

JOHNSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 4, 2026

The Greater Johnstown City Council met in a stated session for special business.
Mayor Sylvia King called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

The following members of Council were present for roll call:

Mayor Sylvia King, Charles Arnone, Samuel Barber, Lorraine Brandon-Taylor,
Taylor Clark, Nicolas Spinelli

Art Martynuska, City Manager; Aimee Willett, Solicitor; and Jennifer Burkhart,
Executive Secretary; were also present

PUBLIC COMMENT-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Charlene Stanton, 184 Sell Street, commented on Resolution 10752. She stated her opinion was that City Council would be in violation of Pennsylvania Statute if they appointed a person to the vacant seat. She believed the deadline for filling the position had expired. She announced she would initiate court action against the Council if they voted to fill the position.

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, expressed reservations about City Council appointing a person to fill the vacant position. He provided examples from the past when a vacant seat was open, noting in most of the cases, the courts decided who to appoint because the Council was split. He believed the current Council was not qualified to fill the position as they would choose someone who reflected their own positions and values. He questioned why none of the candidates were present at the meeting. He noted Ms. Komar had withdrawn her application.

Mr. DeBartola stressed the importance of the person filling the vacant seat. He reiterated the candidate should be chosen by the courts to avoid any hint of nepotism, impropriety or conflicts of interest. He suggested everyone should vote no on choosing a candidate.

Ms. Willett responded to the concerns presented by Ms. Stanton. Her legal opinion was that the new City Council started their terms on January 5, 2026, the first Monday in January. She stated the conservative argument raised by Ms. Stanton allows 30 days for a new person to be appointed to the vacancy. The rules of construction and counting the days under the law allow for the exclusion of the first day, January 5, 2026, and the last day February 4, 2026, thereby Council was within the 30 days to appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 10752

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPOINTING THE VACANT
COUNCIL SEAT

Mr. Clark nominated Michael Hamacek. Ms. Brandon-Taylor nominated Jasmine LaRue. Mr. Spinelli seconded the nomination of Mr. Hamacek.

Ms. Willett noted seconds were not needed for nominations.

Mayor King made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnone.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Clark, Mr. Spinelli,
Ms. Brandon-Taylor (6).

Nays: None (0).

A roll call vote was taken to fill the vacant City Council seat with each member voicing the name of their selection.

Michael Hamacek: Mayor King, Mr. Arnone, Mr. Barber, Mr. Clark, Mr. Spinelli (5)

Jasmine LaRue: Ms. Brandon-Taylor (1)

PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA ITEM

John DeBartola, 1197 Bedford Street, stated he was there to support the next public speaker, Ms. Weaver. He noted she was disabled and needed help with her situation.

Sharon Weaver, 168 Delaware Avenue, presented the Council with a letter from her doctor and photos. She explained she was disabled and was asking for handicap parking in front of her house. She noted, when she bought her house in August 2023, there was no parking at all on her side of the street. The Public Works department took down the no parking signs after she asked City Council at that time. She shared her health has worsened, and she had offered to pay for handicapped parking. She added, when people park on the other side of the street, cars cannot safely get through if she is also parked.

Mayor King requested clarification that Ms. Weaver did not have a handicapped spot in front of her house.

Ms. Weaver reiterated she did not have a handicapped spot. She added someone from Public Works questioned the lack of a sign when they were repainting the nearby fire hydrant. She also noted she has spoken to a number of people with the City regarding the situation.

Mr. Spinelli stated he was a visual person and would like to set up a time to visit Ms. Weaver at her house to actually see what she was talking about. Ms. Weaver agreed to his visit.

Mr. Martynuska commented he understood prior administrations had eased parking restrictions on Ms. Weaver's side of the street. He apologized for any misunderstanding, noting he understood there was a handicap sign posted. He added he would double-check the signs. He also noted the street is very narrow. Parking has always been permitted on the other side of the street although the parking has been restricted in the last few months due to people parking too close to the curb and fire hydrant.

Terrence Andrews, 59 Boyd Avenue, shared he is a disabled veteran who was assaulted on October 31, 2025, at the Sunoco on Fairfield Avenue. He presented concerns on accountability as he felt he was not receiving justice under the law. He stated he had tried to speak to the Mayor, City manager, and finally went to the courts himself. He noted complaints to the City Manager had been sent to the Chief of Police who conducts internal affairs investigations in his department. He stated his assault was on scanner pages, and he had EMT reports but there was no coverage from local news. He stated there was not a police report regarding the incident, and he was not interviewed at the hospital.

Mayor King replied she had informed Mr. Andrews she was unable to interfere in police investigations.

Dustin Greene, 312 Chestnut Street, presented concerns about the possibility of a landfill being proposed as a source of revenue for the City. He noted the topic was brought up during a public meeting and covered by media. He questioned what was happening with the Rosedale property owned by JRA. He added he had asked JRA but did not receive an answer. He expressed frustration at being told information could not be added to the websites for JRA or the City due to the transition to new websites. He shared the history of Rosedale, which

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was a tragic story in the City's past and he thought a landfill would be another tragedy.

RECESS/ADJOURNMENT

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:51 p.m. with Council going into Executive Session.