



# City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Business Meeting  
 Date: Monday, April 15, 2024  
 Time: 6:00 p.m.  
 Location: Council Chambers, City Hall  
 Presiding Officer: Amy Praught, Mayor

Meetings are broadcast using Facebook Live. The public is able to view the meeting from the official City of Johnstown Facebook page: [City of Johnstown, New York](#)

The proceedings of meetings are taped for the benefit of the City Clerk; the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings; therefore, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

## Meeting Minutes

- **CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL-** (record of officials in attendance)

		PRESENT	ABSENT / EXCUSED	LATE
Amy Praught	Mayor	X		
Scott Jeffers	Council Member-at-Large	X		
Bradley Hayner	Council Member Ward 1	X		
Scott Miller	Council Member Ward 2		X	
Eric Parker	Council Member Ward 3	X		
Max Spritzer	Council Member Ward 4	X		
Thomas Herr	City Treasurer	X		
Michael M. Albanese	City Attorney	X		
Carrie M. Allen	City Clerk	X		
Bruce Heberer	Fire Chief		X	
Larry O'Regan	Fire – representing Fire/Codes	X		
David F. Gilbo	Chief of Police	X		
Christopher J. Vose	City Engineer	X		
Diedrie M. Roemer	Director, Senior Citizens Program	X		

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Persons wishing to address the Council regarding city business are permitted to speak for three (3) minutes. A council member will monitor Facebook during the session and read comments to the Council. There is no exchange of dialogue during this portion of the meeting. Profane language, obscene conduct, or disruptive comments are not acceptable and will not be allowed.

1. John Hladik of E. Fourth Ave. – presented petitions signed by residents who do not want fireworks at Knox. Mayor explained that the fireworks have been approved, this is not a City event. Johnstown Community Center applies for the permitting and everything meets Code. She advised him to reach out to the Codes office and ask what they have to adhere to. Mr. Hladik feels there are public safety concerns and parking concerns. The Mayor offered that the police could patrol more frequently. A member in the gallery stated he was a board member at JACC and invited Mr. Hladik to attend their next meeting to air his concerns to the board.
2. Vinny McCullum from Toying Around – proposed an idea for a food truck festival. He understands the issue with having on Main St. and closing the street as it is also a State Highway. Could have a tasting and judging by the public. He would be willing to sponsor but could also be a City event. He is in contact with a lot of food vendors and thinks this would be a great event to bring in tourism and business to downtown. Felt this would be an event the new Tourism Specialist could take on.

- **APPROVE MINUTES**

1. [Business Meeting – March 18, 2024](#)

Action Taken

Motion:	Council Member Spritzer	Ayes:	4	Absent:	1 (Miller)
Seconded:	Council Member Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0
Discussion:	None				

- **APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

Action Taken

Motion:	Council Member Parker	Ayes:	4	Absent:	1 (Miller)
Seconded:	Council Member Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0
Discussion:	None				

- **REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS** - Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

The following questions were asked of departments:

Public Works: Spritzer asked about brush drop off; if there are issues with commercial users. Vose stated that there hasn't been. Residential use only.  
 Hydrouilities is making progress with homeowners getting the meters replaced. Vose stated we're down to about 60 left for install  
 Burn Ban – in effect until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Codes gives a warning and will eventually site individuals if they don't comply.

Police: Parker asked Chief Gilbo if they've had to use tasers, Chief stated they've only used for training.

Fire/Code: Parker stated that per Chief Heberer's report ambulance calls are up by 30%, he asked if they planned on adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> ambulance. Asst. Chief O'Regan stated that don't have the staffing. Even with increased calls they've been able to handle it.

Treasurer: Parker asked Treasurer about paying water bills online. Herr stated once the new software is implemented, that will be an option.  
 Sales Tax up over 6%  
 AUDs will be submitted tomorrow.

- **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS** - Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

Sewer Board: Eric Parker - Wallace Arnold has been replaced with a new plant manager, Harry Brand effective 4/22  
 Accident in February, yard was inspected and will install a new install new building and power; this will take several months to complete  
 Hearing will be held on 4/24 to set new sewer rates for 2024/2025  
 For new 3 yr. rotation, Mayor Praught is now the CEO and Tom Herr is now the CFO

Planning Board: Scott Jeffers - Deli Master addition was approved; applicant must comply with DEC in regard to wetlands  
 Solar – board agreed that a one year moratorium for solar and battery storage would be beneficial  
 Comprehensive Plan – Fulton County Planning Board recommended that the census data be updated. Looking to contract with Planning Board to help provide that information.

Assessor's Office: Mayor Praught - Working on 2024 Tentative Roll will be filed with the Clerk by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Grievance Day set for May 28<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

25. Consent; Hillside Place Apartments

Action Taken

Motion:	Council Member Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	1 (Miller)
Seconded:	Council Member Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

Discussion: Parker stated this was a name change due to selling of the property; does not affect the current PILOT

- **DISCUSSION**

The Clerk spoke on the new mass notification system - The City of Johnstown has implemented the CivicPlus® Mass Notification System to send both emergency and non-emergency alerts to residents. Examples of messages sent through the mass notification system may include, but not limited to, boil water notices, police or fire emergencies, street closures, and garbage collection. Subscribers can register to receive alerts via text messages and/or email. If residents have questions or need assistance she directed them to call her office 518-736-4011.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Brush drop-off on W. Main Street is now open
2. Fulton County Cleanup Day – Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>
3. Spring Rail Trail Festival – Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 12-5pm; Fairgrounds Park
4. Curb-side brush pick up will continue through April 30<sup>th</sup>
5. National Day of Prayer – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-8pm; Main Street Park
6. Rock n Show 4 Cancer Car Show – Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 4-9pm; JACC
7. Citywide Garage Sale – May 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>
8. Citywide Cleanup – May 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>
9. Memorial Day Parade – Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm
10. Business Meeting – May 20<sup>th</sup>

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (only if necessary)

Reason: Personnel matter				Time In: 6:24 pm
Motion: Council Member	Jeffers	Ayes:	4	Absent: 1 (Miller)
Seconded: Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
<i>Action Taken:</i>				
Motion: Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Time out: 6:52 pm
Seconded: Council Member	Spritzer	Noes:	0	Absent: 1 (Miller)
				Abstain: 0

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

26. Accept offer for property				
<i>Action Taken</i>				
Motion: Council Member	Parker	Ayes:	4	Absent: 1 (Miller)
Seconded: Council Member	Jeffers	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
Discussion:	None			
27. Human Resource Services: GJJWTF				
<i>Action Taken</i>				
Motion: Council Member	Spritzer	Ayes:	4	Absent: 1 (Miller)
Seconded: Council Member	Jeffers	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
Discussion:	None			

- **ADJOURN**

Time: 6:53 pm				
Motion: Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent: 1 (Miller)
Seconded: Council Member	Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk