

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 9, 2025

City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Britt offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was acknowledged in memory of Edwin Pawlowski.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

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

Arturo Martynuska, City Manager; Sara Williams, Executive Secretary; Lavona Smith, HR Manager; Melissa Layton, Residential Development/Construction Coordinator; Carmen Truscello, Fleet Maintenance Director; Melissa Millard, Director of Finance; Chief Mark Britton; Jim McCann, Fire Chief, Tony Penna Jr., Recreation Director; Rob Forcey, Executive Director, Johnstown Vision Together 2025.

Mayor Janakovic noted for the record that an Executive Session regarding personnel was held prior to the commencement of the July 9, 2025 meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Janakovic recognized Fire Chief Jim McCann to distinguish the Johnstown Fire Department and firefighters.

Chief McCann shared his honor to be standing in front of the Mayor, Council, department heads, guests and family to recognize the group of firefighters for their outstanding work in two separate incidents. Chief McCann stated the firefighters always go above and beyond in their actions as shown through their training, experience, and dedication to the department and the City of Johnstown.

Chief McCann shared the following citation for the C-Platoon.

“In recognition for the excellent teamwork and dedication, this Unit Citation is hereby awarded to the above listed personnel for their outstanding performance during the successful rescue of an unconscious and entrapped victim from a residential structure fire along the 800 block of Annie Street in Dale Borough on April 25, 2025.”

Chief McCann praised the C-Platoon for putting their training and experience to work and following their instincts. He stated they not only walked into a building engulfed in flames but took a charged hose line with them to literally fight through fire to reach the entrapped victim. He acknowledged without their training, knowledge, and experience it would not have happened.

Chief McCann recognized Captain/Acting Assistant Chief Raymond Penatzer, Firefighter/Acting Captain Eric Miller, Firefighter Joseph Paiano Jr., and Firefighter Benjamin Peacock.

Chief McCann next recognized the A-Platoon for the warehouse fire on Railroad Street on May 11, 2025. He stated it was common to have instances like the warehouse fire; however, the work the firefighters did that night was uncommon. When Assistant Chief Miller arrived on scene that night, he encountered a heavy volume of fire outside of what the department calls the box. This meant the fire had reached outside of the perimeters of the building and was impeding on three separate structures, the activity center for the church and two separate residents. He praised the firefighters for their hard work, dedication, training, experience, and knowledge, which allowed them to get the fire back inside the box allowing them to save the structures and seven people on the street. Due to laying dual lines in, they were able to get the fire under control.

Chief McCann shared the following citation for A-Platoon.

“In recognition of exceptional teamwork and dedication, this Unit Citation is hereby awarded to the above personnel for their outstanding performance in extinguishing a fully involved warehouse fire located at 700 Railroad Street. On May 11, 2025, units encountered tremendous amount of heat and flames that were threatening nearby exposures. The swift action and coordinated efforts significantly limited further damage to any adjacent buildings and exemplified the highest standards of service and commitment for the community’s safety.”

Chief McCann acknowledged the outstanding job the firefighters did while making decisions on the fly. He stated Captain Miller took his crew, directed them, and they were successful by following his orders. Chief McCann also recognized the department’s mutual aid partners as well as off-duty firefighters for assisting on the scene that night.

Chief McCann recognized Assistant Chief Mick Miller, Assistant Chief Todd Fetchko, Captain Anthony Henry, Captain Ben Baker, Firefighter Randy Price, and Firefighter Austin Carr.

Chief McCann stated his honor in representing the individuals recognized as the Chief of the Department. He stated with personnel like them on the street, the future of the fire department is strong. He added, in addition to the citations, they will receive a pin which they will wear on their Class A uniform.

Mayor Janakovic thanked the Chief and the fire department for all of their great work and for the things they do every day for the City.

(The firefighters were honored with a standing ovation from the City Council and members of the public.)

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Janakovic requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2025.

Mr. Britt made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and Ms. Mock and passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

#### 2024 AUDIT REPORT

Joel Valentine and Brennen Myers from Wessel & Company explained the 2024 audit report. Mr. Valentine stated the report was the draft report. A few items were needed to finalize the report, but no material changes were expected.

Mr. Meyers discussed the high level changes. The details were in the packet for Council's review. Current assets with respect to the current year and prior year decreased about \$1 million, primarily in cash. The reduction was substantially due to the purchase of a new fire truck from the community development block grant funds. Total decrease for assets and outflows was approximately \$3.6 million from the prior year.

Current liabilities were up about \$760,000 over the prior year, mostly attributable to paying expenses payable at the end of 2024. The total net position was an increase of about \$3.9 million over the prior year.

With respect to the activities of the City during 2024, there was a change in revenue by a decrease of about \$3.7 million. This was mostly due to a decrease in grants received in the prior year but not the current year, a reduction in local service tax and a reduction in some business privilege taxes. The difference in expenses between 2024 and 2023 was a reduction of around \$2.1 million.

Mr. Meyers transitioned to explain the graphs included in the packet reflecting the financial statements that include the fixed assets, pension liabilities and debt. One graph reflected the net losses or net increases from 2015-2024. He stated many of those funds have collapsed into the general fund over the years, so there was a net increase in the general fund for 2024.

Graph three and four reflected the total net position for the general fund for 2024. Graph five showed the revenue and expense breakout for general government, fire and police. There was not a substantial change from 2023-2024. Graph six provided the breakup of revenue components. Graph seven showed a slight increase in total real estate taxes over the prior year. Graph eight showed the collection rate of real estate taxes going back to 2020, which is relatively consistent between 80 and 83 percent.

Graph nine showed the earned income tax which has increased from 2020 to 2024. The earned income tax collected for 2024 was \$2.2 million. This is a promising sign for the City as it shows wages are on the rise in the City. Graph ten showed the local municipal service tax or local service tax. There was a slight drop in 2023 and a significant drop in 2024 due to coming out of Act 47 status. Graph 11 showed a breakout of mercantile and business privilege tax which had a slight decrease of about \$175,000 over 2023.

Graph 12 provided a breakout of the City making its total minimum municipal obligations (MMO). Graph 13 showed a breakout of the hospital localization between current employees and retirees.

Mr. Valentine noted a clean letter required under auditing Standard Statement 114, summarizing his firm's responsibilities in relation to the financial statement audit. The letter also summarized the audit and included attachments of any misstatements found and corrected during the audit.

Mr. Myers directed the Council to a single audit report packet for review. The scheduled expenditures of federal awards for 2024 showed \$3.6 million of federal expenses compared to \$5.5 million in 2023. The major programs his firm tested in 2024 were the same ones tested in 2023, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and the Community Development Block

Grant (CDBG). Those test items together provided a substantial overage of the total federal funds.

He discussed four findings from the audit, such as material journal entries to get the financial statements in compliance with general acceptance accounting principles. The financial statement packet was prepared with the oversight of management. There were late reports in relation to the CDBG for 2024. The policies and procedures needed to follow uniform guidance.

Mr. Myers referred to a letter of operational recommendations to improve efficiencies or provide clarification. Three findings were repeats from the previous year. His firm met with employees to develop a draft policy and new process for handling procurements, and will meet again in the future to assure uniform guidance. One finding was related to the turnover in the Community Development Department and was two or three late reports to HUD. The reports were filed late.

Mayor Janakovic stated the City has come a long way since 2015 when there was a deficit of \$3.8 million, and he added, without raising real estate taxes for the last 12 years. Mr. Valentine agreed the Council has put the City in a good spot going forward. He pointed out the sale of the sewer plant especially helped with the pension obligation.

Mayor Janakovic asked Mr. Valentine what the City was paying into the pension fund versus what they are paying now given the contribution of the sewer sale funds. Mr. Valentine said the obligation in 2020 was just over \$3 million and now the City share of the pension fund is \$285,000. This created a savings of \$2.7 million a year.

Mayor Janakovic stated the hard work over the last 12 years by fellow Council members, administration, and everybody involved has gotten them to the current point. The City used to be in a situation where it was borrowing on existing loans so the City has come a long way with its finances. The sewage contributed a large part to that accomplishment. Mr. Valentine agreed there was a great effort overall by the Council and past Councils to get the City to a spot where it is no longer in distress status.

Councilwoman Mock reminded everyone the money received as cash was from the sewer plant. They were also able to transfer over \$68 million in debt, which has largely contributed to the current savings. Mayor Janakovic added, during the same period, a large portion of the alleys and streets in the City have been paved without any taxpayer direct money. He thanked Mr. Valentine and his firm for the job working with the City team and managing the audit process.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, spoke on the proposed resolutions, new positions, and the wage and salary ordinance. Ms. Stanton expressed her opinion of it being counterintuitive to create new positions instead of hiring more frontline workers, such as police and public work employees. She stated City funds need to be spent more wisely to fulfill the City's slogan of friendly, safe and clean. She recalled a statement from a previous meeting regarding how long it takes for the City to cut grass at vacant properties. She stated her concern about the increase of gun violence and homicides and would like more police hired. She added the population of Johnstown is declining and newly created positions are not needed. She asked where the appropriations for the new positions are in the 2025 budget. Ms. Stanton added the Resolutions on the Agenda were an attempt to circumvent the Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code and if passed she planned on filing paperwork for non-compliance with the Cambria County Courthouse. She concluded with her beliefs the Council is destroying the City and believes they are out of touch with the needs of the people.

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, discussed the full Agenda. He expressed his shock in listening to the audit report. He had heard the term break even and wished the auditor had stayed for the rest of the meeting. He questioned why the Council was creating two positions by Resolutions, if the budget was breaking even. He also questioned why there was a Resolution allowing the City Manager to create a salary for a job with no guidance from the Council. He stated he thought the sale of the sewer plant created more issues for the taxpayers. Mr. DeBartola asked why a new accounts receivable position was needed and why the Loan Review Committee could not handle the powers being given to the new position. He expressed concern over line items from the audit report. He stated he thinks the Council is not handling the assets of the City properly.

Mr. DeBartola conveyed his disappointment in not seeing City Council meetings at a hearing held the week before regarding the five year and ten-year action plan and consolidated plans. He shared his concerns over the increase of public housing in the plan and urged the Council to vote no on the Resolution. He stated he would like the Council to right-size the Housing Authority. He reiterated his concern over the raises in the wage and salary ordinance when the audit reports the City is breaking even. Mr. DeBartola concluded by questioning why the solicitor was not in attendance in person.

Rob Forcey, Executive Director, Johnstown Vision Together 2025, discussed the Resolution for combining six lots into three on Somerset Street. He conveyed

his appreciation to the Council for work with Vision to reach the point where a vote could happen. He wanted to make sure Art Martynuska, Mike, and David Williams understood how much he appreciated their assistance. He explained Vision has been working towards the build of the first house since 2014. He stated the reason for combining the lots is to give the houses being built front and back yards. The consolidated lots will give people a more beneficial lot. He stated the first house was being donated by JWF to a veteran, Mr. Darren Hill who has lived in the community and was born in Kernville. He plans to move back with his 13-year old daughter once the house is completed. Mr. Forcey added, if the consolidation goes through, construction should start on August 18<sup>th</sup> with roughly 50 volunteers the first day. The intention is to work on the houses for five days and hopefully have them move-in ready by the end of the week, dependent on the electric and gas companies.

#### REPORTS:

##### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported on a number of items starting with the police department. He shared four officers for the police department will be on the street starting July 16, 2025, going through field officer training (FTO) training. One officer will soon be coming out of FTO training with the rest by September 2025. The City will have 36 officers for a budget of 37. There was a donation of \$7,000 for a new canine and another \$5,000 from the same donor for training. The K9 officer was going down to Kentucky to pick up the dog and go through training. He reported on a grant request for a new prison transport unit to replace the existing, which will be handed to another city department if the grant money is approved. The first license plate reader (LPR) was mounted but not operational yet. Additional LPRs will be added, which will help the police department with stolen vehicles or hot license plates. A command center is being installed in the public safety building for the police department using funding the police department was able to secure.

Mr. Martynuska shared Public Works is working with a crew from Cambria County Probation and Vision 2025 with lot cutting on a volunteer basis. Work commences on repairing sinkholes. One on Lincoln Street and one on Vine Street will require cooperation with Johnstown Water Authority due to the complicated nature of the issues.

He reported the fire department is moving forward with new hires. There is also a retirement notice for August 1<sup>st</sup> but there are people in line for it already. Two new firefighters started, one was moved from part-time to full-

time and there is a firefighter in training. He added contract negotiations are ongoing with the fire department.

Mr. Martynuska will be going through BCO training for building codes with Assistant Manager Capriotti. He added personnel changes are being made. He noted the Council will be voting on a HR generalist position and an accounts receivable position. The accounts receivable position will be assisting in collecting money and going after delinquent loans, taxes, fees, licenses and so forth. He recognized John Rutledge at DCED for working on the delinquent loans and getting payment plans set up.

He reported on sidewalk work to be started in the near future. Missy Layton will measure sidewalks in Roxbury, so estimates can be made. He appreciated Ms. Layton's hard work and diligence dealing with contractor issues. He shared having her on board has saved the City money.

He shared HR and Lavona Smith is being inundated with Right To Know requests. Some days, 7 or 12 in a day have been received. Ms. Smith has been spending 35 hours a week just on the requests, leaving little time for other parts of her job. He recognized several parts to her job description beyond just HR, including record retention, Right To Knows, and Title VI.

Mr. Martynuska reported recreation is moving forward on several projects, including two playgrounds. He added 300 cubic yards of mulch is coming in which volunteer groups will spread over eight playgrounds.

Upgrades are being worked on at the City garage. A new roof for the conference center is being considered. Grant money was secured from Senator Langerholc's office for the roof. Work commences on the sidewalks at the top of the Inclined Plane. Point Stadium work is completed, and there is a busy schedule at the stadium. Pricing for a new roof at the building at Roxbury Park is being contemplated. In addition, items from Central Park will be moved to Roxbury. There is a tentative agreement with a company to lease Cypress Avenue for a laydown site. Part of the agreement is for the company renting the space to turn it into a green space using some money from CDBG.

Councilman Arnone asked if the ATAC had been installed at the conference center. Ms. Layton responded it has not been completed yet, but noted an upcoming meeting with the engineer.

Councilwoman Mock asked how much money was received from Senator Langerholc's office. Mr. Martynuska confirmed there was an initial \$750,000



with an additional \$300,000. Ms. Mock confirmed it was not general fund money and was for the conference center.

Mr. Martynuska welcomed a friend of his, Stacey Landrum, who just moved to the area and will be a reporter for WJAC.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported on recently attending a Mill Rats game with 4,500 plus people in the stadium. He enjoyed the picnic party atmosphere. He added the fireworks were probably the best he had ever seen in the City and thanked everyone involved.

Mayor Janakovic attended the Future Ready Summit at UPJ with business leaders and throughout the City and community. He also attended St. Mary's Jazz Along the River. He thanked the new priest at St. Mary's for restarting the jazz shows. He added St. Mary's is committed to the Ethnic Fest. He had the opportunity to present proclamations for the Pride Festival and Juneteenth. He attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dominican Garden Café and wished them well. Mayor Janakovic also attended the John Pete Gunther Leadership Program presentation. He saluted the young professionals working on projects throughout the entire community.

### COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Councilwoman Marie Mock praised the Celebration Johnstown committee, especially Rose Howard and Melissa Pozun from the Mill Rats, who worked tirelessly to raise money for the fireworks at Point Stadium. She reported the \$10,000 for the fireworks was raised through donations.

She reported there will soon be an invitation only meeting for business owners in the West End. They will be invited to work together, collaborate, and get to know each other.

Councilwoman Mock shared the West End community garden was started late but was completed. A new irrigation line will be installed. The five lots West End Improvement Group maintains along Fairfield, Strayer, and Herald Avenue have had the grass cut thanks to a grant. She also reported the group installed five poster rail fences and planted wildflower seeds as part of the City's neighborhood opportunity grant program. They were also able to rehabilitate the corner of the lot at Fairfield and D Street thanks to the same program. The 9/11 Memorial Garden across the street also got new mulch.

Students, firemen, and police assisted with it. The teachers who attended were able to tell the story of 9/11 to the students.

Councilwoman Mock reported working with several people and groups, including the District Attorney Greg Neugebauer and Senator Langerholc, to get the LPR up with the help of the 1889 Foundation. She hopes to see them all over the place and branching off into other highways in surrounding neighborhoods.

Reverend Sylvia King reported on attending the historical marker ceremony for the Cambria AME Zion Church on the corner of Menoher and Haynes Streets. It is the oldest African American Church in the county and now is on the National Registry of Historic Places. She also attended the Recreation Committee meeting, the West End Neighborhood Meeting and the Moxham Community meeting.

Reverend King attended the boxing match and found the venue to be perfect the event. She hoped to see similar events in the future. She also attended the Vision Together Quarterly Report meeting. She was excited to receive a Sowers and Nurtures Award from the Conemaugh Valley Lodge 10 which celebrates those who plant seeds of kindness and nurture growth in the community.

She shared the Johnstown Police was having a bike registration at the Roxbury Bandshell. She added by registering bikes, the police are able to track owners down if a kid just leaves their bike somewhere while out riding. In addition, if a bike is stolen and the police find it, it would be an easier time returning it to the owner. She thanked Tony Penna for his work in getting reflectors to put on kids bikes to be seen at night.

Councilwoman Huchel reported on the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority (JRA). She stated the Johnstown Regional Sewage is studying the benefits from the SCADA systems to optimize the chemistry being used. The JRA is updating the land bank transfer criteria and procedures to streamline the process. The Planning Commission is working on the comprehensive plan. She encouraged all residents to go to the website and complete the survey, so the team will have information from residents.

She reported the Johnstown Animal Welfare Society is a private group but doing the work of the City. They recently captured at least 10 kittens and several adult cats on the Mayer Trail near Central Avenue. They also assisted with a stray dog on Osbourne Street. She appreciated the police department

who had officers respond to an incident on Kennedy Avenue where someone moved and abandoned their dogs and cats.

She welcomed people to attend an opening at Gallery on Gazebo, which was showcasing art from some of the Council members personal collections. She also encouraged people to attend Shakespeare in the Park at Stackhouse Park.

Councilman Clark stated he was out of town for a good part of June 2025, and unfortunately did not have much to share. He invited Council members to attend the Downtown Business Meeting at Flood City Café at 6 p.m. on July 15, 2025. He added they are considering moving the meeting next month to the American Legion.

He expressed being happy to see the Fireman's Bell had been moved from Central Park to Johnstown Firefighter's Memorial Park.

Councilman Clark stated the AAABA event is coming up soon and encouraged everyone to get out and attend a game, especially opening night when the stadium is packed. He thanked the police ahead of time for everything they do for the event, including blocking Washington Street on opening night for the parade.

The Council congratulated Councilman Clark and his wife on the birth of their son, Rowan.

Councilman Britt shared he attended the boxing match and the firework activity at the Point. He echoed Deputy Mayor King and added the boxing match brought back old times. He would like to see more events like the match.

Councilman Arnone apologized for missing the last meeting due to personal business. He thanked Deputy Mayor King and Councilwoman Mock for holding the business meeting in the West End. He stated similar efforts years ago in Hornerstown worked well and helped people work together on community efforts, such as buying street signs for the area.

He reported for the Johnstown Water Authority the sewage bill went down when the water authority bought it. Since October 2024, the GJWA has identified 1,273 lines for lead replacement. The lead service replacement program is at no cost to the individual homeowner. It was mandated by the federal government under former President Joe Biden. It is estimated the project will take 12 years to complete; however, they are ahead of schedule in identifying lines which need replaced in Westmont. When service lines are replaced, the mains are also being replaced as they are between 100 and 120

years old. After the lines are replaced in an area, they are also doing curb to curb repaving of the street. In June, 4,952 sewer mains were jetted and 3,926 feet of main line was inspected. At the end of May, the City of Johnstown was at almost 72 percent pressure tested. He added there were some hiccups with the DEP over the North Fork dam restoration, but they are working on putting out permits to comply with federal law.

Councilman Arnone provided an update of statistical information as the representative on the Housing Authority. As of June 30, 2025, the total population of public housing communities was 2,436, and the Section 8 voucher population was 992. Combined this is 3,428 individual families. The Housing Authority assists an estimated 46 percent of people living in poverty in Johnstown. All of the apartments in Prospect where former residents have indicated they would like to return have been made ready for occupation. Some families are working through the process of moving back. As of June 2025, 36 families had moved back and more are moving in. At the time of relocation, 101 of 110 apartments were occupied. Just over half of those residents said they wanted to return, and the remaining vacant units will be filled by standard transfer of admission policies.

He thanked the fire department for their quick response to a recent fire in Oakhurst on Wynn Street. No residents or emergency personnel were injured, and the fire did not spread to neighboring apartments. The apartment will undergo restoration. The family was relocated within the public housing system.

Councilman Arnone stated the Authority is still not issuing Section 8 vouchers at this time, being conservative due to uncertain funding. Only 80 percent of current vouchers are being used. He added people qualify by being residents of Johnstown for 24 months. Residency requirements are federally mandated and cannot be changed. The only person who gets one step ahead on the list are veterans. He added the authority tries to make sure people receiving vouchers are good people with no history of problems.

Councilwoman Mock asked Mr. Martynuska if he had an update from Breezeline on streaming meeting and church services. He responded an email was received that connectivity would be soon. The church group is talking directly to Breezeline regarding services being broadcasted. Council members discussed the viability of streaming meetings on YouTube and other social media platforms given how many people no longer have cable services. The question was posed if the City has any control over what Breezeline broadcasts and the number of channels. The City does not have any control.

Wednesday July 9, 2025,  
Stated Meeting, continued

13 of 20

No one bid against Breezeline the last time their contract came due, which is why the City was forced to accept them.

Mayor Janakovic noted the Christmas tree and houses were being relocated to PNG park for the upcoming season. He added it sounded like there will be other activities and a Christmas parade occurring with the relocation. Councilman Clark made note the move is a temporary one and the Christmas tree, village and Halloween events will be moved back to Central Park after this year.

### PETITIONS

None.

### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READ AND ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5367 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 13, 2024 AMENDING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Mrs. Mock made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Reverend King.

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. 105730

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ADDE THE POSITION OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE SPECIALIST TO THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND APPROVE SALARY COMPENSATION.

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

Mrs. Mock asked if the resolution should be amended to include the hourly rate. The response was this vote is only to create the position. The rate will part of a wage and salary ordinance and determined at another time.

Mr. Martynuska clarified the need for the position in order to assure every source of funding possible is pursued.

Ms. Millard added there are three employees in the finance department when there used to be eight employees. She stated the position is needed in order to prevent mistakes. The person hired will do a deep dive into every department in the City. She added this includes taxes that businesses may not have been paying on when they should have been for years. She would also like for the new person to be able to take businesses to court directly instead of turning it over to a credit union where the City would lose 3 percent.

Ms. Huchel asked for confirmation of the position being a specialist position and not a leadership position. Ms. Millard confirmed it would be a specialist position, eight hours a day, five days a week. She also confirmed the duties would not be appropriate for a citizen, board or commission.

Mr. Clark added, from a person business perspective, he had forgotten about the privilege tax until letters went out earlier this year. He does not recall his father's business, which he took over, ever paying a privilege tax.

Ms. Milliard stated the position will pay for itself in terms of revenue being collected which may have been missed. She expected it will take some time for the person to review every ordinance in place to capture every revenue producing avenue, but the City can 100 percent collect those dollars missed.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105731

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
PENNSYLVANIA, TO ADD THE POSITION OF HR GENERALIST TO  
THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT.

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

Mrs. Mock asked for clarification on the Right To Know requests, which are causing a bottleneck in the HR department and how Ms. Smith is working to comply with the law.

Ms. Smith noted getting anywhere from one to nine Right To Know requests in a day, on average between 20 and 35 in a month. Some of the requests may only be one document, but the document may contain multiple requests and be quite intense. She added some requests included requesting all emails of all city council members, all emails of all city employees, or all emails pertaining to Central Park. She receives three to five requests a week just related to the codes department. The information must be provided with five days of the request, or the requester is sent an extension for 30 days.

Mr. Clark asked Ms. Smith to provided a description of her job. She outlined her position as the human resources manager, which encompasses benefits, onboarding, hiring, customer service, training, updates, records retention, all records related to City Hall, and Right To Know requests. Mr. Clark asked if it was accurate she works more than 40 hours a week and often works on Saturdays and Sundays to fulfill the Right To Know requests. She responded he was correct. Mr. Clark stated he estimated, based on hours, roughly 60 percent of her job was just spent working on the requests.

Reverend King confirmed with Ms. Smith if a request contains multiple items, she still only has a five-day period for all of the items. Reverend King expressed concern Ms. Smith's regular duties are unintentionally neglected due to the requests. Ms. Smith stated she gets as much done as she possibly can.

Mrs. Mock stated some of the requests are the same information perpetually over and confirmed Ms. Smith has to dig everything up, every time and cannot simply copy from previous requests. Mrs. Mock conveyed her opinion the redundancy is someone just playing games with the City's time and money as well as Ms. Smith's time. She had not seen any criminal action, civil action or disciplinary action coming out of any of the Right To Know requests.

Ms. Smith gave an example of a request where the person requested all documents from every single loan from 2007 to present from DCED. Mr. Martynuska confirmed the request consisted of 17 full file drawers of documentation.

Mr. Clark stated there is an avenue to show a request is frivolous; however, it is almost impossible to prove. Ms. Smith still has to do the work for every request.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Wednesday July 9, 2025,  
Stated Meeting, continued

16 of 20

Resolution No. 105732

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING A 6 LOT  
MERGER ON SOMERSET STREET.

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

Ms. Huchel noted the Planning Commission did vote unanimously to recommend the Council approve the Resolution. Mayor Janakovic added the project is great for the City and it turns into more projects built on the basis of this one.

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. 105733

A RESOLUTION, OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE FY 2025-  
2029 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND FY 2025 ANNUAL  
ACTION PLAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME)  
PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS.

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

Mrs. Mock asked Mr. Martynuska if the City was advocating for additional public housing. Mr. Martynuska responded the plan was based on a need's assessment, and the application of additional new housing was not the process.

Reverend King stated the plan was for services as the City still had to have services available.

Mrs. Mock noted the City and Housing Authority had the opportunity to limit public housing with the situation which occurred in Prospect. She found it interesting the same legislator and people of the public who advocated for Prospect are the same ones advocating against public housing.



Mr. Clark added, in full transparency, he was against new public housing given the decline in population. He asked if the Council at one time denied a study for new public housing which was picked up by the county instead. Ms. Huchel understood it to be a study to rehab existing housing rather than build new units. Mr. Clark would like to see public housing added elsewhere in the county and not in the City.

Mr. Janakovic met with the head of HUD in Washington D.C. He was told point blank the City cannot reduce housing.

Reverend King added the goal was to see if what the City had could be improved upon. She stated what the Council had voted against in the past was for the Johnstown Housing Authority to do a study in that part of town to determine the needs of the residents and what improvements could be made. It had nothing to do with a new build. She added the draft this year for the consolidated plan is to still have services available like the first-time home buyer program and homeowners assistance among other services.

Mr. Arnone noted the study was through a \$500,000 grant and still being worked on through direct supervision from HUD. He added it was unlikely Johnstown would be chosen for the multi-million dollar grant program.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Britt,  
Mayor Janakovic (6).  
Nays: Mr. Clark (1).

#### NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Tony Penna provided an update on Recreation. He reported the Citywide mulching project was continuing. He added the playgrounds continue to be policed to functionality. A number of swings have been replaced. Photograph of the facilities have been taken to update the playground report from a year ago. He noted work with public works directors to more scientifically had mulch.

Mr. Penna updated the Council on the tennis courts at Roxbury. He noted there appeared to be a change in leadership, and he has met with three different people now. He is working with the grant writers to acquire grants to resurface courts one through four. He noted also working on a stormwater mitigation grant to take care of the runoff from Berkley Road. He explained several different ways to repair the tennis courts. A decision was made to do crack repair. The new crack repair technology will provide nice courts for 12 to 15 years.

Mayor Janakovic noted people are coming from out of town for leagues and comparing the courts to other locations. Mr. Penna acknowledged the courts need work done, but the professionals who came into look at the courts stated they were not in awful shape.

Mr. Penna reported on continuing to work on the golf course evaluation. They are working with the leadership team at the course to find solutions.

Point Stadium continues to be worked on. Some upgrades have been completed and work continues on existing damage. He noted working with leaders in public works and city leadership to examine the facility and revenues to be drawn from Point Stadium going forward. He acknowledged many people believe Point Stadium to be underused, but some of the tenants take up a lot of time when you consider activities like practices. He noted securing the baseball tournament for five years and the Division 3 championship. They continue to look for other events for weekends as well as showcase events.

The Cypress Lot grant is being worked on. There is a partnership with the school district as well as community groups who are joining with Recreation to work on the Cypress Lot. He added ,between the grants and neighborhood money, a very nice park can be created and maintained for that side of Moxham.

Mr. Penna added everything went seamlessly with the simultaneous events of the boxing match and the Indigo Girls concert. He noted the cooperation between the City, fire, and police. There were no problems with transportation or the crowds. He gave credit to the conference center and arena employees for the professionalism. There are plans to hopefully hold a boxing event every quarter.

Mr. Penna thanked Chief Britton for the quick and professional response to the incident at Point Stadium. He added they continue to work on improving the safety and security at the stadium.

Carmen Truscello provided a Public Works update. He noted continued work on potholes and sinkholes. There is a big project behind the Vine Street Towers. The work will involve multiple agencies as there are many different utilities there. The road will be blocked off for the work. The project on Lincoln Street is on hold pending additional assistance.

Public works continues to assist with Point Stadium and Roxbury Park. Grass cutting continues as public works is informed about areas that need addressed. A truck mounted sweeper to clean streets is being used during the day.

Mrs. Mock quested the number of public works employees. Mr. Truscello stated there are currently 20 employees. That number includes two-night shift people, a groundskeeper for Roxbury Park, a groundskeeper for Point Stadium and a person on light duty, leaving 15 people to accomplish all of the work. He added the department is doing the best it can with its employees, but there used to be 100 public works employees. He stated the employees are doing a great job. One of the current projects is going down Broad Street and cleaning all of the storm sewers. They have completed one side and are coming back down the other side. They have discovered four or 5 inlets which need rebuilt.

Mr. Martynuska noted, in addition to all of the City proper that public works takes care of, they are also responsible for other areas such as the sidewalk at the top of the Inclined Plane. He pointed out there was an agreement signed in the 1980's for perpetual care of Sam's Run in Lorain Park. Mr. Truscello explained there is a debris dam, which catches big timbers and rocks. However, due to the bamboo and weeds, the area needs trimmed back before equipment can get in. He anticipates it being a two-week job with four trucks, an excavator and a backhoe. DEP also does a yearly study there, and public works will get a report on what is needed along the channel there.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

John DeBartola stated he was the largest social media influencer in Cambria County. Based on his numbers, he suggested Council livestream to Facebook. He was glad the Council talked about the Cypress Avenue lot. He stated his concern about the possibility of the Housing Authority not paying taxes. Mr. DeBartola stated he had only filed a handful of right to know this year. He gave examples of some of his filings with appeals and what he believed he had discovered. He stated the City should be more accountable and should be putting all of the information on Facebook. He stated, if the information was open to the public, people would not have to file requests.

Dustin Greene, 316 Chestnut Street, stated Council should speak into microphones during the meeting, because attendees should be able to hear all questions and answers. He had some trouble hearing the Council during the meeting. He requested the meetings stream live on a platform. He further added television is an older platform. Mr. Greene thanked Mayor Janakovic for honoring Mr. Pawlowski's passing. He also thanked Mayor Janakovic for the Pride proclamation and added it meant a lot to him personally as well as the LGBTQ+ community.

Mrs. Mock stated ARPA money has been a part of the audit process as required. All recipients of ARPA funds have to report their expenditures and process to the finance director as part of the program. The City caught the issue with JAHA during their own internal audit. It was brought to the attention of JAHA. The situation showed the checks and balances in the system worked well.

#### RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8:06 p.m.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.