

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members of Planning Commission were present for roll call:

Chairman Carthew and Commissioners Buday, Huchel, Grandinetti and Shirt.

Commissioners White and Casals were absent.

In addition, Economic Development Director John Rutledge was in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS) - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Shirt motioned to approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2025 Planning Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Huchel. A roll call vote was taken:

Planning Commission:

Laura Huchel- YES

Ian Shirt- YES

Michael Grandinetti - ABSTAIN

Donald Buday – YES

James Carthew – Chairman – YES

The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Approve Changing the Planning Commission meeting day from the first Wednesday of each month to the first Tuesday of each month starting February 3, 2026.**

Mr. Rutledge explained the request to change the Planning Commission meetings to the first Tuesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday was due to City Council planning workshops on first Wednesdays in which City Council requests information from the Planning Commission meetings.

The Commission discussed the change with Chairman Carthew and Ms. Huchel, noting they would have hard stops at 6:00 p.m. on first Tuesdays. Ms. Huchel also noted she may be

stepping down to make room for a City Council representative. The Commission also discussed the number of seats on the Commission.

Mr. Grandinetti made a motion to approve changing Planning Commission meeting to the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. starting February 3, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Buday. A roll call vote was taken:

Planning Commission:

Laura Huchel- YES
Ian Shirt- YES
Michael Grandinetti - YES
Donald Buday – YES
James Carthew – Chairman – YES
The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Carthew returned to the issue of the number of seats on the Commission. He asked Mr. Rutledge for additional information regarding a City Council member. Mr. Rutledge anticipated that City Council would be appointing seats at their next meeting.

Chairman Carthew asked Ms. Huchel for clarification regarding her seat. Ms. Huchel stated she originally joined the Commission as a member not related to City Council. When Mike Capriotti stepped down, she became the sole representative from City Council on the Commission.

Mr. Rutledge stated the City Council representative seat could belong to whomever is due to leave the Commission. It was noted Chairman Carthew and Mr. White were the soonest due to reapply. Mr. Rutledge also suggested speaking with Mr. Casals regarding the change in the meeting day, noting if it conflicted with his job, he may be interested in stepping down.

It was noted there is a requirement for a City Council representative on the Planning Commission. Ms. Huchel voiced a willingness to resign if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS: - None

REPORTS:

DCED REPORT- JOHN RUTLEDGE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Mr. Rutledge reported on Mr. Williams work with Hildebrand to populate the GIS map. He stated the next step is to test the map and use it to build data to generate the dashboards. Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, Mr. Rutledge reported the latest data from the steering committee would be compiled into a new document for review before being distributed to the public.

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Mr. Shirt asked if the layers of GIS map would just pull from the City or if it was piggybacking off of the County's map. Mr. Rutledge explained the information was being pulled from the County, but the map would have City specific information like codes. He stated, when the new website was ready, public information would be available on the site. Mr. Shirt asked if the Planning Commission would have access to the non-public information to use when making informed decisions. Mr. Rutledge stated a link would be provided for the Commission to use.

The Commission discussed codes enforcement in the City. Mr. Grandinetti questioned if the City had the manpower to investigate and enforce codes violations that residents may submit through the map once posted.

Ms. Huchel was glad there was a zoning map. She noted the fire and police departments would be using the map for fire hydrant locations and license plate reader locations. Mr. Rutledge noted information, such as water lines, hydrants and readers, had been entered into the map.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Grandinetti noted the minutes from December 3, 2025 mentioned the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church under old business. Ms. Huchel stated representatives did not attend the last City Council meeting. It was noted the Church would have to come before the City Council and the Planning Commission when the site development plan was determined.

It was also noted there had not been any further developments regarding the Flood City Fitness Academy, the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy's correspondence or the intersection at Roosevelt Boulevard and Broad Street.

Mr. Rutledge noted the receipt of emails regarding grants for painting the Gautier tank. Chairman Carthew stated the items should be passed to the new Planning Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS: - None

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 P.M.