, he noted the figures were tracking close to expectations. Regarding real estate tax collections, he reported 73 percent of the total levy had been collected for a total of $5.27 million. He noted other local taxes including earned local income, mercantile, business privilege, and LST. He reviewed the general fund expenditures by function with most categories tracking consistent with prior periods. He noted the final 2020 general obligation note payment for the year was made in September and the next report should show the debt service at close to 100 percent compared to budget.

Regarding payroll analysis, he reported the City was slightly under the total budget with no real changes from the prior period. He noted the police overtime was on the higher end with a possibility that overall police overtime could exceed budget. He explained the capital investment fund expenditures. Mr. Tilelli concluded his report by noting the 2027 budget process started. He stated the goal was to present during the October workshop with the budget as a first read in October and a second read in November.

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported the four tennis courts at Roxbury Park were completed. He stated funding was currently being explored for the last four tennis courts including additional grants from the U.S. Tennis Association. He commented on additional improvements at Roxbury Park, noting the Miracle League was close to being able to start their project.

Mr. Martynuska reported the paper contract for the Main Street project was forwarded to other federal agencies, which was the next step in getting the contract finalized. He hoped to be under contract with FTA by the end of the year to kick of the project in Spring 2027. Regarding the Public Safety Building, he noted a number of bids were received though PennBid and would be opened on September 16, 2026. He added a special Council meeting was still being considered to approve the bids.

Mr. Martynuska concluded his report by providing an update on the golf course. He reported one of the resolutions was a drawdown from capital for equipment needed for the golf course. He mentioned an upcoming meeting with team members and subject matter experts.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Willett reported City Council met in an Executive Session on August 24, 2026, to discuss personnel and police contracts. An Executive Session was also held on September 2, 2026, to discuss personnel, acquisition of real estate, and litigation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King welcomed reports from Council Members. She noted, moving forward, reports would be focused on committees each Member serves on.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Clark noted he serves on the Public Safety committee with Mr. Barber. He reported on environmental studies being conducted on a building on Horner Street and land in the West End, both of which could potentially be purchased by the City for the Fire Department. Regarding Central Park, he noted signs were being prepared regarding bicycle use in the park. Also related to public safety, he acknowledged there were issues with the Laurel Avenue bridge for decades. He stated, ultimately, Norfolk Southern is responsible for the bridge, and he asked that Norfolk Southern consider a study on the viability of raising the bridge or another solution. He added the City is looking into the possibility of additional warning signs and pipe clearance signs.

Mr. Clark thanked the Fire Department and Public Works for their efforts in cleaning up from the storm in his neighborhoods of Roxbury and the 8th Ward. He reported the 8th Ward Community Group used their portion of ARPA funds to purchase trashcans that were strategically installed in their neighborhood. He stated one of the cans was hit by a vehicle in August and asked for anyone with information to contact JPD.

Regarding community announcements, Mr. Clark shared a variety of events happening throughout the City in September. He shared Bishop McCourt officially opened their new tech center at the corner of Franklin and Osbourne Streets. The center is open to the public during school hours, and free Wi-Fi can be accessed 24/7 by pulling into the former bank's drive-up.

Mr. Clark extended appreciation to Hope City Johnstown, Kevin and Sarah Maschiantonio, and volunteers who helped feed people affected by the severe storm on September 3, 2026. He also thanked JPD, JFD, and Public Works for all of their work following the storm.

Mr. Clark concluded his report by announcing Bold Athletics, owned by Kristina Marinkovich, would be moving from their location on Walnut Street to the old RiteAid building at the corner of Franklin and Main Streets. He welcomed her to Main Street.

Mr. Arnone commented the appointment to JHA was required to be a resident of the Housing Authority, which limited the people who could be appointed.

Mayor King expressed pride for the young people who stepped up to help organize the Central Park reopening celebration.

Ms. Brandon-Taylor shared she had the pleasure of attending the open house at Garfield. She found the reopening to be a phenomenal event. She also participated in a backpack giveaway in Hornerstown as well as a fundraiser for the Russell House.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READ

Ordinance #5382

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1890 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN REGARDING WEEDS, BY ORDINANCE 2029 FINALLY PASSED JUNE 26, 1933, AND AMENDING BY ORDINANCE 4915 FINALLY PASSED AUGUST 13, 2003 (SPECIFICALLY REPEALING ORDINANCE 2029), TO INCLUDE NUISANCES AND REVISE REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamacek.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Ordinance #5383

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 236 TITLED DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN TO INCLUDE 4527 AND 4587 AND PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamacek.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 10800

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

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

It was noted the appointee is Kenneth Szczur.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10801

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN OF CAMBRIA COUNTY HEREBY REQUESTS A MAIN STREET MATTERS (MSM) GRANT OF $100,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO BE USED FOR THE JOHNSTOWN CITY FACADE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Abstain: None (0).

Resolution No. 10802

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT FROM AMERICAN ROCK SALT WITH DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES COSTARS PROGRAM. AMERICAN ROCK SALT WILL PROVIDE AND DELIVER ROCK SALT TO THE CITY FOR THE 2025-2026 CALENDAR YEAR.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10803

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE CALCULATIONS OF THE MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION FOR EACH OF THE CITY'S PENSION FUNDS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2027 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10804

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR FY 2026 LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF ANY RESULTING AWARD; COMMITTING $300,000 IN CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TOWARD THE REQUIRED MATCH; AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A FULL-TIME PROJECT MANAGER; AUTHORIZING INTERGOVERNMENTAL, SUBAWARD, PROCUREMENT, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS; DESIGNATING THE CITY AS LEAD AGENCY AND PROPOSED RESPONSIBLE ENTITY; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to table the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10805

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT XXXXX TO THE GENERAL FUND.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 10806

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT 2359 & 3282 TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor King nominated Jasmine LaRue to serve on the Housing Authority.

The nomination was approved by the following vote:

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

Mr. Arnone nominated Kim Murray to serve on the Civil Service Board.

The nomination was approved by the following vote:

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

Mr. Barber nominated Lindsay Yessie to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board to replace Nedriah Jenkins who resigned in August 2026.

The nomination was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Hamacek, Mr. Clark,

Ms. Brandon-Taylor, Mr. Spinelli (7).
Nays: None (0).
Abstain: None (0).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor King noted all department heads submitted written reports.

Mr. Martynuska requested a moment to thank everyone who responded to the storm, particularly JPD, JFD, and Public Works. Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Martynuska, noting he probably called Mr. Martynuska 25 times that night. Council Members agreed with Mr. Clark's remarks. Mayor King noted while it may be difficult to live without electricity for an extended time, she was grateful that she had not heard of any lives lost.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, expressed frustration at the energy level of the meeting. He questioned the settlement with Michael Capriotti at the prior meeting. He also expressed concern over the recent shooting at the Locker Room Bar. He congratulated Ms. LaRue on her appointment to the Housing Authority but stated a need for people who will address issues. He discussed making a documentary on Johnstown due to the issues with the City. He questioned the lack of a report from Mr. Arnone regarding the Housing Authority and GJWA.

Milissa Teeter, 161 Sheridan Street, thanked Chief McCann for stepping up to address sealing the property on Laurel Avenue. She raised concerns with a lack of school signs and crosswalks around Garfield Middle School. She noted a drain pipe at 263 Laurel Avenue runs onto the sidewalk, which may cause issues with ice in the winter. She touched on her previous concerns regarding 143 Sheridan Street, noting while the problems went on for some time, they were finally being addressed.

Mayor King thanked Ms. Teeter for bringing attention to concerns around the school.

Mr. Barber asked for confirmation that active criminal investigations were not allowed to be discussed. Ms. Willett confirmed he was correct.

Mr. Arnone addressed Mr. DeBartola's remarks, reporting on public housing statistics. He noted, while the waiting list is closed for Section 8, there were a limited number of families contacted to maintain funding levels for next year. He added the families contacted were on the waitlist for three years. He stated the rules for the Housing Authority are federally and state instructed. The only people moved to the top of the list are veterans, and everybody else is considered a resident of Pennsylvania. He expressed frustration at Mr. DeBartola's remarks regarding the length of time he served on the Housing Authority.

Mr. Clark also addressed Mr. DeBartola's remarks, noting while he liked and was always willing to talk with Mr. DeBartola, he did not appreciate his comments about Council Members not caring. He stated, while actions may not always be publicly shared, the Mayor, City Manager, and fellow Council Members are working with residents on a daily basis.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.