

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 11, 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.

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

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Frank Janakovic, Reverend Sylvia King, Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark, Ms. Huchel, Mrs. Mock (6).  
Mr. Arnone was not present (1).

Arturo Martynuska, City Manager; Michael Capriotti, Assistant City Manager; Sara Williams, Executive Secretary; Aimee Willett, Esquire, Solicitor; John Rutledge, Community and Economic Development Director; Melissa Millard, Finance Director; Carmen Truscello, Director of Public Works; Captain Jim McCann; Chief Mark Britton; and David Williams, Codes Enforcement Manager; were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Janakovic requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025; Workshop Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025; and Special Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2025.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Janakovic presented the following proclamations:

**JUNETEENTH**

Our nation separating itself from the cities and ties of Great Britain on July 4, 1776, with the Declaration of Independence, stating that we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, to better align this nation with the principles held in the Declaration of Independence, signed the Emancipation Proclamation, stating that all people enslaved within any state shall be then, thenceforth and forever free. Nearly three years later, on June 19th, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arriving in Galveston, Texas, under the General Order number three, declared the end of the Civil War and the final end of slavery in the United States, announcing that people of Texas are informed that in accordance with the Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

The City of Johnstown on April 20, 2022 established Juneteenth as an official City holiday to celebrate the African American community and recognize both their struggles and achievements in the pursuit of freedom, justice and equality.

Now, therefore, I, Mayor Frank Janakovic, on behalf of Johnstown City Council, thank the NAACP and all other groups involved for their tremendous service in hosting Johnstown's 2025 Juneteenth celebration. Johnstown City Council is ever grateful for the African American community and their contributions in making our City excellent. We commit to creating a more united, equal and just home for all

In witness thereof, on this 11th day of June 2025, I hereby set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Johnstown to be affixed, Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor of the City of Johnstown.

(Round of applause.)

Alan Cashaw thanked the City of Johnstown for their support.

## PRIDE

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex. LGBTQI+ Pride Month, celebrated in June every year in Johnstown since 1999. LGBTQI+'s communities in the City of Johnstown contribute to the advancement and success of our community at large. The City of Johnstown exists to serve, protect and work for the betterment of all its citizens, regardless of race, faith, creed, sexual identity, sexual orientation or any other characteristics inherent in the identities of the people. All individuals, regardless of these characteristics, have the right to be treated fairly and equally on the basis of their intrinsic value as human beings. They have a right to partake in a world of dignity, freedom, tolerance and justice.

The City of Johnstown seeks to not only recognize the historical struggles of the LGBTQI+'s communities across the nation, but also recognize their achievements as persons, citizens and leaders of our community.

Now, therefore, I, Mayor Frank J. Janakovic, on behalf of City Council, hereby declare the month of June 2025 as LGBTQI+ Pride Month within the City of Johnstown. We encourage all members of the public to reflect on the struggles of the LGBTQI+ community has, does and will face to achieve their liberty and equality. We celebrate their efforts to better themselves, their friends, their families, and our community at large.

In witness thereof, on this 11th day of June 2025, I hereby set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Johnstown to be affixed, Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor of the City of Johnstown.

(Round of applause.) (A group picture was taken.)

Mayor Janakovic offered to present these proclamations at any requested ceremonies.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mr. John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, thanked City Council for the proclamation and its support. He offered a poster for Johnstown Pride. Mr. DeBartola noted the event will be accommodated by 120 different vendors.

Mr. DeBartola questioned the allotment and responsibilities of a Superintendent of Highways and Project Manager under the wage and salary ordinance on the agenda for Council's approval. He discussed the budgets for the Public Works, Recreation, and Codes Departments. He questioned the ability of Mr. Penna to be the Recreation Director with his full-time employment. He questioned whether money is being saved in the Codes Department with its Manage, Codes Officer and the subcontract with Laurel.

Mr. DeBartola discussed DCED report and the owner-occupied rehabilitation project. He suggested the project should be better advertised. He also noted the Codes report with 25 building permits and 83 violations, 55 issued to Laurel, etc. He questioned whether the money is properly being spent with Codes.

Mr. DeBartola questioned the cost to taxpayers for the repair for the roof on the Pasquerilla Conference Center. The Conference Center has never shown a profit.

Mr. DeBartola suggested more information should be provided related to the sink holes around the City. All were invited to the June 21<sup>st</sup> Johnstown Pride event.

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, expressed her concern regarding the spending of City money, noting the wage and salary ordinance on the agenda. She questioned the raises and the work being done by many departments, referencing the Tootsie Roll commercial.

She discussed her communications with City departments since August of 2024 regarding the need to cut grass at vacant, condemned properties, noting many such parcels on her street remain uncut. Deer graze on these properties. Codes complaints should be addressed in the order received. Ms. Stanton explained that a triage should be enacted for the complaints submitted. She stated the City is a year behind in cutting grass at vacant properties.

Ms. Stanton suggested utilizing the individuals cutting grass at Roxbury Park for these vacant properties. The Miracle League lease states the Miracle League network is responsible for cutting the grass on the 2.6 acres its utilizing, which is not occurring. The Johnstown Public Works department employees cut this 2.6 acres.

Ms. Stanton submitted copies of emails submitted to the City Manager and Codes Department regarding these matters.

Dustin Greene, 316 Chestnut Street, thanked the City of Johnstown for the Pride Proclamation. He discussed the struggles of the LGBTQI+ communities, as well as his own struggles. The LGBTQI+ communities have businesses, families, and Christian beliefs and values.

Mr. Greene noted his “flashy shoes” to demonstrate art, the ability to have fun and wear “flashy shoes.” He never wears these shoes in the City of Johnstown because no one accepts them, which reflects how this community is still shuttered.

Mr. Greene discussed feeling comfortable in his outfit and welcomed in the streets in DC at the DC Pride event. He hoped this community enjoys the art. The LGBTQI+ individuals are no different than anyone else. He stated, “Think love and be kind.”

Dr. Catherine-Anne McCloskey, 241 School Street, thanked the City of Johnstown for the Pride proclamation as a representative of the “T” in the LGBTQI+ alliance. She discussed the struggles and fears of the LGBTQI+ community,

as well as her own, which she referenced as getting worse. Dr. McCloskey expressed her appreciation to City Council for not persecuting the LGBTQI+ community, as many others do.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER

Arturo Martynuska, City Manager, discussed the shuffling of personnel and employee duties, hence the wage and salary ordinance for Council's approval. He noted the shuffling between the fiscal responsibility of the DCED and the General Fund.

Mrs. Mock questioned the split of positions in the Public Works Department. Mr. Martynuska explained that Carmen Truscello, Fleet Manager, is now the Director of Public Works. He noted Melissa Layton's duties with regard to contract procurement and job administration due to her background in these areas. Her wages, hired as DCED, will be split with the General Fund with the approval from HUD. He outlined the responsibilities of Chris Rutledge, the Highway Superintendent.

Mr. Martynuska noted the buyout on healthcare, the contractual increases resulting from the police contract, and the council members who receive no pay. He explained Ms. Layton's wages from the General Fund is from the HUD money. He noted Ms. Layton's work in saving money to the City on getting the new concrete apron at Station 2 on Fairfield Avenue and on the repairs to the roof on the Pasquerilla Conference Center.

Mrs. Mock noted the City utilized funds from money set aside and from the state for the roof repairs. Mayor Janakovic noted the receipt of \$750,000 for new air conditioning units for the Conference Center from Senator Langerholc's office. Mrs. Mock reiterated Ms. Layton's salary is from DCED and ARPA funds in the General Fund.

Rev. King requested an explanation of the duties of the Superintendent of Highways. Mr. Martynuska stated that person will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the highway crews and overseeing the contractual work.

Rev. King requested an explanation of the duties of the Project Manager. Mr. Martynuska stated the projects that need bid for cost savings will be handled by the Project Manager.

Mayor Janakovic questioned the status of the City's grass cutting, specifically those noted by the citizens. Mr. Martynuska stated the City crews and crews enabled by Vision 2025 are cutting the grass. He noted an upcoming meeting with the County regarding dedicating crews to the City. Arrangements have been made with the Fleet Manager to provide these crews a trailer for equipment. Weekend juvenile crews from the County are also being considered. It was noted the County Hal Dues crews are individuals on probation working to pay fines.

Mr. Truscello stated a big John Deere tractor is being utilized in Woodvale Heights, Conemaugh Borough, Roxbury, and West End area to cut bamboo and push back the sidewalks. A garbage truck follows to pick up the garbage. There are 20 employees trying to keep up with the grass growing in the City. He met with the DEP for the City to take care of Sam's Run, Solomon Run, and Lorraine Park. He discussed addressing the sink holes in the City.

Mr. Martynuska discussed areas the City must take care of that are outside of the City, such as Sam's Run. Mayor Pfuhl signed an agreement for the City to take care of Sam's Run up through Lorraine Park. There are 30 acres of ground under the McNally Bridge the City must manage.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Frank Janakovic discussed recognizing and thanking the volunteers and people in the City assisting in the cleanup of the City. Mayor Janakovic attended the Showcase. He and additional Councilmembers attended the Murtha breakfast.

Mayor Janakovic noted conversations with Senator Fetterman related to the request for funds for the Public Safety building. He attended the STAR Summit held at the Ace's Lounge. Mental health and social service providers and vendors were in attendance.

#### CITY SOLICITOR

Aimee L. Willett, Esquire, City Solicitor, noted a call from Attorney John Messina related to a grant applied for by the Stackhouse Park Board. After receiving an initial letter after Council's last meeting, she replied requesting additional information.

Ms. Willett requested Council enter into an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss the consideration of purchasing or leasing real estate and to consult on issues on which identifiable litigation may be filed on behalf of the City.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mrs. Mock stated the West End Improvement Group is utilizing the City of Johnstown's Neighborhood Opportunity grant that was funded from ARPA funds. The grant covered a corner lot on D Street and Fairfield Avenue. She encouraged all to visit this site. Five lots are maintained by the West End Improvement Group so the City does not have to cut the grass.

The Greater Johnstown School District students assisted with spreading mulch at the 911 Memorial Garden in memory of William Moscow. The City Fire and Police Departments also had members in attendance. A dedication was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Mrs. Mock noted 104 flowers boxes have been spread across the City, three of which were smashed by a car.

Rev. King discussed attending an event for the Flood City Youth Fitness Academy held at the Pasquerilla Conference Center. She noted winning the award for Excellency in Advocacy by Elected Officials at the STAR Summit.

(Round of applause.)

Rev. King also attended the YWCA Tribute to Women, the Showcase for Congress, and the Prospect meeting. She spoke with the Woodvale community group regarding their projects. She noted additional projects in the Moxham and Old Conemaugh Borough.

Ms. Huchel discussed a recent spay and neuter day. The Johnstown Animal Welfare Society had cats from Wood and Ash Streets from the City. Progress is being made.

Ms. Huchel commended John Rutledge and the Planning Commission for the Side-Lot program resolution on the agenda for Council's approval. She noted plans for the Mom's House project discussed at the Planning Commission meeting.

Ms. Huchel stated a new Executive Director was hired for the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority. She discussed attending the Vita Verda restaurant grand opening on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and the plenary session for Heritage PA. She attended the Walk of Hope and the "Shoe Your Pride" exhibit opening at Gallery on Gazebo. She met with Fritz from ABANA and Jason Riligio of FAVOR Peer Counseling to increase partnerships with those organizations.

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Stated Meeting, continued

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Rev. King noted the kickoff of Juneteenth on Friday, June 13, 2025, at the First Cambria AME Zion Ministry at the corner of Hayes Streets and Menoher Boulevard.

Mr. Britt discussed the commencement of the Horner's Street Playground project. He noted the City Manager and he were invited to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Masonic Temple.

Mr. Clark stated the second downtown business owners meeting was held. He noted the concerns discussed at this meeting. He thanked Kristy Hagan and the Flood City Café for hosting the meetings. He invited any business owner in the City to attend these meetings.

Mr. Clark recently held an open forum in Central Park regarding the Central Park plans. He noted it is a contentious topic, but overall the forum went well.

Mr. Clark noted a meeting with Melissa Millard, Finance Director, to gain a better understanding of the City's finances.

#### PETITIONS

None.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FIRST 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.

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

Councilmembers discussed revisions to the ordinance. This was the First Read.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).



RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 105725

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH IRON DATA WORKS (IDW) FOR SECURITY UPGRADES TO CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105726

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. Truscello explained the purpose and the specifics of this pickup truck.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105727

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

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

Mr. Martynuska discussed the fulfillment of the appointments.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025,  
Stated Meeting, continued

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The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mr. Britt, Mayor Janakovic, Reverend King, Mrs. Mock, Ms. Huchel (5).

Nays: None (0).

Abstain: Mr. Clark (1).

Resolution No. 105728

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CONFIRMING UPDATES TO  
THE SIDE-LOT PROGRAM.

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

Mr. Rutledge discussed the requirements under this program.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

Resolution No. 105729

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REQUESTING A  
GREENWAYS TRIALS AND RECREATION PROGRAM (GTRP) GRANT  
OF \$133,280 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING  
AUTHORITY.

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

Mr. Martynuska explained the reasons and the trails to be addressed by the grant.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Rev. King questioned the time for the curfew. Chief Mark Britton stated the curfew is 10:00 p.m. She also questioned whether there has been an increase in calls in Dale Borough over the last few months. Chief Britton stated the calls have been steady. He discussed issues in the area and will continue attending the Dale Borough meetings. He noted speeding being an issue.

Rev. King noted an increase in speeding in the Moxham area. Chief Mark Britton attended a Moxham neighborhood meeting and noting this issue. More patrols and enforcement will be conducted in this area and the Dale Borough area.

Mr. Britt noted similar situations occurring in the Hornerstown area. Mr. Britt discussed children riding bicycles at night with no lights and what can be done. Chief Britton will look into the Codes regarding this matter. He noted the police efforts to address this issue.

Rev. King questioned whether any grants have been applied for to help with the Safe Streets program, such as purchasing reflectors for bicycles. Options were discussed to address this issue.

Mr. Clark discussed speeding also in the Roxbury area. He commended the police staff for their work in the area already. Mr. Clark stated the radar off Route 56 are overgrown and requested it be trimmed. Chief Britton discussed the placement of additional radar in the area.

Mayor Janakovic requested Chief Jim McCann to stand. Chief Jim McCann thanked City Council and the City Manager for the opportunity to serve the City. He is proud to be a firefighter for the City of Johnstown.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

Mr. John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, noted three attendees livestreaming the meeting on Facebook from Walnut Grove, the West End, and Moxham. He stated there is a need to televise these meetings. The people want to know what government is doing.

Mr. DeBartola questioned the City's plan for Christmas 2025. He noted the legal action mentioned by the Solicitor. He filed two Right-To-Know requests

within the last month. There were no meeting minutes from the meeting of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This was the meeting wherein the Co-Managers were hired. He questioned why there is no record of this meeting and the salaries paid for these positions. Art Martynuska was also hired as a consultant. He questioned how the City is using the taxpayers' money and why this money was spent. He will provide the records to the City.

The City Solicitor will review the matter.

Anthony Cromer, 567 Highland Avenue, Apartment 1, stated he was a victim of the Moxham shooting on May 7, 2025. He explained the circumstances of the incident. He noted there are no programs for gun safety and violence in the City of Johnstown. He provided a flyer to stop the gun violence and discussed steps to stop gun violence. Mr. Cromer commended Chief Britton for his service on the incident.

Mayor Janakovic noted organizations like Victim Services.

Dustin Greene requested time to discuss positive comments of Reverend King. He noted a poverty-stricken area in Cleveland. He referred to the lights on bicycles discussion. He mentioned an area called Safety Town in Cleveland, which was cheap to produce and government funded, that was safe for children. The police would be in this Safety Town and help children maintain their bicycles. He noted Reverend King's question related to grant funding for children safety.

Mayor Janakovic discussed the continued ability for the City to apply for such grants.

The website for the Johnstown Juneteenth celebration was noted to be at [Facebook.com/jtownNAACP](https://facebook.com/jtownNAACP) or [FCYFA.org](https://FCYFA.org). TV commercial and billboards were also noted regarding this celebration.

#### RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:28 p.m.

City Council entered into Executive Session following the meeting.

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