



# City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Business Meeting  
 Date: Monday, October 21, 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		
Larry O'Regan	Fire Chief	X		
David F. Gilbo	Chief of Police	X		
Christopher J. Vose	City Engineer	X		
Diedrie M. Roemer	Director, Senior Citizens Program	X		

- PROCLAMATIONS**

- Noel Levee – City Historian

- 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.

Speakers: None

- PUBLIC SPEAKER**

- Brian Bertholf of B&L Family Development – purchased 605 S. Comrie Ave. in August from Red Carpet Housing, realized zoned as Industrial Commercial. Property is 14 acres but a majority is undevelopable because of wetlands. They are limited to the type of business they can have at that location. Request to make Arterial Commercial, like neighboring properties.

- PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- No Parking Anytime – Walnut Avenue
  - No Parking Here to Corner – Collingwood Avenue
  - Stop Sign – Linden Avenue
  - Recreation Committee
- Speakers: None  
 Discussion: None
- Opened: 6:11pm  
 Closed: 6:12pm

- **APPROVE MINUTES**

1. Business Meeting – September 16, 2024					
<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Spritzer	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member	Miller	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

- **APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Parker	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

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

The following questions were asked of departments:

Public Works: Vose stated leaf pickup until end of November; brush drop off will remain open as long as there isn't any snow. Patching potholes continues.

Police: Gilbo stated it's a misdemeanor to tamper with political signs. Body cams are working great, cutting down on complaints

Treasurer: AUDs should be done by end of the week, waiting on CPA firm

Spritzer asked about the Briggs St. property – Mayor stated that the City now officially owns the property. She and the City Engineer walked the property to get ideas for future. Fix out building, bathrooms, fencing, repair basketball hoops and seal court. Would like to look in to getting grants for playground equipment, ice rink. Need lighting, cameras, and signage. Deed stipulates that a substantial portion of the property be maintained as recreational use. Organizations have reached out to use the fields, will require permitting – will look how that will be handled.

Parker thanked DPW for sidewalk work in front of City Hall

Miller commented on Montgomery & S. Perry sidewalk – excellent job

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

Sewer Board:	Chris Vose -	Compliance testing being completed. Will be able to begin generating power once again. Carver Sand & Gravel awarded bid for emergency slope repair. Bob Yagel has begun working at plant again as a non-union operator for 4A licensing requirements.
Planning Board:	Scott Jeffers -	Vital Signs and Graphics requested sign for business on Arterial, doesn't meet code. Tabled
Assessor's Office:	Scott Miller -	Library learning landscape, public hearing set for November New homeowners need to register for the STAR Credit, Contact the STAR Hotline questions regarding STAR Credit checks, Assessor's Office continues to work on the 2025 roll

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

3 Ordinance; No Parking Anytime – Walnut Avenue					
<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member		Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
Discussion:	None				
4 Ordinance; No Parking Here to Corner – Collingwood Avenue					
<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Miller	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member		Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
Discussion:	None				
5 Ordinance; Stop Sign – Linden Avenue					
<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Parker	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member		Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

Discussion: Parker asked once the Ordinance approved will the street be open. Vose confirmed.

6 Ordinance; Recreation Committee

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Spritzer Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: None

62. ~~Advertise for Public Hearing; Amend Zoning~~

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Jeffers Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: Pulled and made part of Resolution #73, 2024

63. Accept Proposal for the Roof Replacement – Fire Dept.

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Hayner Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: Spritzer asked the timeline. O'Regan stated that company just waiting on approval to begin – within next month. Money was taken from ambulance budget.

64. Court Cleaning; Unified Court System

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Miller Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: None

65. City-owned property; 14 Snyder Ave

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Parker Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: None

66. Advertise city-owned property

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Spritzer Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: Miller asked if anyone could put in an offer before properties go out to bid. Attorney stated that no, everyone needs opportunity to bid

67. Advertise Surplus Equipment

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Jeffers Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: Parker asked if Vose felt most vehicles would be able to be sold. Vose believed they would

68. Adopt Five Year Housing Choice Voucher Plan

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Hayner Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0  
Discussion: Parker asked what this was for; Clerk confirmed for rental assistance program

69. MOA – School Resource Officer

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Miller Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: Spritzer asked if this was for a backup role. Gilbo said that this was a contract we needed in order to indicate how being paid.

70. West State Street Bridge replacement; Authorize funding

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Parker Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: Vose said this project is scheduled tentatively for 2027

71. Townsend Avenue Bridge Replacement; Supplemental Agreement #1

Action Taken

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

Discussion: Spritzer asked why agreement is increasing. Vose stated cost have increased since 2018; trying to finalize right of way. On pace for construction next year. Miller wasn't comfortable with contract, felt we had a contract and money quoted should stand – felt project should be rebid being contract expired in 2021. Vose stated that City has the right to extend the Contract pursuant to a Supplemental Agreement. Vose stated that due to no particular fault the right of way process has been very convoluted and extended the project 2 years past due date.

72. Dispose of Surplus Bicycles

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Jeffers Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: None

73. Advertise for Public Hearing; Amend Zoning

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Hayner Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: None

74. SEQR; Zoning

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Miller Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: None

75. Seeley Office Systems: Accept proposal

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Parker Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: Spritzer asked if contract covers all bells and whistles for all department; Mayor confirmed

~~76. City owned property; 4 Hoffman Street~~

~~Action Taken~~

~~Motion: Council Member Spritzer Ayes: Absent:~~  
~~Seconded: Council Member Noes: Abstain:~~

Discussion: Resolution pulled prior to meeting

77. Authorize GPI to solicit bids; Cork Center Reservoir

Action Taken

Motion: Council Member Jeffers Ayes: 5 Absent: 0  
Seconded: Council Member Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

Discussion: None

78.	Advertise for Public Hearing; 2025 Budget				
<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member		Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
Discussion:	Mayor stated there would be a 2% tax increase				
79.	Authorize sale of obsolete ambulance				
<u>Action Taken</u>					
Motion:	Council Member	Miller	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member		Noes:	0	Abstain: 0
Discussion:	Parker asked how the lease for other ambulance is going. O'Regan said just waiting on stretcher and should be in service within a few weeks.				

• **DISCUSSION**

- Mayor Praught thanked the City departments for their involvement in a successful Harvest Fest. Scott Miller was winner of Chili Cook-off; 1<sup>st</sup> Place and People's Choice

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Trick or Treat – Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 6-8pm
2. Election Day – Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>
3. Veterans Day – Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – City offices closed (working on Veterans Program)
4. Colonial Little Theatre presents Suessical Jr. – November 8<sup>th</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>
5. Holiday Parade & Colonial Stroll – Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>
6. Business Meeting – November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

• **WATER GRIEVANCES**

A meeting was held prior to the Council meeting to hear grievances on 7 properties regarding their water bill. City Engineer Vose and Council Members Jeffers and Hayner were present for the meeting. The following properties were discussed and outcomes are as follows:

1. 14 E. Fourth Avenue
2. 303 W. Montgomery Street

*Discussion:* Both matters were tabled in order to obtain further information.

Action Taken: None

Motion:	Council Member	Jeffers	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member	Miller	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

  

3. 37 Yost Street

*Discussion:* Meter install error

Action Taken: Give relief, will take average of last 3 billing cycles; no penalties

Motion:	Council Member	Jeffers	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member	Miller	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

  

4. 106 Glebe Street
5. 175 E. State Street
6. 29 S. William Street

*Discussion:* properties showed no reason for abnormal billing other than higher usage.

Action Taken: Recommended that homeowners pay the water bill; no relief offered. 10 days to pay from date of notification. In addition, it was recommended that 106 Glebe St. pay the fee for a new transmitter box that was removed from the residence by the homeowner.

Motion:	Council Member	Jeffers	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member	Hayner	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

• **ADJOURN**

Time: 6:57 pm

Motion:	Council Member	Hayner	Ayes:	5	Absent: 0
Seconded:	Council Member	Miller	Noes:	0	Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie M. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk