



Regular Council  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Tiffany Hollis took a moment to recognize and remember Mr. Lewis Main who recently passed away. She said that Mr. Main served the city formally for more than twenty years, although he never really stopped serving. He continued to provide great insight and advice to all of them, even in his last days. Mayor Hollis called for a moment of silence to honor him.

Mayor Hollis called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for January 20, 2026 at 6:33 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Matthew Huggins, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Nicole Shook  
Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Stanearth - City Manager, Dave Delande - Finance Director, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Heather Green - Design Review Board, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Deven Draper, Terry Fetters, Ellen Huggins, Ally Huggins, Phil Baker, Sabrina Baker, Steven Oltmann, Ashley Kusner, Mark Weiner, Sean Barnes, Mike Dixon, P McGinnis, Rob Platte, Dr. Philip Wagner, Jeff Szabo

3. Invocation

Mr. Ryan Green offered the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

City Manager Sean Stanearth requested modification of the agenda, to add under item 15, an additional Executive Session to consider the compensation of a public employee. Ms. Shook asked if council needed to waive their rules to waive the 24 hour notice to council, Mayor Hollis said no.

**ACTION:** Kyle Cook moved to approve the agenda with the addition; Jeff Barr seconded and all were in favor.

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

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

6. Proclamation

Mayor Hollis said they are continuing with council proclamations for former Mayors, she read and presented a proclamation to honor Donald Barnard for his mayoral service to the city.

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7. Presentation: Police Officer of the Year

Chief Smart recognized Officer Gary Hargraves as the Officer of the Year for his superior excellence and service protecting the community of Johnstown, and his outstanding contributions to the department. Chief Smart said he reflects the highest standards of service.

8. Presentation: Annual State of the Schools Update - Dr. Wagner

Dr. Philip Wagner, Superintendent of Johnstown-Monroe Local School District, attended to give his annual State of the Schools address. He highlighted the school district's teaching and learning focus, the five-year curriculum adoption cycle, expansion of trade programs, the school's community engagement efforts, development incentives, enrollment numbers and current construction projects.

9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Jeff Szabo - Commander, American Legion Post 254

- Gave a review of what the Legion has done the last year and what they have planned for this year. He said that they were able to give back \$19,655.75 to the community, which does not include Little Miss Johnstown or the fireworks, with those thrown in, it would be well over \$30,000. Highlights include Boys and Girls State, this year they will send eleven boys and two girls, the Easter Egg Hunt had 3,500 eggs and next year they will likely do 4,000. With the Gifts for Kids program, they were able to help out approximately 150 local children and about the same number in other communities that reached as far as West Virginia. He said approximately 1,500 flags are placed in area cemeteries in the week leading up to Memorial Day, matching funds were given to assist with sending a veteran on an Honor Flight, and equipment donations were given to the Johnstown Police and other fire departments.
- Some things they want to do, if they can get the building lease amendments figured out and move forward with their remodel, a STEM program camp to compliment the existing program at the school, also an adult/senior focused learning/technology lab. They hope to bring Bingo back, get their student scholarships back to an acceptable level, and become an emergency shelter.

2. Sean Barnes, Mayor of Alexandria

- Said he came tonight to speak about partnership. He is not here to criticize the council decision to leave the Coalition, though he does hope they reconsider. He said he is here to remind them why their communities came together in the first place and to reflect on the shared values that have guided their work from the beginning. He said the coalition was formed to protect our communities from overwhelming and unwanted development, from costly and unnecessary infrastructure, and from outside influences that threaten our right to shape our own futures. Most importantly, it was formed to protect our water, Raccoon Creek, and the aquifer we all share, from irreversible, environmental harm. He said our water is not a commodity. It's a vital resource, and protecting it is essential to the long-term sustainability of each of our communities. He said we are stronger together, and as we near the finish line of this work, asks council to consider an alternative form of partnership, one that allows us to complete what we started without financial obligation or formal agreements. Partnership has many forms, he asked council to consider the following: First, continue partnering with them on current and future projects. The water interconnect between Johnstown and Alexandria is critical for regional efficiency and resilience, it gives Johnstown an emergency water connection during severe weather or power outages and it helps all of us maintain a strong local alternative to outside service providers while continuing to protect Raccoon Creek. Second, remain involved in the facility master plan, even if only in name. He said Alexandria and Granville are committed to finishing the work they started so the plan can be recognized in the Ohio EPA's 208 review. Johnstown's capacities are a crucial component of a robust regional solution for wastewater. He said for Alexandria, this is about autonomy, about retaining the ability to decide what our future

looks like. If we walk away now, we risk handing the future over entirely to outside entities that have shown little willingness to work with us. Completing this plan benefits all our communities as we prepare for the changes we know are coming. Third, and most importantly, he asked that council continue supporting the appeals of the two NPDES permits currently before the EPA. This isn't a political tactic, these facilities are seeking permission to discharge over ten million gallons a day of wastewater into our watershed, with unknown pollutants the EPA does not fully monitor. He said the discharge point for the proposed Moots Run facility would merge into Raccoon Creek less than a mile from his home through a tributary that's dry much of the year. He said he wouldn't want that for your community and doesn't want it for his. He said individually, our communities are vulnerable. Together, they can demand accountability and protect the water that connects us all. He is not here asking for financial support for the facility plan, he is asking for support as neighbors, for their name, their partnership, and their willingness to finish what they started together. Mayor Barnes said that Johnstown's future is bright, and with its continued support, Alexandria can have the same opportunity, because partnership in whatever form it takes, strengthens all of us and our water binds us together.

#### 10. Council Committee reports

- a. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 1/13/26; Next 1/27/26 @ 6:30 pm council chambers  
The application for El Ray's mural request remains tabled, no applicant was present and information requested by the board has not provided. Approval given for a variance to parking lot landscape requirements for Johnstown-Monroe schools and the new sports fields proposed at 80 W. Maple Street. Steve Dyer was reappointed as Chair, Mark Zolendziewski as Vice-Chair and they welcomed Todd McConnell to the board.
- b. **Design Review Board:** Met 1/13/26; Next 1/27/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers  
The board approved Johnstown-Monroe Schools applications for new sports fields and concession designs at both campuses, 40 W. Maple Street and 445 S. Main Street. Also discussed next steps for the Design Review Standards.
- c. **Safety & Service:** Next 2/3/26 @ 5:00 pm council chambers
- d. **Finance:** 1/20/26; Next 2/17/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers  
Reviewed some finances, waiting on some reports from the Finance Director. Small review of the completed 2021 state audit, 2022 and 2023 are currently being reviewed by our auditors. Mr. Barnard said it is good to clear up to the public that while there were a couple findings, they were minor items easily missed and have been corrected, they are no reflection of our past accountant.
- e. **Facilities Committee:** Next 1/23/26 @ 8:30 am council chambers

#### 11. Director Reports

- a. Chief of Police  
Report can be found in the council packet. Chief Smart highlighted statistical items in the report and answered questions.

#### 12. Tabled Legislation - None

#### 13. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **ORDINANCE 01-2026** AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN  
This is the second reading. As the council representative on Planning and Zoning, Kyle Cook said he thinks this is a good move, it's always been what it is today. Sean Stanart recapped last

week's introduction, the property owner is requesting rezoning from UR-1 (residential) to GCC-1 (commercial) which will allow a variety of permitted uses consistent with what is in the downtown. The new zoning requested is consistent with our Comprehensive Plan.

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to pass Ordinance 01-2026 as written; Kyle Cook 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**

b. **RESOLUTION 2026-09** RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The deadline for interest was previously extended to get additional applicants, Cheryl Robertson applied. Ryan Green said that they have had just enough people apply for them to appoint to the various boards, he hopes in the new year they can do a better job of recruiting and retaining individuals and able to weigh some against each other to see who is the best fit for each position.

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to pass Resolution 2026-09 appointing Cheryl Robertson to the Charter Review Commission; Nicole Shook 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**

14. Introduction of Legislation - None

15. Other Business

1. Nicole Shook said the city lacks a formal policy for social media, recommended the Law Director assist with a policy for the city. Sent to the Council Rules Committee for review and recommendation.

2. Jeff Barr thanked Officer Mead who responded to a personal matter for himself, he wants to acknowledge his professionalism and service provided to his family during that difficult time. He also thanked Chief Smart.

3. Don Barnard said he sent an email out to council this week, he asked if any council member would like to reconsider the decision made two weeks ago (the vote to leave the Coalition), and the impact it has on our community. No motion to reconsider was made. Nicole Shook said she would like to see a risk assessment done, she thinks it's fair to the public that they talk about the pros and cons of leaving and the pros and cons of staying, she for one would have loved to talk to the engineer and attorney and to our regional partners. She said she commends Sean Barnes for coming in to speak, you could see by his speech, that decision put Alexandria in a really bad position, not to mention putting Johnstown in a bad position as well. She said if after the risk assessment, they come to the conclusion that they leave, then they leave, but she doesn't think they can just leave something unfinished without a risk assessment. Mayor Hollis asked if anyone on the prevailing side of the vote wished to reconsider the vote. No motion to reconsider was

made. Mr. Barnard said he was frustrated, he is frustrated that the new members did not get a chance to speak to the legal team, engineering, or to our partners and how it impacts them, and now to find out tonight that there is no economic cost to them. He said there has been a lot of misinformation out there, that this has cost taxpayer money, those who come to the finance committee meetings know, this came out of Enterprise funds, not tax, not the General fund. He said it bothers him that council members met with the side that wants to dismantle JAG but have not listened to our side. He knows constituents don't want their tax dollars wasted, he doesn't either, but they have spent up to \$500,000 at this point and now they are walking away from finalizing their Facility Plan when there was a very limited amount to finish, he does not see why they wouldn't finish that and have for any future use.

4. Sean Stanart reviewed some procedure for the Executive Sessions. Ryan Green asked Mr. Stanart to give clarification to the council rules that allow them to enter the added Executive Session without having it on the agenda. Mr. Stanart said that an exception to the rule requiring 24 hour notice to council was added to allow the manager to request and asked the clerk to read it. Ms. Monroe said that by the council rules, the agenda may be modified to add an Executive Session to any regular council meeting without the 24 hour notice for matters deemed as emergency by the city manager. Mr. Stanart said this was regarding a question brought up by a council member shortly before the meeting, he did not want to have that discussion outside of an Executive Session.

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

Mayor Hollis said she did not think there would be any action following either session. Mr. Stanart said they could take a short recess to allow the public to exit if they wanted to remain in council chambers.

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to enter Executive Session to consider the compensation of a public employee, to include all of council, the city manager and the finance director; Matthew Huggins 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 the Executive Session at 8:04 pm and returned to Regular Session at 8:38 pm.

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

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to enter Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee; Kyle Cook 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 8:40 pm and returned to Regular Session at 9:08 pm.

18. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cook, seconded by Ms. Shook and the motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

**Next Council Meeting February 3, 2026**

