



Regular Council  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 - 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Swearing In Council Members Elect  
Kyle Cook, Ryan Green, Nicole Shook and Matthew Huggins took the Oath of Office and were sworn into the office of Council Member. Mr. Green, Mr. Cook and Mr. Huggins were sworn in by State of Ohio Representative Kevin Miller; Ms. Shook was sworn into office by Clerk of Council Teresa Monroe.
  2. Call to Order  
Mayor Donald Barnard called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for January 6, 2026 at 6:38 PM.
  3. Roll Call  
Present - Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Jeff Barr, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins  
Absent - None  
  
Staff present - Sean Staneart - City Manager, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Dave Riepenhoff - City Legal Counsel, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council  
  
Public present - Mike Sileargy, Billy Kelly, Teresa Kelly, Nick Hubbell, Claudia DeWitt, Terri Fetters, Brent Fetters, Mike Dixon, Ally Huggins, Ellen Huggins, Patty Hollis, Todd McConnell, Kelly McConnell, Tony Kelly, Natalie Kelly, Denise Kelly, Anne Evans, Jamie Cook, Kim Cook, Doug Cook, Paul Corsi, Doug Hollis, Heather Green, Steve Oltman, State Representative Kevin Miller
  4. Invocation  
Mr. Huggins offered the invocation.
  5. Pledge of Allegiance
  6. Approval of Agenda  
**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to accept the agenda as written; Tiffany Hollis seconded and all were in favor.  
**AYES:** Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Matthew Huggins, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
  
**Passed 7 - 0**
  7. Election of Mayor, President of Council and Acting President of Council
    - a. **RESOLUTION 2026-01** A RESOLUTION SETTING APPOINTMENTS FOR MAYOR, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to nominate Tiffany Hollis for the mayor position; Kyle Cook seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Donald Barnard, Kyle Cook  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None
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**Passed 7 - 0**

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to nominate Ryan Green for president of council; Matthew Huggins seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green, Tiffany Hollis, Kyle Cook  
**NOES:** Donald Barnard, Nicole Shook  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 5 - 2**

The City Charter states that the senior council member, based on length of continuous service, shall serve as the Acting President of Council but with Mr. Green's appointment to President, the next senior member is Donald Barnard who will serve as Acting President of Council.

Mayor Hollis called for a five-minute recess.

8. Action on Minutes

a. December 2, 2025

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to approve; Matthew Huggins seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis, Don Barnard, Kyle Cook  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

b. December 9, 2025

**ACTION:** Ryan Green moved to pass as written; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis, Don Barnard, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** Jeff Barr, absence

**Passed 6 - 0**

9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Mike Dixon

- Said he received a letter from someone named David Rourke who says he is an agent of Johnstown. He said the letter says they want to take part of his property for a water line. He said he has had four individuals in his yard over the past four months, one in his back yard, he was not notified. He said he called Mr. Rourke and left a message but has never gotten a call back. He would just like a little information.

Sean Staneart said this work is part of the PD District potential water and sewer lines, easements are being evaluated and Mr. Dixon's property is one of them. Mr. Staneart said he cannot speak to Mr. Rourke's ability to call someone back however he is contracted by the city to take on the land acquisition piece of this project so he is acting as an agent of the city. Mr. Staneart said he would reach out to Mr. Rourke and impress upon him that he needs to follow up with Mr. Dixon, he will also try to follow up with Mr. Dixon to try and answer any additional questions he has.

Nicole Shook asked how many people are contracted like this, through the city, that are a representation of the city and are there any standard operating procedures we give them for our expectations when dealing with the public. Mr. Stanearth said it is not typical to have "agents of the city" but when there are land acquisitions, they need someone to facilitate. He said in the contract, it would outline the communication process, he will pull that up and see what the level of engagement is and connect to make sure he is meeting that, if he is not, we will find out why. Mayor Hollis asked if they could get a copy of what the residents are getting as far as what the expectations are.

10. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Next 1/13/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
- b. **Design Review Board:** Next 1/13/26 @ 6:30 pm council chambers
- c. **Finance:** Next 1/20/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
- d. **Safety & Service:** Next 2/3/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

11. Director Reports

- a. Service Departments: Water, Sewer, Street  
Department reports were included in the packet. Jack Liggett answered a question on the traffic signal at Clark Drive and US62. He said over the last two weeks he has gotten phone calls about the signal, generally during high traffic times. He contacted M.P. Dory who sets the timing at the lights, to come and check the history to make sure it is not skipping or getting stuck. They will also check the alignment of the camera to trip the signal.
- b. Service Director  
Mr. Liggett highlighted items in his director's report and answered questions related to items within.

12. Executive Session to consider the appointment of public officials

Mayor Hollis asked if there was a desire to move to Executive Session to discuss these or was there any desired action. Mr. Barnard said he would like to move forward with appointments given that people have put their names in and it has been thirty days. Mr. Green said he thinks they should hold back, there are new people on council who haven't had a chance to review anyone, plus in light of the holidays, he thinks we can do a better job advertising. Mayor Hollis said they can decide to go to Executive Session to discuss each applicant, or they can table individually and extend the time, or they can accept the applicants submitted. Mr. Barr said they extended the advertisement at their December meeting and some applicants came in after that. Discussion on moving forward with the members seeking reappointment, it was noted that there should be at least enough appointments to Planning & Zoning that there was quorum for the next meeting. Ms. Shook said there would be a council representative on Planning & Zoning, correct? Mr. Stanearth said correct, that will need to be worked out. Previously both Ryan Green and Kyle Cook served on P&Z, Mr. Cook served as a citizen, Mr. Green served as the council representative. Now with Mr. Cook being elected to council, there can only be one member appointed to P&Z. Ryan Green said he would not be pursuing appointment to Planning & Zoning, he has been on there for quite a while. It was stated that current commission member Steve Dyer requested reappointment, and a letter of interest from Todd McConnell was received.

Mr. Green said there was not enough to fully fill the Charter Review Commission. Mr. Barnard said there were four applicants, Mr. Green said yes but they are looking for five. Mr. Barnard said he thought the fifth would be a council member. Mr. Green said he thinks that is something they have to talk about.

a. **RESOLUTION 2026-03** RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE JOHNSTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

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

**ACTION:** Tiffany Hollis moved to reappoint Franz Stein and Heather Green to the Design Review Board; Jeff Barr seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Hollis, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Don Barnard

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Ryan Green; conflict of interest, spouse is an appointee

**Passed 6 - 0**

b. **RESOLUTION 2026-04** RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE GREATER JOHNSTOWN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to appoint Nick Hubbell; Nicole Shook seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Hollis, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Don Barnard, Ryan Green

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

c. **RESOLUTION 2026-05** RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE JOHNSTOWN TREE COMMISSION

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

**ACTION:** Donald Barnard moved to reappoint the three individuals listed to the Tree Commission; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Don Barnard, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

d. **RESOLUTION 2026-06** RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Discussion on the fifth member which could be a member of council. Mr. Green said he would like to see it as a fully public board. Mr. Barnard asked if they should appoint the four applicants they have and leave advertisement for interest open, fellow members were in favor of that.

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to appoint the four who have applied, Dave Selan, Bob Orsini, Andrea Coppel and Jim Doderer; Kyle Cook seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Mayor Hollis, Donald Barnard, Kyle Cook

**NOES:** Ryan Green

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 6 - 1**

- e. **RESOLUTION 2026-02** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to nominate Kyle Cook and Steve Dyer for reappointment to the Planning & Zoning Board, Kyle Cook to be the council representative; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Mayor Hollis, Donald Barnard, Kyle Cook  
**NOES:** Ryan Green  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 6 - 1**

**ACTION:** Donald Barnard moved to appoint Todd McConnell to Planning & Zoning; Nicole Shook seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Matthew Huggins, Donald Barnard, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook  
**NOES:** Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Jeff Barr  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 4 - 3**

13. Tabled Legislation - None

14. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 01-2026** AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

First reading/Public Hearing.

Sean Stanearth said that about a month ago, they had a very similar situation approximately four parcels down, the K-Ceps service center went through the same process. The zoning on that parcel was UR-1 which is residential and the request is to go to GCC-1, commercial. Mr. Stanearth said this is in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended approval. This is the published public hearing; a vote will be taken at the next council meeting.

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

Mayor Hollis asked if the properties between this one and the K-Ceps property were still (the residential zoning). Mr. Stanearth said they were, they typically wait for the applicant to make the request.

Steve Oltman with Key Properties Group, Keller Williams Greater Columbus was present on behalf of the applicant, Robert Denzine. Mr. Oltman said the applicant has owned this property since 2014, he purchased it this way as a five-unit building from the previous owner (NAPA). He said for fifty-five years it has been a commercial building but was still zoned UR-1, they are just trying to clean up the zoning. Mr. Oltman said to be clear, it is in contract to sell to another businessman, who is going to use it for the same purposes.

b. **RESOLUTION 2026-07** A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ESTABLISH MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Ryan Green said he would like to consolidate some of these committees. After discussion on the various committees, the Park and Recreation Council Committee was dispensed with and Nicole Shook was appointed as the liaison to the Greater Johnstown Park and Rec on behalf of council. Additionally, the Township Liaison Committee was also dispensed with, and Tiffany Hollis was appointed as the liaison to attend any meetings of interest on behalf of council. Council worked through the committees and made appointments to vacancies as needed.

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

**ACTION:** Matthew Huggins moved to approve as discussed; Nicole Shook seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis, Don Barnard, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

c. **RESOLUTION 2026-08** A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE LICKING COUNTY TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL (TIRC) ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

Mr. Stanearth said any time there is a CRA or tax abatement situation, there is a review council to make sure all of the conditions the property owner committed to for the abatement are being met, if they are not, at the TIRC board meetings motions can be made to remove the incentive package. He said he and/or the Finance Director attend for the city.

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to pass as written with Mr. Stanearth and Mr. Delande; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis, Don Barnard, Kyle Cook

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

15. Introduction of Legislation

None

16. Other Business

1. Jeff Barr said he was absent at the last meeting where they passed the budget, he believed the budget included the Flock cameras, he asked that Chief Smart come up with a policy, there is a lot of information there and a powerful tool of information, he wants a policy and procedure for personnel, reviewed by city legal counsel, prior to installation. Mr. Stanearth said he would instruct the Chief to get in touch with legal counsel and connect with him on where they are at with installation. Discussion on the presentation given in Finance Committee, desire expressed to have another presentation given in Safety & Service Committee.

2. Tiffany Hollis said in their last couple of sessions of council, as they were preparing the budget for 2026, they discussed pretty heavily the appropriations for the Coalition, for water and sewer. She said they did reduce the amount appropriated for the Coalition, but she feels it is very important to give the City Manager strong direction on how this council wants to move forward with

the Coalition. She said Resolution 2023-29 was passed September 9, 2023 entering the city into an MOU with Granville and Alexandria. She said she wants to discuss that with this current council; she feels they need to give very strong direction on how this council wants to move forward. Mr. Barnard said he thinks that is a good idea, four of them know everything that is going on with it, so maybe a presentation for the new council members to get them fully caught up before making a decision would be good, so it is a decision made on substance. Mr. Barr said he agreed with Mr. Barnard and would like to schedule a workshop presentation where conversation could flow freely and questions could be asked, that would allow the opportunity for the new council members, then if two weeks from today, action is needed they would be able to give that direction. Mr. Stanearth said he could get that scheduled fairly quickly, he would have to connect with the engineers associated as well as the legal counsel that has been advising the city on this matter, and if they desire, he could also have some of the Coalition members present. Mayor Hollis said she was cutting this off, that while she respects the input and idea of a workshop, she feels very strongly that they should make a decision right now. Ms. Hollis made a motion:

**MOTION:** Mayor Hollis moved to direct the City Manager to direct city legal to provide the thirty-day notice to withdraw from the MOU; Jeff Barr seconded.

Mr. Barnard said so we are not going to allow the three new members to have any knowledge on this?

**Public Hearing:** Mayor Hollis opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Barnard again asked his question on proceeding with something that new members had no knowledge about. Mr. Green asked for clarification on the motion. The clerk read the motion, there was question on whether legal had to provide the notice or the manager could. Mr. Stanearth said the resolution authorized the City Manager to enter into the MOU with the Coalition, so his only modification to the motion would be to authorize the City Manager to give the thirty-day notice that the city wants to terminate its involvement with the Coalition. Mayor Hollis amended her motion:

**MOTION:** Mayor Hollis moved to direct the City Manager to go forward with the thirty-day notice for removal from the MOU; Mr. Barr seconded.

**Public Hearing:** Mayor Hollis opened the floor to public comments.

1. Mr. Barnard said he was public and walked to the podium.

- Said there are three newly elected officials, unless there are four that already have this set, there are three that have no idea about this, what has gone into it, the relationships that have been created with Granville and Alexandria, how this impacts us for future years and years. He said he doesn't understand why there is an urgent need to do this tonight, and sever the relationships with two municipalities, if they are ok with saying screw you to Granville and Alexandria, then vote that way. There is no reason why individuals who were elected by the citizens of this town should not be briefed and have more information about this before they vote.

2. Mr. Green said he would also speak as a member of the public and walked to the podium.

- Said he would argue that they have had quite some time with this issue, it has been debated in public, it has been debated here in council, there was a meeting with potential council members during the election where they were updated on some of these issues. He knows they were given the opportunity to have conversations with our City Manager if they wanted to, he believes they have had time to research these matters, they were able to vote on other items tonight without background information, and he would welcome decisions from anyone that wants to make one.

3. Mr. Barnard again asked to speak as a member of the public and walked to the podium.

- Asked Mr. Huggins if he had been contacted by anyone from Jersey Township or Southwest Licking. Mayor Hollis told Mr. Huggins he was not required to respond to that. Mr. Huggins said he was not on trial. Mr. Barnard said he was just asking, when they make their vote, have they gotten their information from Jersey Township and Southwest Licking water, or did they get it from our attorneys who represent our city.

Mr. Huggins said anything that happens in life with an individual, in the United States of America, and Ohio's Constitution, when they are not holding public office, is not up for scrutiny, he has talked to many people including Mr. Barnard as Mayor, as part of being a citizen and knowing what is going on. Mr. Barnard said he just wants to know if people on our council are being swayed by outside influences, who we are in litigation with, or if they are making this decision on their own.

Mr. Cook said his opinion is based on conversations he has had with Mr. Barnard, Mr. Stanearth, and with the public. He said he is new to council but has been on Planning and Zoning for a bit.

4. Mr. Huggins said he would speak as a citizen and walked to the podium.

- Said as a new member of Johnstown City Council, he would like to point out that many of us sitting in here care about the future of this city, we care about where our money is being spent, we care about the direction the city is going. We have seven distinct personalities up here, we have seven distinct ideas and we are not always going to agree on things. The only thing he feels is maybe a careless statement is the fact he can only answer for himself, he has spent the better part of the last two years of his life studying every council meeting, studying everything going on in the city, he has pulled public records requests before and after his name was on the ballot. If he can vote on other things tonight, he believes he can vote on what we refer to as JAG.

There were no further public or council comments.

Council proceeded with the vote:

**ACTION:** Tiffany Hollis moved to direct the City Manager to go forward with the thirty-day notice for removal from the MOU; Jeff Barr seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Mayor Hollis, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green  
**NOES:** Donald Barnard, Nicole Shook  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 5 - 2**

17. Executive Session to prepare for, conduct, or review a collective bargaining strategy

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to enter Executive Session to prepare for, conduct, or review a collective bargaining strategy, with council, city labor attorney and city manager; Ryan Green seconded and the vote was as follows:  
**AYES:** Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Don Barnard, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis, Kyle Cook  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

Council entered Executive Session at 8:15 pm and returned to Regular Session at 8:54 pm.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Barnard moved to enter Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee to include all council members and the city manager as needed; Ms. Shook seconded.

Mr. Barr asked if they could include the city labor attorney as needed. Mr. Barnard said he could go with that and rescinded his previous motion to make a new one.

**ACTION:** Donald Barnard moved to enter executive session to consider the employment of a public employee, to include all council members, and possibly at the end, the city manager and city labor attorney; Nicole Shook seconded and the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** Don Barnard, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

Council entered Executive Session at 8:58 pm and returned to Regular Session at 10:22 pm.

19. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion to adjourn carried 7-0 and the meeting ended at 10:22 pm.

**Next Council Meeting January 20, 2026**