



Regular Council
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for September 2, 2025 at 6:40 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan

Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Staneart - City Manager, Dave Delande - Finance Director, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Nick Hubbell, Matthew Huggins, Renee Shumate, Todd McConnell

3. Invocation

Mayor Barnard

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to accept as written; Bob Orsini seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Mayor Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Dave Selan, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

6. Action on Minutes

a. August 19, 2025

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to accept as written; Bob Orsini seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Mayor Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Dave Selan, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

7. Proclamation - Licking County Soil & Water River Round Up

a. Proclamation

Mayor Barnard said we are hosting a site this year in Johnstown on Saturday, September 6th. They will be walking Raccoon Creek from 62 to Mink and cleaning it up. Mayor Barnard read the proclamation recognizing the 30th annual Licking County River Roundup.

8. Proclamation
City Council honored former Mayor Steve Wingo, Councilman Jeff Barr read a proclamation and thanked him for his service to the city.
9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda
No comments
10. Council Committee reports
 - a. **Planning & Zoning:** 8/26/25 canceled; Next 9/9/25 @ 6:30 pm council chambers
 - b. **Design Review Board:** Met 8/26/25; Next 9/9/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
Application review for exterior changes to 67 S. Main, the old hardware store. Tabled pending revised design.
 - c. **Safety & Service:** 9/2/25; Next 10/7/25 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
Discussion on roundabout design for Duncan Plains and Mink, forwarded recommendation to Finance Committee. Discussed designs for city street signs, waiting on mockups. Talked about the OPWC application, will finalize in October, submit in November. Ongoing discussion on the Bigelow Drive traffic signal and solicitation permits. Mr. Barr asked if Ms. Monroe to provide a narrative for staff as to why the Bigelow Drive traffic light has not been turned on for residents who inquire.
 - d. **Finance:** Next 9/16/25 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
11. Director Reports
 - a. Service Departments; Water, Sewer, Street
Reports included with the packet. Jack Liggett highlighted that the city set a record in the month of August, just under a million gallons of bulk water was sold to people outside of Johnstown.
 - b. Service Director
Report included with the packet. Jack Liggett highlighted items within. Mayor Barnard asked if council members could get a copy of the presentation given by the city at the One Water State conference.
12. Tabled Legislation - None
13. Public Hearings of Legislation
 - a. **ORDINANCE 07-2025** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 19-2023, SECTION 2.3 PERMITTED AND CONDITIONAL USES IN THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
Second reading. Sean Stanearth said council heard a presentation by AEP and Bloom Energy at the last meeting. Passing this would change the text in the PD Ordinance to allow for the conditional use specifically for data centers.

There were no questions or comments by council.

Public Hearing: There were no comments either for or against the legislation.

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve as written; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

b. **RESOLUTION 2025-35** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GREEN CHAPEL ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Mr. Staneart said if council wants longer to look at this, it could be sent to Safety & Service committee, he said Green Chapel Road is a little bit of an oddity because of where it exists and where we exist and where New Albany exists, this is the dividing line between both municipalities. New Albany has a certain design standard, they have taken the initiative and said they will construct that roadway segment. This is an agreement allowing them to operate within our side of the right of way. They will put in the fencing, the road, other various elements, it does have a shared use path associated with it. Mr. Staneart said with this agreement, they tried to "future proof" in case there were additional annexations along Green Chapel. He said there were many involved in reviewing this agreement, city legal counsel, himself, New Albany, New Albany Company.

Mayor Barnard referenced page 50 of the packet and asked if the city was giving ownership of that side of the road to New Albany or just to operate the right of way. Mr. Staneart said that is a little tricky to answer, the right of way is getting shifted so ownership would be going to New Albany, but we will still have some north of that, we are giving up some land, but also still maintaining some of the right of way outside of the roadway, we are giving up some ownership but retaining a segment that actually touches the road. Mr. Staneart said this is a complex document. Discussion on further review by either Safety & Service Committee or Planning & Zoning Commission; decision made to forward to Planning & Zoning Commission.

ACTION:	Mayor Barnard moved to table; Ryan Green seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES:	Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 7 - 0

14. Introduction of Legislation

a. **ORDINANCE 08-2025** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART THREE – TRAFFIC CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

Mayor Barnard said this legislation adds Jersey Street, Edwards Road and Concord Road to the list of roads that through trucks cannot travel. This will cut down on the traffic to SR 37 eliminating some of the traffic that tears up the downtown. There are a tremendous number of dump trucks that come down Mink, turn on 37 and travel down Main Street. He said this is the city's attempt to alleviate some of that. Mr. Orsini said the trucks deteriorate the roads and the citizens pay for the roads, the companies that make money by driving the trucks should avoid the roads they are not helping to pay for. The "teeth" will be enforcement and the penalty could be raised to make violation a meaningful deterrent, he said we are not built for truck traffic. Ms. Hollis added that Edwards and Concord may not have as much truck traffic, but they are all cross points for school kids, all of those roads include some type of travel to or from school. Mr. Orsini said that he walked his daughter to school, she pushed the button and so many cars went through, it cycled the entire light, semi-truck drivers, like nothing is happening. He said he eventually walked out into the road and traffic stopped, we have an issue with people stopping at the crossing lights, there is no way he would let his fourth grader walk up and cross the road by herself.

Mayor Barnard opened the floor to any public comments. Matthew Huggins said he completely agrees about the dump trucks, large semis etc. but referenced the language on trucks exceeding five tons and said that is only ten thousand pounds, so it could punish residents that have an F250

or F350 truck with a travel trailer on the back. Ms. Hollis stated that would not be through traffic, this says passing through the city without making a delivery or pickup within the city, so as long as they are stopping and starting within the city, they are not considered through traffic.

Jack Liggett said the placement of these signs could become a question, if you come to the Corp limit and have the no through truck sign, but they have no place to turn off, what then. Mayor Barnard said putting the sign before Duncan Plains was discussed. Mr. Liggett asked if we were ok to put city signs outside of the city limit. Mayor Barnard said he would talk to Monroe and Liberty Townships.

Todd McConnell said he lives on US 62 and asked if this would prohibit large travel busses passing through. Mr. Barr said this is not prohibiting travel on 62 or 37, they can still get through town. Mr. Orsini said they want to keep large vehicles off the side streets that aren't built for that traffic.

The public hearing and vote will be September 16, 2025.

15. Charter Review Discussion

Tiffany Hollis said they don't have to review the Charter except every ten years, but they have talked about revisiting it and opening up for commission members, the last time it was reviewed was 2018 and no changes were made. She said since then, we have become a city so it would behoove them to at least get that commission established and at least start reviewing it and have time to go through it. Discussion on the membership requirements, the Charter states that the Charter Review Commission shall be made up of five electors of the municipality, one of which may be a council member. The Charter states that every ten years, council shall appoint members to review and recommend any revisions to council. Mayor Barnard said we would be starting this basically two years early. Mr. Orsini said his read is there is no minimum requirement between reviews, it just has to be done at least every ten years, there were no objections to starting early. The application deadline was set for November 15th.

16. Other Business

1. Bob Orsini continues to remind the public that the blinking lights mean something, school kids crossing the roads.

2. Friday, September 12th is the ribbon cutting for the high school building addition, they have been invited to attend.

2. Ryan Green asked if the city had any auction items coming up. Mr. Liggett said a few trucks, a pile of old signs and some traffic lights, and a pop machine. They will be listed on the Gov Deal auction site.

3. Sean Staneart said that last week council passed legislation authorizing him to enter into a contract for the water treatment plant with an associated price tag of \$34,000, he said that was from old legislation. He said it should be \$43,000, all of our numbers and analysis are based on the \$43,000, he just wanted to call that out. He said they did check with legal and Ohio EPA and they said what we passed was sufficient. Mr. Barr said Sean had previously presented on the math and science of all of this, it made a lot of sense to him and he found it very informative, he thinks a workshop on this would be good for all of council because at the end he felt more comfortable with the project. Mr. Staneart said he intended to review this again at the next Finance Committee on 9/16 and anyone can come and listen.

4. Sean Staneart asked council if there was a desire to put an RFQ out for city engineer for 2026. He said this has been brought up in the past, they can certainly stay with EMH&T, he is completely fine with them but didn't want to wait until the eleventh hour if there was a desire. Ryan Green said he doesn't think it hurts to shop and originally when we hired them, it was going to be for six months and then potentially look at somebody else. Mr. Barr said but they are not shopping, they are not paying for anything, that is for their services. Mr. Staneart said he thinks they have a first-class firm compared to other alternatives, there are other firms out there, and they have different strengths and weaknesses associated with different types of engineering, but EMH&T is certainly a qualified and respected firm within the State of Ohio. Discussion on history and some past firms, Mr. Staneart said this is not something that has to be shopped out but getting an indication from

them last year that they may want to, he made a note to bring it up. Mayor Barnard asked what council wanted to do, there were no comments and Mr. Barr said if he is reading the room for Sean, he doesn't need to do anything. Mr. Staneart said then we can stay with EMH&T. Jeff Barr said what he thinks we should do going forward with professional services is formalize an agreement with a time frame. Mr. Staneart said the City Law Director is the same, it is a professional service, it does not have to go out to bid, if he gets an indication from council that they want to shop it out, he certainly would, if there is no indication, we typically stick with the same company. Mr. Staneart added that it is written into the agreements that it is not exclusive. There was no further discussion.

5. Farmers market is tomorrow 4:30-7:30 uptown.

6. River Roundup this Saturday, 9am meet at Whits.

7. Mayor Barnard thanked the owners of the new El Ray, they have cleaned up the alleyway and it is beautiful.

8. Mayor Barnard has asked Chief Smart to get with our law director to get legislation on golf carts, that they formally recognize them in town.

a. Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat in the City of Johnstown was set for Thursday, October 30, 2025 from 6 pm - 8 pm.

17. Executive Session to discuss pending court action

18. Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee

ACTION: Mayor Barnard moved to enter Executive Session to discuss pending court action and to consider the employment of a public employee, to include all council members, city manager and city attorney by phone, with no action after; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

It was noted that the city Law Director did not need to stay for the second session.

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:45 pm and returned to Regular Session at 10:07 pm.

19. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion and second to adjourn the meeting carried 7-0 and the meeting ended at 10:07 pm.

Next Council Meeting; September 23, 2025