# City of Johnstown

Meeting: Common Council, Business Meeting
Date: Monday, September 21, 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 Agenda*

- **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 | X | | |
| Eric Parker | Council Member Ward 3 | X | | |
| Max Spritzer | Council Member Ward 4 | X | | |
| Sue Conine | City Treasurer | | Excused | |
| 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 | X | | |

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  1. Michael Bochenek of 9 Wells Street – spoke regarding flooding issues on his property, perhaps coming from school. Would like the City to look in to, scope drain? He provided his phone number for follow-up.
  2. Jacob Gleghorn of 14 S. Chase Street – thanked the city for taking down the trees, he said it makes a big difference and complimented the city on how good everything looks.

- **APPROVE MINUTES**

1. August 17, 2026

*Action Taken: Approved*

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

2. August 18, 2026 – Special Meeting

*Action Taken: Approved*

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

1. September 1, 2026 – Special Meeting

*Action Taken: Approved*

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

- **APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

*Action Taken*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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.

In addition to the reports on file, additional discussion was had with the departments:

**Fire/Codes**

- The Council received an update regarding department staffing and training. Kevin Kalkovich has begun New York State-required first-line supervisor training. It was reported that two firefighters are currently attending the fire academy and one firefighter has completed the academy and is in paramedic training.
- The department was reported to be at full staffing in terms of personnel, although several members remain in various stages of required training.

**Engineer**

- Paving is going well. Approximately 80% complete after this week.
- The Council discussed recent improvements associated with the demolition of 2-10 S. Perry and the resulting sidewalk and parking lot improvements. The parking lot was reported to be well utilized and has provided additional parking in the area, helping to remove vehicles from Main Street.
- It was also reported that additional work remains at the bakery property. The remaining portion of the roof is part of the demolition work. When that work is undertaken, the parking lot adjacent to the bakery will need to be temporarily closed for approximately one day. The Council was advised that additional information would be provided when the work is scheduled.
- In the matter of N. Chase & Cloverdale, concerns regarding loose stones and roadway conditions. It was reported that stones have become scattered throughout the area and could potentially be thrown by lawnmowers, creating a hazard to nearby windows, vehicles, or individuals. The condition was noted as having existed for some time. The Council discussed ongoing restoration work associated with National Grid and whether restoration of affected lawns and areas would address some of the concerns. Engineer is waiting on answer from National Grid.

**Police**

- The Council discussed the recent multi-agency law enforcement operation involving the Johnstown Police Department and other agencies. The operation resulted in 53 traffic stops, 14 arrests, five felony charges, and 17 misdemeanor charges, as well as the seizure of drugs, including cocaine and methamphetamine, along with other evidence and cash. The Council discussed the value of multi-agency cooperation and the additional resources and technology available through partnerships with agencies including the FBI and DEA.
- The Police Department also addressed enforcement of parking on public sidewalks. Residents were reminded that vehicles parked on public sidewalks may be ticketed and that residents should contact the Police Department when sidewalk obstruction occurs. The Council discussed the importance of maintaining sidewalks for pedestrians, including individuals walking dogs and children walking home from school, and avoiding situations where pedestrians are forced into the roadway.
- The Chief's report also included a reminder that schools are back in session and motorists must stop for school buses displaying their red warning lights. The Police Department will be actively enforcing the requirement. It was further reported that a patrol unit will follow school buses at an appropriate distance to observe and address motorists who fail to stop.

**Treasurer**

- The Council discussed the collection of property taxes, which was reported to be above 90%.
- Sales tax revenue was also discussed. August sales tax revenue was reported to be approximately 18% higher than August of the prior year.

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

**Joint Wastewater**

- Councilmember Parker spoke on the September meeting held September 9th
- The Board has been monitoring issues related to a Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test. The plant had failed several tests, which are used to evaluate the effect of discharged effluent on microorganisms. A retest is anticipated, and the matter continues to be monitored.
- A leak in the sewer system was also discussed. The leak had a minimal impact on plant operations. A temporary repair was installed and permanent repairs are underway.
- The City of Johnstown Department of Public Works is assisting with patching roadways in the area. It was reported that some roads have sustained significant damage over the years and that larger paving projects may need to be contracted out.
- A long-term laboratory technician is retiring this month and the position will be posted.
- The Board's final audit has been completed, with no financial issues reported. Copies of the audit are available through the Sewer Plant's website.
- The Board is also working on a new power purchase agreement with National Grid and has begun the process of preparing the 2027 budget.
- For July, the Sewer Plant generated approximately 5,350 units of electricity, which was sold back to National Grid.

**Planning** – Councilmember Bowman read the Planning Board Report

**Assessor -** Councilman Spritzer read the Assessor's Report

**Tourism -** Councilman McCallum reported that the Tourism meeting was being held concurrently

- The 2026 Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026, beginning at noon in the Park. Activities will include events in downtown Johnstown, the annual Halloween parade on Main Street, a chili cook-off, live music and performances, and children's activities. The parade lineup begins at 11:30 a.m. in front of City Hall.

- **RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, LOCAL LAWS**

85. Demo Projects – Unlisted Action

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

86. Ambulance Donation

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

87. Decommission of Gamewell Fire Alarm Boxes

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

88. Advertise for Public Hearing – Fee Schedule; Code Enforcement

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

89. Brooker Street Closure

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

90. Budget Transfer

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

91. MRB Group – Engineering & Grant Services

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

92. MOA – Firefighter Sick Time Cash-out

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

93. MOA – Medic Compensatory Time Work Schedule

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

94. EMT – FSLA OT Rule and Payout

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

95. West & Company - Audit

*Action Taken: Passed*

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

96. Advertise for RFP – Demolition; 7 N. Melcher St.

*Action Taken: Passed*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Motion: | Council Member | McCallum | Ayes: | 5 | Absent: | 0 |
| Seconded: | Council Member | Spritzer | Noes: | 0 | Abstain: | 0 |

- **WATER GRIEVANCES –** only if necessary

1. 11 Hall Avenue - The Council had previously tabled the matter in order to obtain and review a follow-up data log. The additional data had been received and, based upon the information reviewed, no issues were identified. City Engineer recommended denial of the request.

Action Taken: A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the City Engineer to deny relief.

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

- **DISCUSSION**

The Council was advised that budget numbers are being finalized and that the City anticipates having a proposed budget available for presentation to the public and Council for review by approximately October 1, 2026.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

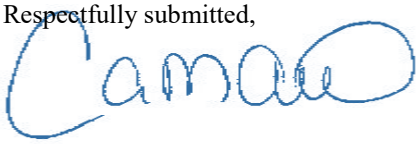
1. Sunset Market – Thursday, September 24th 5:30 - 8pm
2. Columbus Day, October 12th – City offices closed
3. Colonial Little Theatre; Little Shop of Horrors – October 2nd – 11th
4. Harvest Festival – Saturday, October 17th 12 - 4pm
5. Business Meeting – October 19th @ 6:00 pm

- **ADJOURN**

Time: 6:50 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk