



Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, November 24, 2025 - 4:00 PM
AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Action on Minutes
 - a. November 5, 2025
3. Budget 2026
4. Other Business
5. Adjourn



Finance Committee
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Donald Barnard called the Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, November 5, 2025 to order at 5:05 pm

Members Present - Don Barnard, Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr
Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Staneart, Jack Liggett, Rusty Smart, Tiffany Hollis, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - Jim Mellow(Flock - virtual)

2. Action on Minutes; September 16, 2025 and October 21, 2025

ACTION: Bob Orsini moved to approve en bloc; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.
AYES: Donald Barnard, Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

3. Flock Security Presentation - PD

Jim with Flock attended virtually for a presentation on their technology, a nationwide network of cameras that read license plates and provide vehicle descriptions aiding law enforcement in fending off crime. Their goal is to use their technology for collaborative policing, connecting police departments by sharing information instantaneously, by reading car license plate data and providing real-time alerts. He said the Licking County Sheriff's Department is a big customer of theirs, there are already sixty LPR cameras across the county and different townships and he believes their role here is to put five within the perimeter of the City of Johnstown. He said once you are a Flock customer, you get access to the nationwide network of cameras from California to the East Coast, meaning if a murder suspect that had been tied to a vehicle commits a murder in California and travels all the way to Johnstown, Ohio, and that plate has been entered into the national database, the police department will be alerted when that license plate passes a camera to let them know there is a violent felon in town. It is a partnership across all law enforcement and the national database to ensure that the city is being proactively safe as a community and being alerted to know when unwanted visitors are coming in and out of Johnstown. Jim said that this is just license plate and vehicle recognition, it is not facial recognition, they are not capturing information about individual people or violating any privacy laws, and all of their data which is owned by the police department is deleted after thirty days.

Mr. Orsini asked where the data was stored, who manages the stored data. Jim said it is stored in the AWS government cloud, the city, through the contract, is the owner of the data. Mr. Orsini asked if they had top cyber security to prevent people getting access to the information, Jim said yes, they have a strong team of engineers to protect that data.

The committee requested information on cost. Jim said this will be a thirty-six month contract and for the five cameras to be set up and installed, all the maintenance, cell service and the software included, comes to \$3,000 per camera, per year, so a cost of \$15,000 per year. At the end of the three years, if the city decided not to renew, they would come pull the cameras out of the ground. Mr. Orsini asked how the cameras were powered, Jim said the cameras are solar powered.

Sean Staneart said this presentation is informational, that the Chief has this allocated in his 2026 budget, he has removed things that had been a part of his 2025 budget, the increase to his 2026

budget is \$1,500 so he has been able to absorb most of the cost associated with the Flock system, but that does not account for salaries yet. Mr. Staneart said this presentation was given to inform, in case there are public questions asked, the committee does not have to vote or do anything with this, they are just making sure they are aware it is in the budget, obviously, if it something council does not agree with, they can remove it from the budget. Chief Smart said this is something he has been trying to get for four years now.

Jeff Barr said this makes sense and he understands the whole crime fighting part of it, but we are still just a one percent income tax city. When you weigh what we have going on, we can hardly get a road paved. Every penny, every dollar, every thousand, every fifteen thousand dollars we spend is that much less we have to spend on basic roads and infrastructure where we are very lacking. Mr. Barr said he is not opposed to this, and for the \$15,000 he thinks it certainly makes sense, but there is a part of him that says, how many of those do we have that they can scrape out of the budget and what does that get us into, at least putting towards some savings for roads and infrastructure, it's always the tug-of-war with where to best spend the dollars.

4. Other Business

1. Don Barnard said he has got the budget pretty much completed, he will send it to Sean tomorrow to look at the water and sewer revenue. He said they will need to have another budget review at the next finance meeting on November 18th and likely one other.
2. Jeff Barr said obviously they are factoring in insurance, pay raises that are due per contracts, staffing levels that we have, taking into account some range of pay raises for the classified and non-classified civil service positions, ie non-union, historical data on paying utility bills and all those things, is it just adding on from the 2025 budget. Is there deviation whether negative or an addition that would be an outlier to bring to the attention of the finance committee. Mayor Barnard said he has certain things highlighted already that he wants Sean to look at, he gave brief explanation of his calculations.
3. Don Barnard said there is one thing he has to propose at the next finance meeting, it is \$100,000, it is a program for sidewalk replacement that he and Tiffany have been working on.
4. Jeff Barr inquired about passing a ninety-day budget, with new members coming on city council, giving them an opportunity to review. Mr. Barnard said based on the Charter, the annual budget has to be passed by the end of the year. Mr. Staneart said they can always modify it. Mr. Barr said he has encouraged council members elect to attend the finance committee meetings for the budget process.
5. Bob Orsini said he would like to see the budget spreadsheet when prepared for review.
6. Chief Smart said going into the new year, for the Police Department, they will be seeking a new prosecutor, they will probably go through the Law Director's office, he has been in communication with the Mayor on budget issues, by going through the Law Director's office, it will give them a set amount every year, instead of payment to a private prosecutor. The current prosecutor is being affected negatively in her private practice by scheduling issues surrounding court appearances. The other issue is that the prosecutor maintains Mayor's Court, he is still looking, but will likely use one of the city's current law firms. He thinks based on his budget, he will still be within what is currently allocated.
7. Chief Smart said he also has put in a grant for tasers.
8. Sean Staneart said that Shawna has taken on some roles, he has been filling in as well, they are hoping Dave will be able to return in the next month or two. The Mayor has taken on some of the role of preparing and compiling documents, this isn't the ideal situation in which we would like to do the budget at the end of year, but it is the one we are working through. There may be some imperfections, they are trying to navigate where we are at currently with some of the budgets, throughout the year, typically Dave is able to keep a pulse on nearing budgetary limits, with him out of the office, it is not being monitored as closely as they like. Shawna is still tracking it, but it is more challenging, they will navigate through it, there will probably be some appropriation ordinances prior to the end of the year.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, Mr. Barnard moved to adjourn, Mr. Barr seconded and all were in favor.
Motion carried 3-0.
The meeting ended at 5:40 pm.