

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

The Greater Johnstown City Council met in a stated session for the general transaction of business. Mayor Frank Janakovic called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Reverend 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. Arnone, Mr. Britt, Mr. Clark, Ms. Huchel, Mrs. Mock (7).

Arturo Martynuska, City Manager; Aimee Willett, Solicitor; Jennifer Burkhart, Executive Secretary; Tony Penna, Recreation Director; and John Rutledge, Economic Development Director, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Janakovic requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025.

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

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

Nays: None (0).

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, HONORS, RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Michael Witterheim, 210 Jacob Street, presented to speak on the coffin found in Central Park. He was instructed that the first public comment period was for Agenda items only. Mr. Witterheim then requested speak on Resolution #10719 which he read to the Council. He expressed frustration at the time limit of five minutes. He stated Mr. Martynuska was not qualified to serve as City Manager. He repeated his concern about the coffin in Central Park. After giving prior direction given by Council to address Agenda items only during this public comment period, Mr. Witterheim expressed dissatisfaction. Police stepped in and escorted him from the room.

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Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, voiced her concern regarding Mr. Witterheim's disagreement with City Council. She requested to speak on Resolution #10719. Ms. Stanton expressed concern Council did not have legal authority to approve a new contract for Mr. Martynuska. She quoted information from the Local Government Commission of the Pennsylvania General Assembly created in 1935. She stated the general rule of the commission was municipal governing bodies were not permitted to enter into contracts binding the policy, making authority of subsequently elected governing bodies. She further stated her opinion that the current City Council is attempting to bind the new Council and the City into a city manager contract, thereby constituting bad faith and ulterior motivations on behalf of the current Council. She added, if the resolution was passed, she was certain it would be subject to challenge in the court system.

Aimee Willett, Solicitor, responded. if Council should approve Resolution #10719, the contract would speak to the issues Ms. Stanton was concerned about. She added it was her legal opinion that the contract is consistent with the current state of law as well as the city charter.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Art Martynuska, City Manager, reported two license plate readers had been installed and a third location would soon be installed. He noted the parking system approved at the prior meetings was moving forward, and results should be seen in November. He noted, as discussed at the prior meeting, the City is moving to T-Mobile for cellular service, saving approximately \$24,000 a year.

Regarding the Central Park project, Mr. Martynuska explained the project is about three or four weeks ahead of schedule due to the good weather. He reported most of the paving had been completed in the city where there had been road construction. He noted paving was currently happening in Hornerstown.

Mr. Martynuska commented there was a new pump system being installed at the City Garage. He also reported the camera system was up and running. He was speaking with the vendor to install additional cameras at Sargent's Stadium at the Point as well as around Central Park. He relayed an initial walkthrough of Main Street that was recently conducted with CJO and Upstreet. He noted meetings regarding Main Street and meetings regarding Central Park were occurring on a regular basis.

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Mr. Martynuska reported budget meetings had been completed with all departments except for recreation. He stated Ms. Melissa Millard was working on a budget report to present to Council.

Mrs. Mock asked for a progress report regarding Breezeline and the recording of the meetings.

Mr. Martynuska responded that a connection had been completed, and he awaited a proposal on the equipment needed. He added nearby church services were being broadcasted again for viewing on multiple sites. He hoped the next meeting would be broadcasted.

Mrs. Mock asked whether there would be a press release, so people understood how to watch. Mr. Clark asked if there would be live streaming. Mr. Martynuska responded affirmatively to both questions.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Frank Janakovic reported on attending the Johnstown Firefighters Memorial Park dedication. He conveyed appreciation for all the firemen as well as all those involved in the park. He also noted he was recently appointed to the University of Pittsburgh Board of Advisory. He added he looks forward to the position and how work can continue to bring projects to Johnstown.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

COUNCIL UPDATES/NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS

Mrs. Mock reported the West End Improvement Group was doing well. She noted all of their projects had been completed for the year, including the flower boxes and Community Garden. She promoted the West End Improvement Group's basket party on November 1 and 2, 2025. She noted applying for additional grants for the West End for more improvements.

Ms. Huchel reported the executive director of JRA provided a written summary of activities. She noted business owners will be helped out with the Main Street Matters grant. Regarding the Planning Commission, she reported the Commission considered a merger on their Agenda and found it to be in order. She reported the Johnstown Animal Welfare Society continues to fill their low cost spay neuter clinic, which is a resource for the entire community. Ms. Huchel shared a few events happening in the City, including a Sip, Soup and Stroll downtown on October 18, an architecture tour on October 21, and a

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screening of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* through the Heritage Association on October 31, 2025. She stated, through the Steeples project, the Grand Halle on Broad Street would be screening *Nosferatu* with live organ pipe accompaniment on November 1, 2025.

Mrs. Mock stated the West End Improvement was having a car wash on October 18, 2025, to benefit the Johnstown Police Department's K-9 Unit.

Reverend King reported on attending a number of events around the City, including at the Russell House, Veterans Summit, Recovery in the Valley, and a picnic at the Soup Kitchen. She noted the picnic was an opportunity for human service organizations to meet with the public and inform them of available services. She also attended the 10th Anniversary for Vision and the dedication at the Firemen's Park. She extended thanks to Mrs. Mock for working to clean the park prior to the dedication ceremony. Reverend King reminded everyone October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Mr. Clark reported the Downtown Business Owners meeting would not take place in October and would resume in November. He noted the previous meeting of the group had over 30 business owners in attendance. Mr. Clark shared Chief McCann told him that he hoped the Firemen's Park would serve as an example for others. He extended appreciation to Senator Langerholc and Representative Rigby for their work to acquire funds for the park.

Mr. Britt noted being unable to attend the dedication of the Firemen's Park but expressed kudos to the Chief for the beautiful park. He also thanked Mrs. Mock for her work preparing the park for the ceremony.

Mr. Arnone shared statistics from GJWA for activities in the month of September 2025. He noted an article in the paper regarding water rationing or water conservation. He spoke with the director of the Water Authority, who shared if there was some rain over the next month, the water reservoirs should remain in good shape, and the public does not need to worry. Regarding the Housing Authority, he provided population updates for the Johnstown public housing communities. He noted the public housing population as of September 30, 2025, was 2,554. He also noted the federal government shutdown may prevent JRA from receiving monthly funding, but the housing authority is financially stable and would remain open despite some programs possibly being affected by the shutdown. Mr. Arnone shared November is a month celebrating veterans, and a parade would take place on November 11, 2025. He added that the Navy and Marine Corps are celebrating their 250th birthdays.

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Mr. Britt shared Johnstown's often take for granted what they have and see happenings in bigger cities that they do not think can happen in Johnstown. He stated the incident earlier in the meeting was an example. He extended his appreciation to law enforcement for handling the situation.

Mayor Janakovic questioned the vacancies in Prospect. Mr. Arnone replied the vacancies are being filled by the people who moved back, as well as by the natural process of housing. He noted most of the vacancies are for smaller two-bedroom units, which cannot accommodate larger families.

Mayor Janakovic asked about work at Hinckston. Mr. Arnone informed him Hinckston is not part of GJWA's water system, which includes North Fork, Dalton and Salt Lick.

PETITIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READ AND ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5372 ADOPTED JULY 9, 2025
AMENDING THE SALARIES AND WAGES TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN
EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the ordinance. Ms. Mock seconded the motion.

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. 10716

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY SOLICITOR TO EXECUTE AND TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE ATTACHED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL ADDRESSING THE LITIGATION FILED BY

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FOR ZINN REALTY CORPORATION, IN RELATION TO PROPERTY LOCATED
AT 217-219 FRANKLIN STREET JOHNSTOWN PA, 15901 FOR A FAIR MARKET
VALUE OF \$170,000.00.

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

Mayor Janakovic asked what the previous value was for the property for the settlement. Ms. Willett responded she was not the one who did the litigation. She noted the stipulation was in the Council packet. She confirmed the agreement had been agreed to by the City, school district and County.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: Mr. Clark (1).

Resolution No. 10717

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF AND AUTHORIZING THE
CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ANY/ALL ACTIONS
NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE CALCULATIONS OF THE MINIMUM
MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION FOR EACH OF THE CITY'S PENSION FUNDS FOR
INCLUSION IN THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Mock seconded the motion.

Mr. Martynuska explained the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) is the amount the City has to put into the pension fund. He noted the total MMO, based on audit findings, was \$997,624, which was divided up into various pension funds. He added the City met the MMO entirely through state aid, so no funds were pulled from the general funds account. Mr. Martynuska also reviewed the expected state aid for 2026 and noted that pension funds have been doing well with investments. He anticipated the MMO would be covered by state aid again in 2026. Mr. Martynuska noted most of the pension funds are funded to 99.5 percent with the fire pension fund slightly lower at 89 percent funded. He stated the additional MMO funds after dividing them between the accounts were added to the fire account.

Mrs. Mock asked for confirmation whether the excess funds could not be used for anything else. Mr. Martynuska confirmed she was correct.

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Mayor Janakovic shared, 10 to 12 years ago, the MMO was \$2.8 million annually. However, selling the inner-city sewage line allowed investments to be made on the pensions. He extended appreciation to all those involved in working with the pension funds over the years.

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).

Resolution No. 10718

A RESOLUTION OF THE 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.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Huchel seconded the motion.

Mr. Clark asked for clarification on the agreement since dates would be released at a later time.

Mr. Penna responded the Conference had used the Stadium last year and loved the experience. He worked with Bishop McCourt and UPJ, so that everyone was accommodated. He also explained the Mill Rats schedule would not be affected. He added the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference was interested in coming back for at least the five years of the agreement and would be paying per game.

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).

Resolution No. 10719

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN AND ARTURO D. MARTYNUSKA FOR A TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND CONTINUING THROUGH DECEMBER

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31, 2027, AT A YEARLY SALARY OF \$133,900.00 FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR AND \$137,917 FOR THE 2027 CALENDAR YEAR AND CONTINGENT UPON THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

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

Mr. Clark explained the stipulation in the contract gives the new City Council 45 days once seated to determine if they want to continue Mr. Martynuska's contract or terminate the contract. He added it was important to make sure there was a clause in the contract to ensure the new leaders were not stuck with the contract.

Mr. Clark shared, in the months he has been with the Council, he has been pleased with the work the City has done under Mr. Martynuska, especially with going after delinquent loans and repayments the City deserves to have back. He added it is important to have competent management with the upcoming Main Street Project.

Mr. Arnone added the 45 days gives the new Council at least two meetings, which will give them time to get information, digest it, and come to their own decision.

Reverend King noted it was important to include the stipulation to allow for a smooth transition to the new Council.

Mr. Clark commented it was important for whomever is elected to sit down and see the body of work that has been completed under Mr. Martynuska's tenure to make an informed decision.

Mrs. Mock conveyed her agreement with Mr. Clark and with the stipulation. She shared her opinion that Mr. Martynuska has been the most stable, intelligent, and efficient city manager in her tenure with the Council since 2010. She noted he lives right on the City line, so he is local.

Mayor Janakovic added there have been several crises over the 12-year period with the number of city managers. He commended the move to allow some stability with the incoming Council, which will have five to six new members.

Mr. Clark reiterated Mr. Martynuska's devotion to Johnstown, having served the City in some capacity for the last 20 years.

Ms. Huchel thanked Mrs. Stanton for raising the issue as many times as often. When people say they distrust city government, she does not know specifically what they mean. She noted

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the Council is aware city managers can only have two-year contracts and reiterated the goal is stability and consistency, not something untoward.

Mr. Britt added Mr. Martynuska has been the most stable city manager in his time with the Council.

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).

RESOLUTION NO. 10720

A RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, RATIFYING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL UNION NO. 463 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2030.

Mr. Arnone made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Mock seconded the motion.

Mr. Martynuska reported amicable negotiations with the firefighters' union on the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). He reviewed some of the points of the CBA, including changes to longevity clauses to match the police department, sick leave, vacation time, number of part-time firefighters, and minimum shifts for part-timers. He noted that antiquated language was also revised in the CBA.

Mr. Arnone thanked the Council for having the foresight to negotiate contracts one by one, a year at a time instead of three major contracts at one time.

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).

Resolution No. 10721

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED AND/OR UNCLAIMED VEHICLES.

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

Reverend King asked for a brief synopsis of how the removal would work.

Mr. Martynuska explained the language is similar to other municipalities. The City will be permitted to remove abandoned vehicles on streets or in right-of-ways. If a vehicle is abandoned in a yard, the property owner is notified the vehicle has been deemed a hazard and given ten days to remove the vehicle. After ten days, the City will be permitted to tow the vehicle. He noted there is an appeal process the property owner can follow.

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).

Resolution No. 10722

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A LAND MERGER OF ONE PROPERTY ON MESSENGER STREET WITH ONE PROPERTY ON WOOD STREET.

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

Mr. Clark asked why the resolution was necessary. Mr. Martynuska explained that the owner of the veterinarian clinic had purchased the second property and planned to expand the parking. He added the final plans had not come through yet, but the merger did go in front of the Planning Commission.

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

Nays: None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

None.

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OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Huchel commented she had previously mentioned the problem of backyard dog breeding to the Council. She had drafted legislation that would regulate backyard breeding of animals in the City of Johnstown and welcomed any feedback about her proposing the legislation. She had a veterinarian review her proposal and sent it to the Human Society for their input. Support was expressed for Ms. Huchel.

Ms. Willett returned to Resolution #10716 from earlier in the meeting. She did not have documentation on the litigation but located the property in question in the GIS system showing Zinn had purchased the property in July 2021 for \$237,500. The current fair market value is \$170,000. Ms. Huchel noted there had been serious flooding concerns on the property, which the City had been unable to address.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

None.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:04 p.m.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.