

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

Reverend King offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel; Mr. Clark (7).

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Mike Capriotti, Assistant City Manager; Dave Andrews, Esquire, Solicitor; Melissa Millard, Finance Director; Jared Campagna, Public Works; Sara Williams, Executive Secretary; Fire Chief Robert Statler; Deputy Chief Mark Britain; John Rutledge, Community and Economic Development Director; Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager; and Tony Penna, Recreation Director, were also in attendance.

Also present were The Honorable Judge Patrick Kiniry and Detective Sergeant Cory Adams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Janakovic requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2025 and Special Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2025.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt.

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Ms. Huchel, Mrs. Mock (7).

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Janakovic reported that Honorable Patrick Kiniry would swear in Mr. Taylor Clark. Mr. Clark was sworn in, and Council members welcomed him to City Council.

Mayor Janakovic presented an accommodation to Detective Sergeant Cory Adams. He reported the City of Johnstown recognizes and commends Detective Sergeant Cory Adams for his action and diligence bringing successful closure to a criminal homicide case that began in 2017 and ended with a just criminal conviction in 2025. It was noted that Detective Sergeant Adams actions are

acknowledged and appreciated by City Council and Johnstown residents and Detective Sergeant Adams' dedication and tenacity helped to deliver justice to the victims of this heinous crime. Mayor Janakovic stated, over the course of eight years, Detective Sergeant Adams pursued this case with determination and utilized modern police methods that resulted in a life sentence without the possibility of parole. He noted, in 2017, the crime was committed; in 2020, charges were filed; in 2021, the preliminary hearing occurred; in 2024, the Common Pleas trial began; in 2024, the charged party was found guilty; and in 2025, the charged party was convicted and sentenced. Detective Sergeant Adams was thanked for his service to the city and the community.

Mayor Janakovic stated Council also wanted to recognize Assistant Chief County Detective Lia Demarco, who was not able to be present. City Manager Martynuska stated the City of Johnstown recognizes and commends Assistant Chief County Detective Lia Demarco for her action and diligence bringing successful closure to a criminal homicide case that started in 2017 and ended with a just criminal conviction in 2025. He noted Council and the residents of Johnstown acknowledged and appreciated the actions of Assistant Chief County Detective Lia Demarco, whose dedication and tenacity have helped to deliver justice to the victims of this heinous crime. Over the past eight years, she pursued this case with determination and utilized modern police methods that results in a life sentence without parole. City Manager Martynuska thanked Assistant Chief County Detective Demarco for her service.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, stated she was speaking in regards to Resolution A. She reported Resolution A proposes a lease agreement between the City of Johnstown and the Miracle League of Cambria County for 206 acres for 50 years for \$1.00. Ms. Stanton stated 2.6 acres is greater than two football fields in length. She felt a Miracle League complex for those with disabilities is a great idea. However, she urged Council to vote no to this resolution for several reasons.

She suggested Council choose a location other than Roxbury Park due to its natural beauty. Ms. Stanton noted the park provides natural areas and green space, both of which help to enhance the quality of life for the community. She did not feel that the areas that are stated to be underused are accurate. Ms. Stanton reported that she is at the park often and observes families playing. She felt this would be taken away by paving the park over. She noted nature would be replaced with a field of plastic when it is turned into Astroturf. Ms. Stanton described Roxbury Park to be the "jewel of the city" and requested Council not to ruin it with extensive dig up and paving.

She reported the city has never bothered to do a community impact study and added that the residents around the park are 100% opposed to putting this Miracle League park in. Ms. Stanton encouraged Council members to walk around the streets in Roxbury, knock on each resident's door, and see what the residents have to say. She had many concerns with this resolution, and her first one was that the Miracle League does not currently have any funds for this project. It is also uncertain if funds will ever be obtained. She added the city should not be entering into a lease agreement with a company who does not have the funds secured. Ms. Stanton asked what happens if the funding is never obtained and the field lease is signed for 50 years. She also questioned if environmental studies have been performed and would like to know the impact this is going to have on the environment. Ms. Stanton reported that the park used to be a lake, which was called "Luna Lake." She reported the areas that are being proposed to use are swamps whenever it rains and added this can be verified with the Public Works Department.

Ms. Stanton questioned if paving and installing Astroturf to acres of a city-designated park was permitted. She also wanted to know if Roxbury Park is registered as a historic preservation site and if DCNR have any ground restrictions on how this land can be used. Ms. Stanton noted the lease agreement has no mention of liability and felt this was a major concern. She reported there are other areas where the Miracle League complex can be installed, such as vacant lots throughout the city that have resulted from property demolitions. Ms. Stanton mentioned the liens that may be on these properties and presented her idea of how to handle this.

Janice Sandak, 159 Sell Street, stated she was speaking in regards to Resolution A. She has been a resident of Roxbury for the past 30 years and describes it as a great community. Ms. Sandak reported her son grew up on those baseball fields and mentioned how utilized they are. She mentioned there is an empty space where the baseball fields used to be and she believes that a new baseball field was proposed. She stated a handicap baseball field for the kids' makes everyone's heart say yes until you look at the plans and see how much is being lost.

Ms. Sandak continued by saying the only green space on the plans is where two of the streets come together. She noted there is a little park with picnic benches and trees that she has seen utilized throughout the years. Ms. Sandak added that this is the only area where you can enjoy a park. Everything else is aimed at athletics. She mentioned she has met so many people on the walking trail and added that there is always a place to sit down. Ms. Sandak reported the green area would be lost due to 41 handicap parking spaces as well as the additional 12 parking spaces.

She mentioned they would just have a park in a parking lot that is surrounded by cars with some fields in the center. Ms. Sandek lives on Sell Street and mentioned all of her neighbors recently moved to Roxbury from out of state. She feels Roxbury has appeal for people to move in, and that is what they want to see happen. Ms. Sandek stated they want more residents, more taxpayers, and families moving into the area. She mentioned that every one of her neighbors that she has talked to have said they moved to the Roxbury area because of the park. She reported that she goes to Allied Artists and has met artists there that have moved here from other states because of the cost of living. Ms. Sandek commented they also like the park and community.

Ms. Sandak concluded that she wants it to be good for everyone; to help the kids, residents; and to preserve the Roxbury neighborhood.

Andrea Ryan, 190 Derby Street, stated she was speaking in regards to Resolution A. She reported there are hundreds of people who go to Roxbury Park. She commented that there are times her dog is not comfortable due to the number of people using the entire space the entire time. She stated this is an issue with the location planning and not a disability issue. She noted that it is a big risk to lease the park for 50 years for one dollar without looking into the whole situation.

Ms. Ryan was concerned that the funding from the Miracle League may not come through, and the City would be stuck with the lease. She added that it may be built, but the Miracle League may not even exist in 50 years. Ms. Ryan noted the Miracle League relies on volunteers to perform all of the work such as the concession stands, physical support, and all the maintenance. She is not sure if they will be able to find local people to volunteer within the area for upkeep purposes.

She mentioned, when she looked online at the Pennsylvania Miracle League websites, the site sounded as though there were large crowds with hundreds of people who were vocal every single weekend from May 1 until the end of September. Ms. Ryan asked if there was going to be a noise problem for the surrounding residents. She reported that she tried to contact one of the closet Miracle League places this morning; there was no contact information listed. The other location had a phone number, but no voicemail where she could leave a message. The third one she had called she left a message, and no one called her back. Ms. Ryan then called the City of Altoona to inquire about Blair County's Miracle League. They reported to her that their city is not involved at all with the Blair County Miracle League and added it is purely privately funded, managed, and located.

Ms. Ryan expressed her concern about the environmental impact. An environmental assessment would approximately cost between three and six thousand dollars. She stated it needed to be determined who would pay for this to be done since the area was a lake previously. Ms. Ryan added they would need to find out what the impact would be of putting plastic sheeting, such as Astroturf, over the top of the area. She added the most important thing to her deals with the legal protections of the migratory birds that use the Atlantic Flyway stop in Johnstown. These birds are protected both federally and by the state of Pennsylvania. Her statement continued by reviewing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. She reported these birds embark on spring and fall migration activities and noted geese awaken many residents near the park frequently during the peak seasons. Ms. Ryan mentioned that the Pennsylvania Game Commission contains law. There are many organizations who protect the habitat of these birds. Her main concern is the birds, habitat, and the environmental protection.

Ms. Ryan stated the plan is "ill conceived." She mentioned if Council proceeds with it, she would proceed with further follow-up on federal, state, and organizational sources to take the legal action that is necessary to stop it. Ms. Ryan suggested Council find a different location.

Erica Oakley, 195 Derby Street, spoke in regards to Resolution A. She stated she is a nurse at Conemaugh Memorial and added her husband, Alex, could not attend due to work obligations. She has lived in Roxbury for 11 years and noted one of their priorities for buying a home was the school district for their children. Mrs. Oakley reported they bought their home on Derby Street despite being in one of the lowest scoring school districts in the area. They chose to send their children to private school due to the proximity to the park. She stated Roxbury Park has been her and her family's favorite place to go for all outdoor activities and gatherings for over a decade.

Mrs. Oakley mentioned, during the warmer months, the majority of the park is taken over by sports leagues and matches. She stated the only area that families and gatherings can play freely is at the abandoned ball fields and unclaimed grass between it and the playground, which is the space that will be turned into a parking lot. Mrs. Oakley stated she would not deny that there is a lack of parking in Roxbury. It has never stopped people from gathering there. She reported everyone within the neighborhood has chosen his or her homes because of the proximity to the park. She continued with saying that the beautiful view from their windows will not be gone.

She stated the proposal needed to be scrutinized. The people of the neighborhood need to be made aware so they can voice their concerns. Mrs.

Oakley stated the Roxbury community only recently learned of this by a neighbor, who happened to be at the meeting. She added this "makes the whole situation seem underhanded." She noted many residents are shocked and appalled with the concept. Mrs. Oakley reported that those who are the most impacted by this project have no idea of its existence. She added the concept of an accessible ball field is very great. Mrs. Oakley stated she has previously worked with medically fragile children and is fully aware of the benefits of having a park for them.

Mrs. Oakley mentioned there are many parks in the Johnstown area that are neglected and overgrown that are in desperate need of renovation and would greatly benefit from this type of project. She noted Roxbury does not need anything more. It is beautiful, fun, and very popular as it is.

Mr. Vince Lovenduski, 101 Rolling Hills Road, spoke in regards to Resolution A. He did not think there would be so much opposition to the Miracle League project and appreciated the thoughts. He mentioned the impact that this park will have on the special needs community. He and his wife have dedicated their lives to this. Mr. Lovenduski stated he knows there are some concerns, but he stated this will enhance the lives of the special needs community. He reported many families with special needs are being left out. He added that improving the community was also talked about and noted the community is only stronger whenever we take care of special needs. Mr. Lovenduski has 15 special agencies. He has worked his life with them and it is a joy.

Mr. Lovenduski reported Roxbury Park is the perfect example of a Miracle League if you read the bylaws and all the parameters that they look for. He noted it is a level area with high visibility. Mr. Lovenduski added that this will enhance the park and will not contain Astroturf. It will have a rubberized surface. It would not be a large area. He reported they consider HF lands with runoff ponds, and it will definitely be an asset to the community.

He mentioned whenever companies are trying to recruit high executives, and that executive may have a special needs person, they will ask what Johnstown has available for special needs. Mr. Lovenduski stated he could not imagine turning this down and turning down the community. He understood people saying that a different location would be better, but he disagreed. He reported on going to great lengths in their planning to ensure the community is enhanced and is not seen as a detriment.

Mr. Lovenduski reported, as far as funding, they already have commitments with a local nonprofit, as the board of the directors have given \$10,000. He noted it is not for publication yet. He received two text messages informing

him of two donations into the Community Foundation, and the word is not even out yet. Mr. Lovenduski stated he has a meeting scheduled with the Pittsburgh Pirates. They are waiting for the lease to be signed before they will commit to \$200,000 for the Miracle League.

Mr. Lovenduski stated the people that are left out are the ones who need to be helped the most. He added that they have done their homework and worked on this. Mr. Lovenduski reported the Johnstown community as a whole is 100% behind this. He never really heard of any dissent until tonight. He offered to be available to address any concerns and is very approachable.

Mr. Lovenduski explained the excitement that is seen when people with special needs are given the opportunity to feel something special. He continued to explain how it would grow as the years go on.

He addressed the worry that was voiced regarding volunteers and noted there are numerous people who would be available. Mr. Lovenduski stated the community would be greatly enhanced by the Miracle League Park and stated he would be available to answer any questions.

Mr. Jeff Cramer, 176 Berkey Drive, spoke in regards to Resolution A. He introduced himself as being the president of the Cambria County Miracle League. Mr. Cramer reported they have engaged HF Lenz, and they will take care of obtaining the proper permitting and all the due diligence needed regarding the water runoff and retention. He added the goal is to put smiles on kids' faces. He looked forward to taking the jewel of the city and creating a regional asset.

Mr. Cramer stated the Miracle League is about making new friends, building self-esteem, and being treated just like other children. He encouraged Council to vote "Yes" for the resolution.

Ms. Stanton stated she had a point of order. Mayor Janakovic denied her request and stated Council was not taking responses right now. He added that Ms. Stanton was out of order. Mr. Andrews reported Mr. Cramer was speaking on behalf of that organization, and it was on the agenda.

Ms. Sonya Chababebe, 192 Sell Street, spoke in regards to Resolution A. She reported the news she heard about Roxbury Park was very upsetting, as she has lived in the area since she was a child. She recalled driving by Roxbury Park as a child and stated the beauty of it is comparatively much the same. Ms. Chababe mentioned the large trees and added the beautiful things that people do there. She mentioned it breaks her heart to know that somebody wants to plow it under. Ms. Chababe stated the people need such beauty,

because the city does not have it. She added that there is nothing like that park within the city.

Ms. Chababe reported the park is hundreds of years old and cannot be destroyed. She asked Council to hear her heart. She mentioned she moved back to the area after living out of state for 27 years due to the beauty of the area. Ms. Chababe added that Roxbury Park is lasting, beautiful, and the people need it. She added that the residents of Roxbury Park pay taxes there and enjoy living there. She purchased her childhood home, and she wanted to continue to enjoy Roxbury Park that is easily accessible to her. She described herself as being a tenacious woman who is tenacious about the subject of Roxbury Park.

Ms. Chababe stated she would not give up. She reported, the first bulldozer that she sees over at the park, her walker will be in front of it.

Ms. Chababe deferred a minute of her time to Ms. Stanton.

Ms. Stanton presented a people's petition to Council opposing Resolution A. She stated there were over 50 signatures that were gathered in approximately two hours' time.

Mr. Greg Brown, 1100 Confer Avenue, spoke in regards to Resolution A. He noted that he is very compassionate regarding what he has heard. He has researched the Roxbury Park area. Mr. Brown stated he knows many of the problems are with the communications. The second problem is interpreting the communications, which can be scary and misleading depending on the thoughts you have about them. He reviewed the history of Roxbury Park and how many things it has been transitioned into.

Mr. Brown reported that area is unique and has changed so many times. He mentioned the area has transitioned in the past, and to see this type of money, it has to be well thought out. He found it hard to believe that any one person or group would just come in and present an idea with the promise of money.

Mr. Brown informed Council that he would like it to vote "Yes" for it. He reported that he lives in the Eighth Ward and the ideas seems awesome to him, as he is not living in that neighborhood. Mr. Brown stated it is the perfect area because of the past and for the future. He also stated he knows turf and handicap parking spots are concerning, but he added that it is the world that we are living in. He asked Council to consider this and to maybe articulate this to the community to provide reassurance.



Ms. Mock made a public comment that a very thorough and detailed workshop was held previously regarding this. She stated, for the individuals that did not know about the workshop, it was advertised in the paper and posted on social media. Ms. Mock stated it was very detailed and lasted longer than anticipated. Mayor Janakovic added that it was open to the public. Ms. Mock reported almost every question that came up was answered. She did not know what to tell the individuals that did not participate in the workshop.

## REPORTS

### CITY MANAGER

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported Resolution B would not be presented regarding the Emergency Operations Plan. City Manager Martynuska stated updates needed to be obtained. He noted working with the Fire Chief and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) director on completing those updates by next meeting.

### MAYOR

Mayor Frank Janakovic attended the funeral service for fellow Council member, Pete Vizza, who recently passed away. He added that Mr. Vizza will be missed as he was a big part of City Council, the community, school district, and was always involved with the youth.

He attended the Roxbury Band Shell fundraiser. Mayor Janakovic stated it supports the efforts at Roxbury Park, such as the free summer concerts, et cetera. He commended the work done to maintain and keep the activities going at Roxbury Park.

### CITY SOLICITOR

Dave Andrews, Esquire, Solicitor, updated Council on tax assessment appeals. He reported on recently coming to a tentative agreement on both cases. Mr. Andrews mentioned working on a stipulation to resolve both of these cases, which he believed would be favorable to the city and school district. He stated the agreements would be available for review and approval at the next Council meeting.

### CITY ENGINEER

No report.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Ms. Huchel wanted to remind the community that the Discover Downtown Bunny Hop would occur on Saturday, April 12, 2025. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Reverend King noted attendance at the Commission on Poverty meeting. She reported on working on a project to inform the public of federal cuts and things changing. Reverend King stated they are working on a communications piece to be advertised in the newspaper and by WJAC. This will get the information out to the public and let them know where resources are and what they can do.

She also attended the United Neighborhood Meeting along with a series of different neighborhood meetings to discuss community projects.

Mrs. Mock reported the West End Improvement Group is moving along with their spring projects. She mentioned there are many clean-up projects scheduled. They will be doing groups of about two to three streets at a time.

She stated the group is also working on their Trash to Treasure fundraiser that will take place on May 9 and 10, 2025. Mrs. Mock stated this is one of the biggest fundraisers for the group.

Mrs. Mock noted grants for project funding within the group have been written.

She stated they are also working on getting the community garden set up. There are additional raised garden beds. Mrs. Mock reported on utilizing the Department of Correction workers and Cambria County Adult Probation workers to help. She also noted lining up school groups, Girl Scouts, and neighborhood groups to work in the West End.

Mrs. Mock reported on attended the United Neighborhood Meeting and added that it was very informative. She noted she will be attending other neighborhood group meetings to see what is going on. Ms. Mock believed the neighborhood groups are really coming together. It is helpful to get out to meet your neighbors.

Mrs. Mock informed Council that Reverend King and herself have been working with Mr. Cramer with the Miracle League. She mentioned they both have known the details of the project since it started.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Britt had nothing new to report.

Mr. Arnone, as representative on the Greater Johnstown Water Authority, reported, as of February 8, 2025, there were 8 service renewals completed and 8 main line repairs completed. RDM conducted 623 customer line inspections as an additional 41 line inspections are scheduled for the end of May. He noted the inspections would be for the copper to lead inspections that people received notification about. Ms. Arnone stated they are just looking to see if the customer has lead or copper lines during the inspection.

He mentioned the Franklin pump station has been rebuilt and was installed in February. RDM completed the installation, is aligned, and on the board.

Mr. Arnone reported, within the month of January, 2,398 feet of sewer mains were jetted, and 4,129 feet of mainline were inspected. As the end of February, the city is now at almost 71% pressure testing for sewage.

Reverend King asked Mr. Arnone if the Greater Johnstown Water Authority will send text messages as she received one. Mr. Clark mentioned he received one as well. Reverend King stated the text asked her to subscribe, and Mr. Arnone informed her that he would verify this at the next water authority meeting.

Mayor Janakovic stated 71% of pressure testing was done, but he would like to know how the other 29% are being addressed. He further questioned Mr. Arnone as to whether fines would be imposed within particular periods. Mr. Arnone reported there is a monthly \$100.00 fine imposed if the customer is not inspected. Mr. Arnone noted some of the 29% of properties were torn down, abandoned, or vacated. He reported they are starting from the oldest properties and are capping the water. Mr. Arnone stated if a person wants the property to have water again, they would have to pay for new water hook-up and new tapping in both water and sewage.

Mayor Janakovic reported, in the month of April, himself and City Manager Martynuska have planned a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with Senator Fetterman, Senator McCormick, and Representative Joyce. He noted there are many potential funds in the pipeline right now that are geared towards Johnstown. Mayor Janakovic stated their concerns need to be expressed to legislatures to let them know that Johnstown needs this money. He added that the money has already been allocated, and it would be used for projects to improve the community. Mayor Janakovic hoped to lobby directly with the senators and representatives to tell them how important the money is for the local community.

Mr. Arnone reported, as of January 31, 2025, the total population of the Johnstown public housing community is 2,408. Section Eight population totaled 1,043 for a total of 3,451; 46 percent of the people living in poverty in the City of Johnstown were being assisted. He reported that some families have already returned to Prospect as the first phase of buildings have been turned over by the contractors. These were further made ready to occupy by JHA staff. The families, who are former residents in these first 28 properties, are being scheduled to move back in as their units become readily available and schedule allows.

He reported the contractors are still expected to complete the entire repair work with 110 units by mid-March. As contractors complete their work, the JHA staff has to perform the finishing touches. The Housing Authority has reached out to all of the families, who were former residents, and have asked them if they wanted to return. If the residents are not returning, the housing will be filled first by applicants. Ten of these will be veterans as they have the preference to move in. The next step will be the first public community meeting to be held in March and will be shared with the public via newspaper and website.

Mr. Arnone mentioned, after almost a year of having section eight voucher issues on hold for funding concerns, JHA is planning to issue housing choice vouchers to approximately 25 families of the 1,000 that have been waiting for them with JHA establishment embassy preferences. He noted ten of these families will be veterans and added the remainder of families will be the ones that applied back in August of 2023. Everything will continue to be monitored until everything is fully phased.

Mayor Janakovic asked if there were any updates with future HUD meetings. Mr. Arnone noted they have not gone any further and are gathering information from the neighborhoods. He added, once that is gathered, it will go back to HUD, and they will coordinate the situation.

#### PETITIONS

None.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING IN FULL, PART TEN, TITLE TWO, CHAPTER 1024 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN REGULATING EXCAVATIONS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY, INCLUDING ORDINANCE NO. 4227, PASSED

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FINALLY FEBRUARY 25, 1981; ORDINANCE NO. 4308, PASSED  
FINALLY OCTOBER 26, 1983; ORDINANCE NO. 4671, PASSED  
FINALLY JULY 13, 1994; ORDINANCE NO. 4699, PASSED FINALLY  
DECEMBER 21, 1994 AND ORDINANCE NO. 5131, PASSED FINALLY  
JULY 2, 2013 ORDINANCE NO. 5288 PASSED FINALLY JUNE 10, 2020.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mock.

City Manager Martynuska reported this resolution changes the road maintenance. He stated the current resolution states the road has to be paved from the middle of the street to the curb. If it affects 50 linear feet, this changes the curb-to-curb paving and it affects 25 linear feet. Mayor Janakovic noted this would eliminate many of the half streets that are paved and the other half is not.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark, Mayor Janakovic,  
Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel (7).  
Nays: None (0).

## RESOLUTIONS

### Resolution No. 105710

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY  
MANAGER TO APPROVE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE  
MIRACLE LEAGUE OF CAMBRIA COUNTY FOR 2.60 ACRES FOR 50  
YEARS FOR \$1.00.

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone.

Mayor Janakovic requested Luke Gindlesperger, a representative from HF Lenz Company, to speak in regards to the project for the people who missed the workshop on behalf of the Miracle League. Mr. Gindlesberger noted residing at 125 Antonia Street in Upper Yoder Township. He went into detail and reassured those in attendance that the park would be a very nice aesthetic feature. Further discussion occurred, and Luke stated most of the construction will be for enhancement purposes and an improvement to what is already there.

Mayor Janakovic mentioned that they would not take any questions, but asked Luke if he could give a phone number, website, or an e-mail for people to call if they

have questions. Mr. Gindlesperger agreed to provide that information following the adjournment of Council meeting.

A female, who did not identify herself by name, noted the Roxbury Civic Group has been taking care of the Roxbury Park since 2007. She noted that she did not see a single member of the group speaking for or against the lease agreement with the Miracle League. She pointed out they are talking about losing, destroying, and causing heartbreak whenever they talk about the Roxbury Park becoming the Miracle League. The female stated the Roxbury Park is a true asset to the community, and they are not going to ruin anyone's experience. She noted that they are going to enhance it and be more inclusive by bringing more people into the park.

Mayor Janakovic stated his personal opinion is that the park will be an asset to those with disabilities. It would be a joy to see kids in wheelchairs or whatever their ailment is actually being able to participate in a sport that they normally could not.

A man asked if any of the construction is going to affect the Bandshell area. He added that everyone is aware that the recycling is being moved, but he asked if the small parking lot will be repaved or be part of the new proposed parking lot. It was confirmed that the park's green space along with the trees would not be touched. Council confirmed the track around the park would also stay, as it is an important piece of the park.

The resolution as amended passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock,  
Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone (7).

Nays: None (0).

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No.

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING THE 2025  
EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN.

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported Resolution B was not going to be presented tonight regarding the Emergency Operations Plan. City Manager Martynuska stated they still had some updates to do and noted they are working with the

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Fire Chief and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) director on completing it by next meeting.

Resolution No. 105711

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE.

Mayor Janakovic reported the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference will be held in Johnstown on May 5, May 7-11, 2025.

Mrs. Arnone made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Britt.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark. (7).

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105712

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE AWARE OF HOME - ARP FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$374,841.50 TO VICTIM SERVICES INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.

Ms. Huchel made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Reverend King.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark, Mayor Janakovic (7).

Nays: None (0).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### 1. Police Department

Deputy Chief Mark Britton reported, in February 2025, officers handled approximately 2,289 total dispatches for services this month. This included calls of contracted areas of Dale Borough, who had 65; West Taylor Township had 29 total; Middle Taylor Township had 8; Lorraine Borough had 34; and the Johnstown Housing Authority had 5.

He stated multiple people without sending arrest warrants are in custody with the assistance received from the US Marshall's office in conjunction with Pennsylvania Attorney General's office and Cambria County.

Deputy Chief Britton reported Johnstown Police executed two search warrants during February 2025 resulting in the arrest and seize of a large amounts of narcotics and stolen firearms.

### 2. Codes

Dave Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager, reported on the Codes activities for February 2025. He stated there were 70 violations issued within the month. He stated 14 properties were sent up to the Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency, and the number is growing every day. There were 32 building permits issued, and 358 business license letters were sent out. Mr. Williams reported on receiving the returned letters and inputting the information into the software. He stated 200 rental registrations to date were received, and 2 properties were cleaned up. Mr. Williams did register the city for the Pick-Up PA for the month of April 2025. There will be five dumpsters located throughout the city for residents to use. Mr. Williams reported that they should be delivered around the end of the March 2025.

Ms. Huchel informed Mr. Williams that the garbage on Bond Street is still there. Mr. Williams stated he was waiting on the garbage truck to be inspected and will get out there to provide clean up.

### 3. Public Works

Jared Campagna, Public Works Director, noted the employees are currently transitioning out of their winter shifts. The bulk of the staff is currently daylight. Two employees are on at night to use the street sweeper as much as possible to the streets cleaned.



It was reported that the two street sweepers are doing good, but the one is awaiting a new window. Mr. Britt mentioned there is a lot of kickback from the brushes, and he did not believe the machine was sucking up the debris, as it should be. Mr. Campagna stated the sweeper may not be working the way that it should be or the operator may be moving a little too fast. Mr. Campagna stated he would have a discussion with the operator.

It was mentioned that there is a pre-bid meeting for their 2025 Point Stadium Skate Park on Wood Street. He noted the project bid would be on March 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall. It was noted that the resolution for the project will be available at the April 2025 Council meeting.

The elevator contract or service contract for elevators is currently out for the city. He noted the RFP is currently advertised, and Mr. Campagna would have that information for the April Council meeting.

Mayor Janakovic asked if they had anything in mind in regards to the Point Stadium for the padding that needed to be done for some of the college games. It was noted that would take place next year.

The Point Stadium concession stand roof was brought up, and it was noted the issue is being addressed.

#### 4. Finance

Melissa Millard, Finance Director, noted the February revenue and expense report for Council's review. Council was asked to call if they had any further questions regarding it.

Ms. Millard reported the real estate tax, earned income, business privilege tax collection in February was up around 30 to 50 %. She noted having quarterly meetings with Berkheimer, and this has been beneficial.

She reported her and staff members met with Wessel and Company. They are preparing for the 2024 upcoming audit. The centralized procurement process is in place and has been going well.

There will be a new policy before Council next month for review, but Ms. Millard added that they have already seen a decrease in expenditures. She noted one of her staff members had a great idea of putting a payment kiosk up in city hall, so the public can come in and access paying their fines. The public can still pay with cash or check. There was a concern about how to address a check and how confusing it is to the public.

A question was posed regarding the pool tables, and it was noted that the city actually does the codes for those. They send men out to check the machines, and some of the tables are broken and not in use.

Mr. Clark had a question about the license fee, and added that he had received letters from the city before he was a Council member. He stated the wording contained within the letter was appalling. Mr. Clark reported that the letter said that you had to pay an amount of money for the privilege of doing city business within the City of Johnstown. Mrs. Mock stated the language of an ordinance cannot be changed, and Mr. Clark stated the language does not have to be so demonstrative.

5. Fire Chief

Chief Robert Statler reported that the department has been running into some smaller fires in March, and added they just need to watch. Chief Statler noted receiving some burning complaints. There have been fires where people are illegally burning garbage and other items. Chief Statler stated the ordinance allows for recreational burning, but it has to be clean firewood with little smoke. He reported the department is working on codes and getting the citations out. Chief Statler added Mr. Williams and himself will soon be starting some of the codes investigations.

Chief Statler was questioned with regard to getting the water line hooked up for the fire station. Chief Statler reported they are still waiting on parts and will not start the project until everything has arrived.

6. City Garage

Carmen Truscello, Fleet Maintenance Director, noted the one garbage truck was currently in the shop. The driver's side truck door is now repaired, as they were waiting for parts. Two more tires will soon be arriving for the truck, and six tires will be put on the back. He added the truck should pass inspection. The garbage truck also has an oil seal leaking, and the plan is just to watch the oil leakage for right now because it is a big job if they have to take the transmission out to put the oil seal in.

Mr. Truscello noted two new police cars were put on the road in February 2025. Three old police cars were retired, and they will be sold.

Mr. Truscello reported 651 was in an accident sustaining minor damage, and he noted Berkley insurance is working on that. They will be receiving a check and will

be able to use that to get that one fixed. It was noted the 316 plow truck driver was at a stop sign, and it was reported that someone slid into the back of the truck causing damage to the salt spreader. The insurance has already sent a check for repairs.

Mr. Truscello mentioned the repair shop did some upgrading with the lighting due to previous dark shadows. The mechanics love it now and can now see what they are doing.

## 7. Community and Economic Development

John Rutledge, Director, noted only being in the position for a few weeks. He is trying to get involved with some meetings and trying to meet new people. He has talked to Urban Design Ventures, and they have 97 responses with hopes to obtain more. He is also working on another application project and has met with a few people following phone conversations.

Mrs. Mock asked Director Rutledge if he knew what budget they have for demos, and he reported that he did not have that. It was noted that some of the budget would rely on what the federal government gives to the community. It was noted that residents could find the confidential questionnaires on the website.

Reverend King suggested a table right out of the City Manager's office where people can pick up information at. City Manager Martynuska mentioned a rack was ordered to display the documents.

City Manager Martynuska reported it was important to note that they have started to aggressively go after loans the city has. He mentioned one loan person came in last week, and another person is coming in tomorrow for some of the outstanding loans that are due. He added the city has approximately \$7 million in loans that are out, and some are delinquent.

Mayor Janakovic questioned if any of the loans what would be deemed as high risk. City Manager Martynuska stated he did not think they would be high risk, but added some of them were circumspect. He added that some of the loans were issued to people who applied for it and then never opened the door. Mayor Janakovic asked if different rates were equated for based on the dictated rates. The rates are dictated by program funding source itself through whatever organization, and it depends on how that money is set up that those structures are already delineated to the city. It was noted that these funds are not from the city, but they are allocated to the city through other funding sources. City Manager Martynuska noted that this a revolving source of funding. The loan

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review committee sees everything, and they can make recommendations one way or the other.

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted to update the website to make it more informative and to highlight the positive actions of Council, which is always an ongoing task.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

None.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:34 p.m.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.