City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Business Meeting
Date: Monday, October 19, 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

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

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

		PRESENT	ABSENT / EXCUSED	LATE
Amy Praught	Mayor	X		
Michael Bowman	Council Member-at-Large	X		
Bradley Hayner	Council Member Ward 1		Excused	
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		
Scott DeNinno	Fire Chief	X		
David F. Gilbo	Chief of Police	X		
Christopher J. Vose	City Engineer		Excused	

- **PUBLIC COMMENT -** None

- **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Fee Schedule; Code Enforcement — Opened: 6:01pm — Closed: 6:01pm

Discussion: No public comment or discussion

- **APPROVE MINUTES**

1. September 21, 2026

Action Taken: Passed

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

- **APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

Action Taken: Passed

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

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

Public Works

- Animal Shelter Contract - The Council discussed the status of potential animal shelter contract arrangements. It was noted that Animal Control Officer Kim Walker had been looking into the matter, but an update was not yet available. The Council discussed identifying other facilities or organizations that might provide services at a cost-effective rate. The status of discussions with the SPCA and its new location was also raised.
- Parking and Traffic Concerns Near South Perry Street and School Athletic Events - The Council discussed ongoing traffic and parking problems near South Perry Street and the surrounding streets during school sporting events. Concerns included vehicles parking beyond posted no-parking signs, blocking sidewalks, obstructing accessible pedestrian routes, and creating unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians. Council members shared examples of difficulty navigating the streets when vehicles were parked on both sides. Chief Gilbo expressed that the school could utilize fields not being used to create additional parking

Police

- Breast Cancer Fundraising - The Council discussed Police Department fundraising involving a patrol vehicle decorated with pink ribbons in support of cancer-related causes. Donations were being collected, and the Council expressed support for the initiative. Members discussed opportunities for interested businesses and individuals to contribute through the Police Department.

Treasurer

- Sales Tax Revenue - The Council discussed the Treasurer's report and noted that sales tax revenue had increased substantially compared with the same period in the prior year. The increase was viewed positively, with discussion noting the addition of new businesses within the City.

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

Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board – read by Council Member Parker

- Wastewater treatment monitoring: The plant continued investigating reported results involving microorganisms in the wastewater stream. The matter was described as not being a major operational concern but one that required reporting to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and further investigation to determine the cause.
- Boiler repairs: One of the plant's two main boilers had developed a significant leak. The plant was evaluating the issue and preferred repair over replacement if feasible, given the anticipated cost of replacement.
- Artificial intelligence: Plant management had participated in a webinar examining the potential use of artificial intelligence tools in workplace operations.
- Engineering planning grant: The plant was moving forward with a $50,000 engineering planning grant involving Arcadis. The work would evaluate plant operations and potential improvements, including biosolids handling and the possible use of sludge-drying equipment.
- Personnel: Recruitment was underway for a laboratory technician position following notice of an upcoming retirement. No other vacancies were reported, and staffing was described as more stable than in prior years.
- 2027 budget: The tentative 2027 budget was being finalized. The Finance Committee was expected to meet in early November, with presentation to the Joint Sewer Board anticipated at its November meeting.
- Landfill agreement: The annual agreement with the Fulton County landfill was being renewed without changes to its terms.
- Electricity revenue: The plant reported approximately $4,131 in electricity generated and sold back to National Grid during August.

Planning Board – read by Council Member at Large Bowman

- E&J Jerome Service, 309 North Perry Street: The Planning Board approved the application to allow the business to include used motor vehicle sales.
- Eagle Property Management, 100 East State Street: The proposed neighborhood store application was denied following the Zoning Board of Appeals' determination.
- FAGE anaerobic digestion facility: Representatives presented information regarding the proposed facility. The Planning Board agreed to serve as lead agency for the SEQRA review, and further site plan review and a public hearing were anticipated.
- 81 Briggs Street: The Board discussed a proposed wellness spa and agreed to schedule a public hearing for November 3, 2026.
- Brooker Street: The Planning Board reviewed the Common Council's resolution concerning the proposed discontinuance of Brooker Street. The Board expressed no opposition to discontinuing the roadway as an active street and referred the matter back to the Common Council for further action. The Mayor discussed the Brooker Street proposal, noting the cost of maintaining the roadway and the absence of a direct property-tax benefit to the City. The proposal would involve removing the asphalt and restoring the area with topsoil and grass rather than undertaking costly roadway repairs.

Assessor's Report – read by Council Member Spritzer

- Residents purchasing homes were reminded to register for the New York State STAR Credit through the State's website or by contacting the State directly. It was also noted that eligible homeowners receiving the Enhanced STAR benefit in 2027 would be addressed through the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
- Senior citizen exemption renewal forms were expected to be mailed by the end of October. Completed forms must be filed with the Assessor's Office by March 1, 2027. The Assessor's Office continued work relating to the 2027 assessment roll.

Tourism Committee – presented by Council Member McCallum

- The Committee had discussed final preparations for the annual Harvest Fest on Main Street, which was reported to have been successful, with strong attendance and an increase in vendors. The Council thanked the Department of Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, and volunteers who helped make the event possible.
- The Committee also discussed upcoming events, including: The Colonial Stroll on December 4, 2026, The Winter Carnival scheduled for February 6, 2027 and Potential future events at the Fulton County Airport and Fox Run Golf Course which would include a possible food truck and vendor festival was discussed, including the possibility of a touch-a-truck event and a flyover. The Committee was exploring coordination with the Johnstown Area Community Center's annual fireworks display after the Fourth of July. Fox Run Golf Course was identified as a possible location for the event and a designated area for fireworks-related activities.

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

Ordinance 10. Fee Schedule; Code Enforcement

Action Taken: Passed

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

97. Advertise for Public Hearing; Brooker Street

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	McCallum	Ayes:	4	Absent:	1 (Hayner)

Seconded:	Council Member	Spritzer	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

98. Appoint Fair Housing Officer

Action Taken: Passed

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

99. Advertise for Public Hearing; 2027 Budget

Action Taken: Passed

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

Discussion: The Mayor thanked Treasurer Sue Conine, Council members Bowman and Parker, and the department heads who participated in the budget review process. The Mayor explained that the proposed budget included a 4% tax increase. The Mayor noted that the City had sought to balance affordability for taxpayers with the increasing costs of municipal operations, including fuel, diesel, materials, capital projects, and contractual obligations. The Mayor also discussed the proposed residential garbage collection contract; the proposal was not included in the budget at this time and would be reconsidered over the winter to determine whether an alternative approach could be pursued. A copy of the proposed budget will be available online and would also be available to residents through the City Clerk's Office. Residents with questions were encouraged to contact the City Clerk's Office for assistance in directing inquiries to the appropriate department head or City official.

100. Budget Transfers

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	Bowman	Ayes:	4	Absent:	1 (Hayner)
Seconded:	Council Member	Parker	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

101. City-owned property; 103 Water Street

Action Taken: Passed

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

102. Terminate Intergovernmental Agreement; County Tax Collection

Action Taken: Passed

Motion:	Council Member	McCallum	Ayes:	4	Absent:	1 (Hayner)
Seconded:	Council Member	Bowman	Noes:	0	Abstain:	0

Discussion: The City entered into an agreement with the County approximately two years ago for the County to collect City taxes. The arrangement had been intended as the County collects taxes for all other towns and cities in Fulton County and to relieve the City of the administrative burden associated with collecting delinquent taxes and conducting foreclosure proceedings. The Treasurer discussed the potential advantages of returning tax collection and foreclosure responsibilities to the City. These included retaining interest revenue on delinquent taxes, keeping foreclosure-related revenue within the City, and allowing the City greater control over properties acquired through foreclosure. The Treasurer explained that the volume of delinquent accounts was manageable and that the City's staff could handle the work. It was noted that termination required agreement by both parties. The County was expected to consider the matter at its meeting scheduled for October 29, 2026.

103. Appointment; Board of Assessment Review

Action Taken: Passed

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

104. Advertise for sale of surplus millings

Action Taken: Passed

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

Discussion: The Council discussed the quantity of millings accumulated through street milling and other City projects and the opportunity to generate revenue by making them available for sale. It was explained that asphalt millings can be reused for driveways, parking areas, pathways, and other applications where a stable base or surface is desired. The Council reviewed the proposed pricing schedule and discussed the delivery fee and the process for purchasing the material. Purchasers would be required to coordinate arrangements through the Engineer’s Office.

- **DISCUSSION**

1. Water Grievances - would be addressed at the following month's meeting.
2. Senior Center 60th Anniversary - Congratulated the Senior Center on its 60th anniversary and acknowledged the City's partnership with the organization. An anniversary event was scheduled for October 20, 2026, at the Holiday Inn.
3. Rose Knox Historical Event - An upcoming event at Knox concerning the history of Rose Knox and her connection to Johnstown. Author Rachel Greenfield was scheduled to speak at the event.
4. Breast Cancer Awareness Month - The Mayor recognized October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and expressed support for residents affected by breast cancer, including survivors, families, caregivers, and health care professionals. The City extended its encouragement and support to members of the community facing the disease.
5. Johnstown Area Community Center - Councilmember McCallum stated that they received an update concerning a grant recently awarded to the Johnstown Community Coalition to support community events and programming. Plans were being explored to open the Johnstown Area Community Center approximately two days per week for youth activities. Proposed activities could include board games, arcade games, and other supervised recreational activities. They acknowledged that planning and implementation would require additional work, including addressing applicable legal and operational requirements.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Trick or Treat – Saturday, October 31st 5:00 - 8:00pm
2. Curbside pickup for leaves and yard debris – November 2nd - 27th
3. Brush drop off closes Friday, November 27th
4. Election Day – Tuesday, November 3rd
5. Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11th; City offices closed
   Garbage Collection will be on Thursday, November 12th (double pickup)
6. Thanksgiving – City offices closed Thursday, November 26th & 27th
   Garbage Collection – Friday, November 27th (double pickup)
6. Holiday Parade & Colonial Stroll – Friday, December 4, 2026
7. Business Meeting – November 16th @ 6:00 pm

- **ADJOURN**

Time: 6:39pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk