



Regular Council
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for October 21, 2025 at 6:36 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, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Nick Hubbell, Phil Watts, Nick Cermak, Barb Watts, Justin Mead, Jim Hill, Steve Dyer, Matthew Huggins, Jamie McNally, Beth Kisher Olds, Terri Fetters, Dan Sewberry, Mike Sileargy

3. Invocation

Councilman Barr

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve as written; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

6. Swearing In - PD

Mayor Barnard swore in Justin Mead as a Johnstown Police Officer and Officer Mark Lopez to the rank of Sergeant.

7. Action on Minutes a. September 16, 2025 b. October 7, 2025

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve en bloc; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

8. Correspondence

a. Department of Commerce; Liquor Control

Council previously asked the applicant of a TREX permit to attend for further explanation of their project plans.

Phil Watts, President of Granville Milling attended and said their business has changed quite a bit since the community is changing, less rural, less agricultural, and to make their business viable and lasting, he said they think they need to add some more to it. He said this is what they did in Pataskala (beer and wine drive through) and it has helped their business considerably, so they wanted to do the same in Johnstown. Renderings were provided to council members showing a drive-through building beside the existing Granville Milling store. Mr. Watts said this would be a million dollar investment to increase sales, estimated at \$750,000 extra per year, based on what they are doing in Pataskala. Discussion on the increase in traffic turning in from US62, estimated 25-50 extra cars per day. Mr. Watts said there will be two drive-through lanes, one for feed and one for beer, which should eliminate any backups. Mr. Kobel asked if the store hours would change, Mr. Cermak said they would probably tack on another hour to be open from 9am-7pm instead of 9am-6pm and a little longer on Sunday. It was noted that the proposed building would need to go through all the proper application processes for Design Review Board and Planning & Zoning.

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to approve the TREX application and add the additional liquor license; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Jim Hill

- Addressed council asking about their timeline for Charter review. Ms. Hollis said that a lot has changed since the last review so in her opinion, sooner rather than later. Mr. Hill asked if there were any specific changes council would like to review. Mr. Barr said they could look at how the Finance Director position is hired and who they report to. Mr. Hill said he was the Chair of the original Charter Commission in 1997 and a member of the Charter Review Commission in 2008 and in 2018. He said he would be willing to be a resource of information and assistance to the Charter Review Commission when next convened. The city is advertising for letters of interest, a deadline of November 21, 2025 was set.

10. Council Committee reports

a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 10/14/25; Next 11/12/25 @ 6:30 pm council chambers

The commission reviewed an application for zoning amendment, the old K-Ceps service center requesting to change from residential to GCC-1, recommended by the commission, council will see the application for decision on November 18th. Approval of a lot split on Williams, just a small sliver then combination for a driveway expansion. Conditional Use and Variance requests were approved for the water treatment plant expansion, and board continued review of the Light Manufacturing code edits.

b. **Design Review Board:** Met 10/14/25; Next 11/12/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers

Approval of exterior building modifications for the old hardware building downtown, approval of a home and garage addition on North Main, approval of design for a new building on Greenscape and discussed a strategy for the joint meeting with council on the Design Guidelines.

- c. **Safety & Service:** 10/21/25; Next 11/5/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
Continued discussion on the US62/37 intersection, review of OPWC project proposals from EMH&T. Decision to remove a tree that straddles city and private property at TJ Evans Park using city tree funds.
- d. **Finance:** 10/21/25; Next 11/18/25 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
Committee recommendation for OPWC projects; paving SR37 with Leafy Dell and the US62/37 intersection. Legislation will be seen on November 5th and will need to be attached to the application for submittal by the 7th. Sean Staneart said he would like to have discussion by council tonight or at least a nod, that those are agreeable. Mr. Staneart asked if everyone was in agreement that these are the two projects council would like to see go forward for the OPWC application. Mayor Barnard asked if anybody disagreed with what they are doing. There were no objections by any council member.

Committee also discussed the roundabout that will be at Mink and Duncan Plains, they elected to go with the design that had the brick versus the granite. Jeff Barr said there may be opportunity to push the envelope a little bit on the granite, if money wasn't an object, what they heard was the granite would be a more durable surface, maintenance would be about the same. Mr. Barr said if there was opportunity, there might be some expense to the city, he would like to propose they give Sean some direction that if he could get granite for "x", do they want to give him that latitude to financially commit. Mr. Barr said if we have the opportunity to go with the granite and it would cost the city say \$25,000, he would give a thumbs up. Mr. Barnard said if it was under \$50,000 he would be good with that. Mr. Staneart said if he were able to have the developer in that area pay for that up front and do a loan situation payable through the NCAs and TIFFs associated with the PD district, would that change the direction on the choice, essentially no out of pocket cost. Mr. Staneart clarified the ask, he said if he were to be able to get the granite improvements as well as some decorative landscaping associated with trees done without any cost out of the CIP or General fund, would council be agreeable to that, outside of \$20,000 or \$30,000 out of CIP or General, if he could get the rest of it out of an additional funding source albeit NCA's or TIFFs they would be ok? Council indicated that they would be good with that. Mr. Barr said he would be more favorable of the granite. Mr. Staneart said to highlight what Mr. Barr is saying, there is an ROI component that exists with granite, the concrete is going to degrade much quicker, the granite will remain in tact, it is pay now or pay later, it is forward thinking. He added that the TID is taking care of the overall cost of this at five million, our portion is relatively light and he appreciates the TID for funding it. Ms. Hollis said that she would ask that whatever they do with this roundabout, they carry out the same design on future ones, they have to know they will be on the hook for that in the future.

11. Director Reports

- a. Chief of Police
Report included in the packet, Chief Smart answered questions on items within.
- b. City Manager
Report included in the packet, no questions asked.

12. Tabled Legislation - None

13. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 11-2025** AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN. *Intro and Public Hearing held Oct 7, 2025*
Second reading. Jamie McNally with the New Albany Company and the Johnstown Land Company was present and said this is the last "missing tooth" on Green Chapel, the neighboring properties around this parcel would all be the same zoning and this would be absorbed so it would all be one consistent site with all the same ownership.

There were no questions or discussion by council.

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

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve Ordinance 11-2025 as written; Wesley Kobel seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Bob Orsini, Dave Selan, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 7 - 0

- b. **ORDINANCE 09-2025** AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN THAT HAVE AN ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMIT NOT GREATER THAN 35 MILES PER HOUR.

Mayor Barnard said he would like to strike Section 2 (b) 2-4 of the ordinance to not allow golf carts on State Route 62 but to allow them on all other roads. Mr. Selan asked for the reasoning. Mayor Barnard said for Edwards and Jersey, a seven year old can take his bike and ride down Edwards but we are going to mandate that a golf cart can't. He understands that 62 is a main thoroughfare, but thinks that 37 could work, that there is more traffic on 62 than 37. Dave Selan said when they came to the twenty-one age restriction, his concern is that it creates additional strain on the police department. He understands it injects the hope of better judgment but that is no guarantee. Mr. Barnard said he would like to strike that too.

Public Hearing:

1. Steve Dyer

- Asked council to think about designing the downtown for people instead of trucks. He referenced the Village of Johnstown Active Transportation Plan adopted in 2021 that states they need to build a network that is safe and easy to use by people of all ages and abilities, and that they should design infrastructure so that people can walk, bike and roll and not just restrict the uses of it. He said downtown we have parades, 5Ks, events, farmers markets, businesses, festivals, people want to be there, so he thinks we should design it for the people and not worry about the trucks. Currently, a kindergartner can walk down Main Street, cross the street and get to school, but his seventeen year old daughter on a golf cart is dangerous, he thinks that is weird. He proposes lowering the speed limit on Main Street as much as they can to 25 mph. He said they need to include pavement markings that restrict the lane to make it appear it is thinner than it is and then come in when you come to a crosswalk, New Albany and Granville do these things and they also have no restrictions for golf carts. The State of Ohio requires age sixteen and above for drivers, he hopes the decision to make that twenty-one is based on evidence and data about golf cart drivers at young ages. He asks if it is safer to make more restrictions or to move toward a walkable downtown.

2. Matthew Huggins

- Does not own a golf cart, but thinks the ordinance as written is bad. The ORC already regulates golf carts, as a city we don't have that many people driving golf carts, he estimates ten to fifteen right now, he does not see that they are that big of a hindrance to us in town, on any road. He does understand the 62/37 because there is a lot of traffic, but you can't legislate goodness, common sense or morality. If his child, at the age of sixteen, is approved by the State of Ohio, to get a driver's license, and drive a four thousand pound missile that could very effectively do one hundred miles per hour, then, they should be able to drive a golf cart that averages about fifteen miles per hour, he does not think there should be an age restriction. He said the state has already given us rules on these, he said this should be voted down, or not even brought up for vote, he doesn't think it is needed.

Mayor Barnard said golf carts are legal for the State of Ohio, but currently based on our ordinances, are not allowed on our city streets, Chief Smart said that was correct and we have every right to change the law issued by the state and ORC to fit our city. Some further discussion on the age restriction, passengers, loud music, inspections and the ORC. Sean Staneart said that ORC states that within municipal boundaries, golf carts are not allowed. He said they could reference the ORC but allow them inside the city. Chief Smart said if legislation is not passed, golf carts are not allowed in the city. More discussion on the restricted roads listed in the legislation.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to accept Ordinance 09-2025 as written with amendments to strike Section 2 (b) changing the at least twenty-one years of age to a licensed driver, and striking items 2), 3), and 4), SR37, Edwards, and W. Jersey St.; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Mayor Barnard, Wesley Kobel, Jeff Barr, Tiffany Hollis
NOES: Ryan Green, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 4 - 3

14. Introduction of Legislation - None

15. Other Business

1. Jeff Barr thanked all of the volunteer coaches and commissioners of the JYAA fall sports program, he said they put a lot of time and energy into it, often times with little thanks or appreciation.
2. Tiffany Hollis asked if there was an update on the no through truck signs. Mr. Liggett said he got them in, they will be installed Thursday and Friday this week.
3. Sean Staneart said there was some conversation on mayoral signs but staff would need direction from council in order to move forward. The other piece, is a conceptual idea (being discussed in committee), of replacing, as they age out, street signage within Johnstown with a uniform standardized sign with some type of branding. Mr. Green asked what the plan with the mayor signs was, Ms. Hollis said they discussed having mayor signs at the entrances to the city. Mr. Orsini said since we have a weak mayor system, a mayoral designation is not something he would support, Mr. Selan agreed. Ms. Hollis said it was her idea, she supports it. Mr. Kobel said that sign would need to be changed quite often, Mr. Barr said he agrees with that as well. The majority of council was not in favor of mayoral signs at the city entrances. Mr. Liggett showed the three street signs that he was asked to get mock-ups on and said the cost per sign is \$74.00, it was noted that the mock signs with council member names are being paid for by the individual.

Discussion on appearance, durability, and which design council members liked the best. The majority of council members expressed a preference for the white sign with black letters.

4. Terri Fetters said the Historical Society is holding a fund raiser, a square dance Saturday night 6:30-10:00 pm at the Hartford Fair 4H building, \$10/ticket, there will be a food truck and beer and wine.

5. Ryan Green said in addition to other activities this weekend, Fallfest is happening downtown. He added that tonight was the Halloween costume parade with CCL.

6. Dave Selan seconded Mr. Barr's comments on sports and all moving on to playoffs. He said JYAA is looking for softball and soccer commissioners.

7. Clerk Monroe reminded everyone that the next council meeting is on a Wednesday, because of the election.

8. Chief Smart asked if there was any indication from township trustees where the no through truck signs can be placed in their jurisdictions. Mayor Barnard said Liberty is taken care of, they have their signs up already, he will ask where they can put it on Concord Road, they have at Sportsman & Nichols, at Concord & Northridge and Windy Hollow & Nichols. He has talked to Monroe, they didn't have a problem with it but he will get the exact location.

9. Dave Selan said that Thursday is the last Meet the Candidate night, here in council chambers, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm.

10. Mayor Barnard said we received an email about grants for demolition, if there are any places that need demolished, that are an eyesore in town he can send the information.

11. Mayor Barnard asked if Airbnb legislation has been sent over to legal for review, Mr. Staneart said it was sent today.

12. Mayor Barnard said he is getting a lot of calls and emails about the stop sign on Middleburn, they really want a speed bump. He asked if the city could put a second stop sign on the opposite side of the road to highlight the need to stop there. Mr. Liggett said there were several options discussed at the last Safety & Service meeting but no determination was made. After discussion, Mayor Barnard said he would contact the property owner where the second stop sign would need to be placed to see if they would be ok with the sign in their yard and report back. Discussion on who would pay for the sign and new pole, Mr. Barnard said he would get with the homeowners association and get details so there is no cost to the city.

13. Mayor Barnard brought up switching the order of Design Review Board and Planning & Zoning meetings. He said it has come to his attention that there are things that go to Planning & Zoning such as a variance, then they have to wait two weeks to go to Design Review Board, is there a way to switch the meetings around so people don't have to wait two weeks. Ryan Green said he is not sure if that is a one off situation he heard something on, but they have not heard on the boards that there is an issue. A couple of examples were discussed. Sean Staneart said selfishly for staff, Planning & Zoning is after DRB and P&Z gets canceled more often if there are no items on their docket, so after DRB, staff gets to go home. He said there is a fair amount of times where a variance needs to be given first, and then it has to go before Design Review so the likelihood of it flowing better for general constituents, having Planning & Zoning before DRB would move things along. Mr. Green said if they did do that, it would have to be something where both groups could take a look at it, you have to know it is going to happen, you couldn't pass it through Design Review and then immediately hand it to zoning because they would not have had a chance to review it. Mr. Barnard asked if there was a way, when they have those, could they schedule something special for that night. Mr. Green said they do not have this issue traditionally, but if they needed to do it for one project, they could. Clerk Monroe said in order to get the packets out ahead of time, she would have to assume that Planning & Zoning would approve something in order to put it on Design Review Board's agenda the same night, and that would be hard to do. Mr. Green said she would have to write out the possible options of what could happen. Mayor Barnard said it was an idea, they can continue to look at this. Mr. Staneart said they need to kick this to the boards because they are volunteers and some of them can't get here at certain times. Mayor Barnard said he can kick something to them, it was just something he and Tiffany talked about to make things more efficient. Mr. Staneart said to expedite it, he was not wrong, that theoretically, they could give both packets to the boards and prepare it so in case a variance were approved,

they could consider it at DRB.

14. Mayor Barnard said he has given them each a paper about the PD district, he said this is an idea, they keep referring to it as the PD district, he has given them a proposal on changing the name to the Crossroads district, he wanted to get thoughts on it. Mr. Barr asked if they could come back to this, Mayor Barnard said yes. Mr. Green said the working title has been the Gateway district, and he is tired of seeing that, it is not the gateway to the city. Mayor Barnard said the Crossroads district, where industry meets innovation, a hub for technology and data... etc. it is a crossroads for Johnstown in many ways.

15. Continued discussion on the street signs and design preference, thoughts on putting out a survey to residents. Mr. Barr said tonight is an excellent example of why we need workshops, Mr. Orsini said he agrees in general, workshops for "nuts and bolts".

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

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to consider the employment of a public employee, to include all council members and the city manager to come in after a few minutes, with no business to follow; Jeff Barr 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

Council entered Executive Session at 8:18 pm and returned to Regular Session at 9:09 pm.

17. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion to adjourn carried 7-0.

The meeting ended at 9:09 pm.

Next Council Meeting WEDNESDAY, November 5, 2025