City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Business Meeting
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026
Time: 12:00 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	X		
Vincent McCallum	Council Member Ward 2		Absent	
Eric Parker	Council Member Ward 3	X		
Max Spritzer	Council Member Ward 4	X		
Sue Conine	City Treasurer		Excused	
Michael M. Albanese	City Attorney		Excused	
Carrie M. Allen	City Clerk	X		
Scott DeNinno	Fire Chief		Excused	
David F. Gilbo	Chief of Police		Excused	
Christopher J. Vose	City Engineer	X		

- **PUBLIC COMMENT -** None

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

105. Award demolition contract; 5-7 N. Melcher Street

Action Taken

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

Discussion: Council members discussed the qualifications and experience of the contractors who submitted bids. In response to a question regarding the recommended contractor, the City Engineer explained that, although he had not personally worked with the company, both the City's grant writer, Nick Zabowski, and CT Male had prior experience with the contractor and had provided positive feedback regarding its work.

The Council discussed the scope of the contract, confirming that the demolition and cleanup were included in the contract price, with landfill tipping fees handled separately. The City Engineer explained that the City would coordinate with the landfill to facilitate the disposal of materials.

Given the deteriorating condition of the building and the approaching winter season, the Council asked about the anticipated schedule. The City Engineer stated that, following approval and issuance of the notice of award, the contractor could begin preparatory work. The contractor would need to comply with the required Department of Labor notification period, obtain the necessary permits, and submit the required documentation to the landfill. The anticipated start date was approximately November 16. The City Engineer estimated that the building itself could be brought down in approximately two days, although completing all cleanup before the end of the year would depend on weather and other conditions. If the work could not be completed, the immediate hazard would be addressed and the site secured for the winter.

The City Engineer described the building's structural deterioration, explaining that its condition had worsened significantly over the preceding three months. During an earlier inspection, the north wall showed signs of bowing, in addition to two exterior walls that had already partially collapsed. A subsequent inspection revealed that four joists between the first and second and second and third floors had failed along the north side, contributing to further collapse and bowing of the wall. Cracking in the interior stairwell had

also worsened. Following a final inspection with the structural engineer, the building was determined to be unsafe to enter. The City Engineer emphasized the need to proceed promptly to mitigate the danger.

The Council also discussed notification and protection of nearby property owners and businesses during demolition. The City had already been in contact with the owner of the property immediately north of the building. The contractor would be required to contact properties within the applicable distance of the demolition site and address dust-control requirements. The City intended to notify surrounding property owners and coordinate with the appropriate City personnel, including the safety officers, Police and Fire Chiefs, and City Engineer, once a demolition date was established.

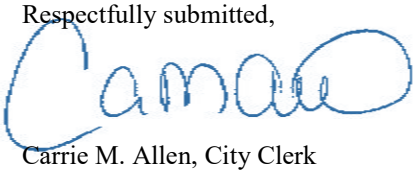
The City Engineer explained the street would be closed between Main and McMartin Street, and that a detour could be arranged if necessary. Water was available nearby for dust control. The City Engineer further explained that the City generally does not abate properties prior to demolition because of the expense; instead, the structures are removed and the sites are cleared, with material handled according to applicable disposal requirements, being treated as friable.

- **ADJOURN**

Time: 12:07pm

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk