City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Business Meeting
Date: Monday, August 17, 2026
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.

Business Meeting Minutes - Draft

- **CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL-** (record of officials in attendance)

		PRESENT	ABSENT / EXCUSED	LATE
Amy Praught	Mayor	X		
-Vacant	Council Member-at-Large		Vacant	
Bradley Hayner	Council Member Ward 1	X		
Vincent McCallum	Council Member Ward 2	X		
Eric Parker	Council Member Ward 3	X		
Max Spritzer	Council Member Ward 4	X		
Sue Conine	City Treasurer	X		
Michael M. Albanese	City Attorney	X		
Carrie M. Allen	City Clerk	X		
Larry O'Regan	Fire Chief	X		
David F. Gilbo	Chief of Police	X		
Christopher J. Vose	City Engineer	X		

- **MOMENT OF SILENCE** – Former Mayor Robert F. Schultz

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathy Levee of Green Street spoke on the traffic on Green Street. She would like reduced speed limit, dead end street signage and for the police to use lights and sirens when going to calls.

- **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Baker Street Parking	Opened: 6:04 pm	Closed: 6:04 pm
No Comments or Discussion		

- **PROCLAMATION** – Chief Larry O'Regan

- **APPROVE MINUTES**

1. July 20, 2026

Action Taken: Approved

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	McCallum	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

2. July 30, 2026

Action Taken: Approved

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

- **APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

Action Taken: Approved

Motion:	Council Member	Parker	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

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

Public Works

- The City Engineer discussed the proposed residential garbage collection and noted that automated collection would provide several benefits to City residents, including a more efficient collection system and potentially reducing maintenance and liability associated with the City's current collection vehicles. It was noted that the proposed contractor indicated that collection could potentially be completed within three days, as opposed to the current four-day collection schedule. The Engineer discussed the financial implications of the proposal, recognizing that the cost would be the primary consideration, additional discussion would be necessary as part of the preparation of the 2027 budget to determine whether the anticipated benefits would outweigh the additional expense and whether the program would have an impact on the tax levy. Further discussion is anticipated during the coming month.
- The City Engineer provided an update concerning the City's paving program. Paving-related work, including ADA ramps and sidewalk work, was expected to begin in earnest during the week of August 24. The contractor had been scheduled to begin pouring ADA-related concrete, but work was affected by the weather. A tentative paving schedule was discussed, including work on Townsend Avenue and a section of North Market Street between Irving Avenue, Walnut Avenue and Linden Avenue. The City intends to complete as much work as possible in the vicinity of Pleasant Avenue School prior to the beginning of the school year. A tentative schedule for the remainder of the City's paving program was still being developed.
- The Engineer discussed the City's recently adopted maintenance ordinance concerning lawns. Inspections had been conducted in two wards. Approximately twenty (20) properties had been identified in Ward One for review, which was fewer than anticipated. The City reported that residents who had been contacted appeared generally receptive to the program. It was noted that, in practice, the ordinance may be less restrictive than the City's prior approach. The City emphasized that inspection schedules are being posted in advance and that each ward is generally being inspected once per month. Property owners receiving notices are being provided an opportunity to correct violations.
- Recycling bins provided by Fulton County for recycling collection cannot be used for garbage. Any recycling bin being used for solid waste will receive a violation tag, and solid waste placed in the recycling bin will not be collected.

Police Department

- The Police Chief advised that motor vehicles kept on private property must be properly registered, insured and operable. Vehicles located on private property may remain there provided they meet the applicable requirements and are not being operated or placed on a public street in violation of the law. Some vehicles reported as unregistered were, in fact, properly registered but did not have the current registration sticker displayed. The affected property owners were contacted and advised to update the registration sticker.
- Placement of vehicles near driveways and noted that vehicles should not be positioned in a manner that interferes with a property owner's ability to access or exit a driveway.
- The Department had recently encountered another situation involving a juvenile and an e-bike. The Department has distributed informational flyers through area schools advising parents and students regarding New York State requirements applicable to e-bikes and similar vehicles. The Department is enforcing the applicable restrictions and is seizing vehicles that are illegal, including vehicles capable of speeds exceeding the applicable legal limits. He further explained that some of the vehicles being operated are not legally classified as e-bikes but are instead small motorized vehicles or "mini bikes," which are not permitted to be operated on sidewalks or public streets in the same manner as lawful e-bikes. The Department is increasing enforcement efforts but is also attempting to address the issue in a manner that protects the safety of juveniles and officers. In instances where officers observe illegal activity involving juveniles, the Department is documenting the conduct, including through available camera footage, so that enforcement action can be supported by evidence. Residents were encouraged to contact the Police Department when they observe illegal or dangerous e-bike or motorized vehicle activity. The Police Chief explained that reports are particularly helpful because it is difficult for officers to locate individuals based solely upon reports made days after an incident. Illegal motorized vehicles, however, may be seized because of the safety concerns associated with their continued operation.

Treasurer

- The Council discussed the City's sales tax revenue. The most recent figures reflected an increase of approximately 7%. The Council expressed interest in continuing to monitor the trend and hoped that the increase would continue through the fourth quarter.

- **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS** – Reports and/or Minutes are attached and made part of the meeting minutes.

Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board – Councilmember Parker

- Johnstown Joint Sewer Board meeting held August 12, 2026. The prior month's official minutes are available through the Council liaison report.
- FAGE had declined to proceed with the previously discussed wastewater treatment plant capacity expansion project. The proposed project had been the subject of discussion for several months and would have resulted in significant work and disruption at the plant. FAGE may pursue another method of addressing its expansion needs.
- The Sewer Board also approved a project to upgrade the plant's SCADA computer system and improve cybersecurity. The plant had identified weaknesses within its information technology network, and the project will address those deficiencies and enhance cybersecurity protections.
- Evaluating a potential new industrial customer involving the cleaning of tanker trucks. The proposed operation would be located near Benjamin Moore. The Sewer Board is reviewing the proposed processes and requirements, and approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be required.
- Fully staffed following the hiring of a new employee. Councilman Parker also reported that Operator Michael VanAlstyne received his Grade 4A certification, giving the plant two employees holding Grade 4A licenses.
- Received additional funds from NYSERDA relating to a prior agreement. The additional funds will be used toward debt service associated with various projects and will assist in stabilizing sewer rates during the next rate cycle.
- The plant generated and sold approximately $6,780 worth of electricity to National Grid.

Assessor – Councilmember Spritzer

- The 2026 final assessment roll had been completed and submitted to the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services. New homeowners were advised that they must apply for the STAR Credit directly through New York State. It was noted that it was not too late to apply for the STAR Credit for the upcoming 2026-2027 school tax year. The Assessor's Office continues to enter property sales and work on the 2027 assessment roll.

Planning Board – Chief O'Regan

- The Victory Homes application regarding 304 North Perry Street, which proposed converting an existing two-family residence into a four-family residence, was referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals because of zoning requirements. The application was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals and was subsequently denied by the Planning Board.
- Ivan Tech, LLC, concerning a small used-car sales and repair operation located at 105 South Comrie Avenue. The application was approved.
- Warren Tire continued use of storage containers on the property. The containers had reportedly been in place for approximately 25, 18 and 13 years without complaints. The applicant had maintained the containers and kept them painted and in a condition that limited their visual impact from the public. The application was approved.
- Application from Helio concerning an addition to the property located at 462 North Perry Street. The property contains a pre-existing use, and the applicant is making improvements to the property. A public hearing was scheduled for September 1, 2026.

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

Ordinance 9. Baker Street Parking

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Parker	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

75. Court Cleaning Agreement

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	McCallum	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

76. Adopt Social Media Policy

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Parker	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	McCallum	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

Discussion: A question was raised as to whether the policy applied to social media pages operated by employee unions, including fire or police union pages. It was clarified that the policy applies to the City's official City of Johnstown website and official City social media pages. The Mayor discussed the purpose of the policy and the City's concerns regarding inappropriate comments, misinformation, personal attacks directed at City employees and public officials, and threats of violence appearing on the City's social media page. The Mayor emphasized that residents have opportunities to communicate with City officials, including public comment at Council meetings, contacting City Hall, making appointments with the Mayor, and contacting Council members. The City's social media accounts are intended to provide information to the public, including public service announcements and information concerning City events and operations, and that the City would not permit the official page to be used for personal attacks, threats, or the dissemination of misinformation.

77. Authorize sale of 103 Water Street

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Spritzer	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

78. Authorize sale of 112 E. Fourth Avenue

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	McCallum	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

79. Fulton County Snow & Ice Control

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	McCallum	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

80. Approve Tap Application

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Parker	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

81. Budget Transfer

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Spritzer	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	McCallum	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

Discussion: The Council discussed the proposed paving of the two City-owned parking lots. It was explained that the funding would come from the City's IDA account and would therefore not require an additional appropriation from the general operating budget. The funds were received from sales of properties within the Industrial Park and are intended for improvements within the City. The condition of the parking lots, which currently contain millings, and agreed that paving the lots would provide a longer-term and more aesthetically appropriate improvement. The intended use of the parking lots for overnight parking; one of the lots may need to remain available for employees and customers of nearby businesses during the day, while the parking lot between the bakery and the pharmacy is anticipated to be used for overnight parking.

82. Advertise for Public Hearing – Lexington Grant

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

- **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Praught

1. Council Member – at – Large:

The Mayor advised we had received nine applications from individuals interested in the position. The Mayor explained that the Council would convene in public session tomorrow night and then enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting interviews. The appointment would be announced and the appointed individual sworn in at a meeting scheduled for September 1, 2026. It was further discussed that the individual appointed to fill the vacancy would serve from September 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026. Because the Councilmember-at-Large position is subject to election in November, the appointed individual would need to run as a write-in candidate in the November 2026. An individual

receiving the required votes in the November write-in election would be sworn in on January 1, 2027 and would serve the remainder of the Councilmember-at-Large term, which expires December 31, 2029.

2. Curfew:
   The Mayor advised that the City is exploring proposed legislation concerning a youth curfew. The City is working with the Police Department, City Clerk and legal counsel to develop legislation that can be properly implemented and enforced. The City has experienced issues involving juveniles during evening hours and that residents should contact the Police Department when they observe concerning or unlawful activity. The Police Chief explained that legislation requires careful consideration because of changes to New York State law concerning the treatment of juveniles. The City wants to avoid unnecessarily stopping or restricting individuals who are lawfully working or otherwise engaged in permitted activities solely because they are under the applicable age threshold. The Mayor stated that the City anticipates bringing proposed curfew legislation before the Council at a future meeting and may schedule a public hearing at a later date for community input.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  1. Labor Day, September 7th – City offices closed
  2. Business Meeting – September 21st @ 6:00 pm

- **ADJOURN**

Time: 6:41 pm

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	4	Absent:	0
Seconded:	Council Member	Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk