



City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Special Meeting
 Date: Friday, March 27, 2026
 Time: 12:00 p.m.
 Location: Conference Room, 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.

Special 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		
Scott Jeffers	Council Member-at-Large		Excused	
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		Excused	
Carrie M. Allen	City Clerk	X		
Larry O'Regan	Fire Chief	X		
David F. Gilbo	Chief of Police		Excused	
Christopher J. Vose	City Engineer	X		
Diedrie M. Roemer	Director, Senior Citizens Program		Excused	

- **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.*
- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

38. Contract for demolition of 2-10 S. Perry Street

Action Taken

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

Discussion: Chris Vose responded that the selected contractor is Dan's Hauling & Demo, located in West Sand Lake, and noted that the company previously completed demolition work at 31 Crescendoe Rd. for the City and performed very well. Both bidders were reputable companies, but Dan's Hauling & Demo was the lowest qualified bidder, which was important given the complex nature of this demolition project.

Councilmember McCallum asked whether the street would be closed during demolition. Vose stated that there would likely be at least a one-lane shutdown on South Perry Street, and possibly a partial full-day closure, which would be safer for everyone. The closure would only affect the block between Main Street and Market Street, and a detour would be minimal. McCallum noted that many people travel that route to pick up children at Knox and suggested providing public notice. Vose confirmed that public notifications would be issued regarding traffic interruptions and stated that demolition work is expected to take two to three days, with possibly one day of road closure. There is a small utility coordination issue with National Grid, and that special attention will be required due to the proximity of the adjacent bakery wall.

Vose stated that work is expected to begin within approximately one month, pending required regulatory notifications to the Department of Labor and arrangements for air monitoring. The City's goal is to have the building demolished by the end of

April, noting that the building currently lacks a roof and has deteriorated over the winter, making demolition necessary as an emergency measure.

Councilmember Spritzer asked about post-demolition structural evaluation of the neighboring bakery wall. Vose explained that although the walls are not technically joint walls, they are very close. Contractors will monitor for damage during demolition, and any issues will be addressed if they arise, but no formal follow-up inspection is currently scheduled.

Mayor Praught stated the lot will be leveled and used as additional downtown parking, noting the ongoing shortage of parking in downtown Johnstown. The Mayor also stated that the former Evans Garage lot, demolished previously, will be paved in the spring or summer and used as additional parking. The City intends to retain ownership of both properties for municipal parking use.

Vose further explained that demolition will extend approximately one foot below grade. Brick material will be salvaged where possible, cleaned, and reused as fill material to reduce tipping fees and minimize the need for additional fill. The building has been monitored over recent months and, demolition should not be delayed further due to safety concerns.

- **DISCUSSION**

The Mayor addressed misinformation circulating on social media regarding the demolition project. She explained that demolition was delayed due to concerns about the adjacent building and the need to secure specialized engineering services and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified demolition contractors. The Mayor referenced the prior demolition of the former Evans Garage, noting that underground barrels were discovered during that project, resulting in removal costs exceeding \$300,000, significantly higher than the original \$65,000 demolition budget. The Mayor emphasized that many properties in the City have been left in disrepair over the years and that addressing unsafe structures is necessary to protect public safety, even when costly. The Mayor stated that these properties will remain City-owned and used as parking lots to support downtown business growth. Residents were encouraged to contact Councilmembers, Department Heads, or the Mayor directly with questions and were reminded that City contact information is publicly available. The Mayor stressed the City's commitment to transparency and encouraged residents not to rely solely on social media information.

- **WATER GRIEVANCE**

The Council previously approved water billing relief matter for 101 FonClair Street. It was explained that the original relief calculation based on the last three billing cycle averages resulted in a higher amount than the actual bill. Due to limited historical meter data and the installation of a new meter, Chris Vose recommended adjusting the billing to reflect minimum usage, as this most accurately reflects provable water usage.

Action Taken: A motion was made to offer relief based on the recommendation of the City Engineer

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

- **ADJOURN**

Time: 12:15pm

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk