



Regular Council  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - 6:30 PM  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Tiffany Hollis called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for February 17, 2026 at 6:32 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Matthew Huggins, Jeff Barr, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook  
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 (from sign in sheet) - Claudia DeWitt, Aaron Steffan, Dana Steffan, Bill Bogantz, Terri Fetters, John Sadinsky, Nick Sadinsky, Samantha Paise, Nick Hubbell, Jennifer Cline, Zach Cline, Diane Bauman, Randy Bauman, Todd Huston, Kelly CcConnell, Justin Hartfield, Daryl Wernette, Kaitlyn Ashbrook, Tony Ashbrook, Linda Brobeck, Jerry Brobeck, Shannon Staneart, Sam Stewart, Amanda Davis, Jason Kidner, Janet Piper, Shawna Winzenreid, Jonathan Davis, Rob Platte, Alison Speck, Dennis and Denise Blankemeyer, Jim Blair, Deven Draper, Elizabeth Margolius

3. Invocation

Mr. Cook offered the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

After the pledge, Mayor Hollis read a statement as follows:

" Before we get to the approval of the agenda for tonight, I just want to take a moment and acknowledge that this is our city manager's final council meeting tonight. Public service is not easy work. It requires long hours, difficult decisions, and a willingness to stand in the middle when conversations are complex. On behalf of the city, I want to sincerely thank Sean for his service to Johnstown and for the time and energy he's dedicated to our community. We wish him the very best in his next chapter. I also want to acknowledge that transitions like this can bring emotion for council members, for staff, and for members of our community. We recognize that many of you are here tonight because you care deeply about this community and our city, and you want your voices to be heard. That type of civic engagement really matters and it means a lot to us and we welcome it. It's exciting to actually see a turn out. That being said, tonight's meeting will proceed in accordance with our adopted council rules and standard parliamentary procedure of Robert's rules of order. As presiding officer, it is my responsibility to maintain order and ensure that our meeting is conducted lawfully, respectfully, and efficiently. There is no legislation on the agenda this evening and no motions before council regarding personnel matters. Decisions previously made by the majority of council will not be revisited tonight. Public comment is an opportunity to address council, but it is not a forum for debate or dialogue. All remarks must be directed through the chair and we will adhere to established time limits and

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decorum standards. I will ensure that everyone who wishes to speak within those guidelines has the opportunity to do so. I will also enforce our rules consistently and fairly so that we can conduct business of this city with professionalism and respect. With that being said, we'll proceed with the approval of the agenda."

5. Approval of Agenda

**ACTION:** Jeff Barr moved to approve the agenda as written; Kyle Cook 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. Presentation: Downtown Johnstown annual update

Shawna Winzenreid, with Downtown Johnstown Inc., attended to provide an update on their membership, contributions to the community, activities and upcoming DJI events to include Springfest, Summerfest, Fallfest and the Cupola Classic car show.

7. Action on Minutes

a. February 2, 2026 Special Council

**ACTION:** Kyle Cook moved to approve; Nicole Shook seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Passed 7 - 0**

8. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Todd Huston

- Thanked Sean Stanearth for everything he has done.
- Said that it seems like with the start of this new council, in his opinion, there seems to be a type of scorched earth policy. We started off the year walking away from our water utility with our neighbors from Alexandria and Granville. Then, this past week, finding out that our city manager is departing under voluntary reasons which I don't quite understand. He has spent countless hours building relationships with people in our city as we try to grow, MKSK, EMH&T, our services for engineering and for planning, and what do they think of this? My worry now is that we are setting a precedent of scorched earth policy, and who's going to work with us?
- Said he had about a minute 30 left on his time and is giving it back to council, or the five that obviously felt didn't have confidence in Sean anymore. He asked them to please explain why.

Mayor Hollis thanked him for his comments. Mr. Huston said he would take the remaining time to let members answer. He asked Mayor Hollis if she had any

words, she said no. He asked Mr. Green if he had any comments, he said no thank you. He asked Mr. Barr, who referenced Ms. Hollis's statement from the start of the meeting. Mayor Hollis said she will just remind the community that remarks regarding motives are out of order. Mr. Huston said It's not a motive, he was just asking for some clarification because they don't have anything. That's why all these people are here. We have no answers. There were no further replies.

## 2. Daryl Wernette

- Thanked the Mayor and Clerk for making sure there was always a chance for public comment.
- Said he came to offer a constructive reminder that the purpose of the Ohio Open Meetings Act is at its core to make sure that the deliberations of this council are actually in front of the public, not just the final votes and are visible and understandable to the public. The residents should be able to hear not only what the decision is but why the decision was made. In the first few meetings this year, one of the most significant and controversial issues was in regards to the water MOU and the decision to leave that agreement with our adjacent communities. during those meetings, several of the new council members spoke to having enough research and expertise for the readiness to vote, but no one explained why they were voting the way they did. And without that from the majority, it was unclear what the benefit was to us as a Johnstown community. That's especially important when the council itself didn't seem aligned, that would be even more critical to understand both the majority and minority rationale for the decision. It matters because the people in this room have access to far more organized information than us as average residents, and the information and reasoning are to be openly discussed during meetings. If not, it becomes very difficult for us as citizens to understand where we're going and why. When a board appears to quickly align on an outcome with public debate, it can unintentionally create concern that discussions may be happening outside of these meetings and that can lead to rumors and accusations about sunshine or walking quorums and none of us want that. We want to believe in the right way decisions are being made. Said his encouragement tonight is to please use these meetings as the primary place for open, respectful and sometimes even uncomfortable discussion. Clearly explain both the majority and minority viewpoints and the reasoning behind and preferably start with that MOU exit, help us understand that as a community. Doing so protects the integrity of the council, strengthens public trust and fully honors the letter and spirit of the open meetings. He thanked council for their time and service to our community, especially Mr. Stanearth.

Mayor Hollis addressed Mr. Wernette and said she knows he does not live in the city, and could he remind her of what township he resides in. Mr. Wernette said he is in Alexandria, Liberty Township. Mayor Hollis asked Mr. Wernette if he could explain the importance or what impact the city's decision has on Liberty Township or what were his main concerns for Liberty Township? Mr. Wernette said he appreciates that but he is not coming from the viewpoint of Liberty Township, he said he feels he is a "Johnstonian". He has lived on 62 as part of Licking Township, he is part of this community, he is part of our GJPRD (Greater Johnstown Parks and Recreation District). His kids go to Johnstown schools. He said he has no idea

how it affects his house, but he cares about the future of this town, it is his home. Mayor Hollis said there are some facts they have available to give now, as a council, they will prepare a statement. She said she wanted to remind everyone that the school was originally a part of the MOU and they withdrew May 12th of 2025, also in an open public meeting without discussion and a unanimous vote and there was no recourse when that happened. Mayor Hollis provided Mr. Wernette with the written comments from the EPA and the facility plan application and said she would love for him to go over that and get a little bit more information. She said if he could provide the clerk with his phone number and email address, she would love to follow up with him in a week and answer any questions he has. She said she can speak on her own behalf, Sean's behalf, Donny's behalf, that they have spent two years digging and overturning every rock to try to come to some sort of you know.... that they put a lot of time into this, so that wasn't a motion that was made lightly at all, it was not a rushed motion. There was a lot of information and a lot of decision making that went into that motion. Mr. Wernett said she may be misinterpreting, he is not even judging the decision, he just wants to know why, three simple bullet points on why this is best for Johnstown. Mayor Hollis said that is coming, as soon as they have those precisely, they will provide that.

### 3. Tony Ashbrook

- Said he and his wife live at 197 North Oregon St. where the Adams Middle School football field is and now that they're going to be building a soccer field and a concession stand and putting lights up, they have been working with the school as best they can, not to be an obstacle, but to be a support. In fact, we were just on the phone with them tonight due to some things. They are pro Johnstown schools and pro community, however, when you're building something like that, you need to look out for the community around the place. When you put in a stadium with big lights and you rake all the trees out and all you got to do is look into their house and they will see him in his kitchen. He said they did not see replacement of trees or landscaping along that fence line in the plans. He referenced zoning ordinance 1183.09 requiring a buffer. He said if you go down the other way by Johnstown Pointe, if you look to the side, they have really nice landscaping there, which divides the community from the buildings. That's all they are asking for, not just for their home, but also the homes along that fence and the homes two roads down, because when those lights turn on at 11:30 at night and they're still going, they used to live in Kyber Run, they could hear and watch the football game from there at the high school. He said all they are asking for, and why he came tonight is to inform them if they didn't know, and let them know they are active positive community members, not just for themselves and their property but for their surrounding neighbors. They will continue to work with the schools, but that something has to be done, the brush was pulled out which they were very excited about but they pulled trees that were much bigger than brush and now it's just a raked field. He said they just want to be positive and see if they can both win.

### 4. Bill Bogantz

- Said he was actually attending for a selfish plug for myself, but would be remiss if he didn't address what he learned this morning, that the city manager's last day for a meeting here is tonight. He said to be clear, this has nothing to do with the JAG, with Johnstown pulling out of the MOU, that's your business, but he did want to thank Sean and to say a few words. He said his comments are specifically focused on Sean and his experience working with him over the years. As a trustee in your neighboring township of Liberty Township, he has had countless opportunities to work and interact with Sean, he has always been willing to pick up the phone or meet face to face on any topic. They have had some tough conversations and haven't always agreed, but from those interactions, he said that Sean has always had Johnstown's best interest at heart. The schools, the city, it's always been about Johnstown. Sean has always been open, honest, and professional. He told Sean he has always enjoyed working with him, and wishes him only the best in his future endeavors.
- Stated that he was running for Licking County Commissioner. He has lived in the community for nearly 40 years. He and his wife Melody raised their six children on a small farm outside of Johnstown on Sportsman's Club Road. They love their rural way of life. He is an elected official entering his third term as a Liberty Township trustee. He has over 30 years of corporate leadership experience managing teams of over 750 resources with budgets over 100 million dollars. He is also a small business owner and owns his own real estate brokerage. He has worked at the county level on an initiative such as the framework project that concluded in 2023 and has been asked to serve on the county Comprehensive Planning Committee which will commence towards the end of this month. He is a lifelong conservative Republican and is a defender of life, liberty, and our second amendment rights. He said as your county commissioner, he will serve proactively, will listen to all sides, research the topic and make decisions that are in the best interest of the community. He will work to balance economic growth with preservation of our rural character. He will work to collaborate with the jurisdictions to ensure input is heard prior to making decisions that impact our community. He respectfully asks for our vote in the upcoming Republican primary. He has signs, he would be happy to give to anyone who wants one.

## 5. Justin Hartfield

- Said in January, council chose to withdraw from the Municipal Utility Coalition, this was not an issue he had paid any attention to, but the manner in which this council chose to withdraw concerned him. He said he had a few questions that he is requesting be answered, not now, but at some point would like answers. 1) What benefits to Johnstown are there in withdrawing from the Municipal Utility Coalition? 2) What benefits were there to withdrawing at that specific time? It did seem a little rushed. 3) What disadvantages were there to remaining in the Municipal Utility Coalition? 4) Is a connection between Granville, Alexandria, and Johnstown's water system still being considered? He said from his background, his understanding is this is good for redundancy between the systems. 5) What would that cost in total? And how much of that cost would have been borne by Johnstown itself? 6) Have council members been briefed by the utility coalition, by Licking Regional Water, by the County Commissioners? He would hope that they have

discussed this with all these people. He said his Aunt is Melissa Hartfield, the Mayor of Granville, who is extremely invested in this. He said at the same time, he has done work for and value Southwest Licking now from Regional Water. So, he sees what they provide and the service they provide and the value it adds. He would like to know why they made the decisions they made so he can understand what they did. He said as of right now, he doesn't really know if he likes what they did or not, he just doesn't have that information and that's what he is requesting. He would like a rundown of what it was and maybe somebody who voted against it to give a rundown of what the coalition is so they can compare because it is a bit opaque.

## 6. Nicole Shook

- Thanked everyone for coming tonight and caring about the community. She read a statement as follows: " It's not just about one person or one vote. It's about process, leadership, and direction of our city. I want to be very clear, I do not agree with the process the majority of this council used to get us here. It felt rushed, it lacked transparency, it lacked collaboration and it did not reflect the kind of steady, thoughtful governance the residents of Johnstown deserve. Decisions of this magnitude should never feel careless or reckless. They should be deliberate, transparent, and rooted in what is best for the entire community, not personalities, not politics, and not outside pressures. Because whether we want to acknowledge it or not, there are outside forces paying very close attention to Johnstown. There are interests that would love to influence how we grow, how we develop, and how decisions get made. That is exactly why steady, community focused leadership matters in such this moment and I'm concerned about the collateral damage we may have experienced already, when decisions are made outside the council chambers."

Mayor Hollis said she was going to remind Ms. Shook that remarks regarding motives of other council members are out of order and she will exercise that right to tell Ms. Shook that she is out of order. Ms. Shook said she would finish.

- She said she "is concerned with the collateral damage experience affects. It affects staff morale. It affects institutional knowledge and affects trust inside city hall, in the community, and affects partners, investors, and the stability of our city. Those impacts don't always make headlines, they show up quietly in projects that slow down, in opportunities that never return and talented people that choose not to stay and residents who start to lose faith in their government. That should concern us all, it should motivate us all to start paying closer attention to how decisions are made and not just what decisions are made, because process matters, transparency matters, and trust matters. Sean understood that. He has served the city as council member, as mayor, and a city manager, that kind of experience and institutional knowledge is rare. Throughout his years of service, he consistently put Johnstown first. You may not agree with everything, every decision he made, none of us will ever agree on things. With his dedication to his community and his leadership, steady leadership cannot be denied. Sean deserved a process that reflected the respect he has shown the city, and more importantly, the residents of Johnstown deserved a process that was open, transparent, and collaborative. But

despite my disagreements, my commitment remains the same, the people of this city have elected me to move Johnstown forward, to stand for transparency, to protect the integrity of our processes, and to make decisions that serve the long-term interest of this community. We have important work ahead of us, and that must be rooted in collaboration, respect, and a shared commitment that is best for Johnstown. So, while I continue to speak up when I believe the process is wrong, I will also continue to show up and do the work and fight for the people who put the trust in me. And Sean, thank you. Thank you for your years of service, your leadership, and for always putting Johnstown first."

## 7. Donald Barnard

- " Truth is the daughter of time, not of authority. This is a quote from Francis Bacon, an English philosopher and Statesman. Bacon believed that authority often protects itself. Institutions can lie to preserve power and truth emerges only when facts are tested over time. As a result, Bacon shifted the world away from decisions based on tradition, authority, and hierarchy and toward decisions grounded in facts, evidence, and verification. I speak from public comment today with the intent to move us as a board in the same direction. I struggle with the fact that this board chose to isolate board members that might descent in efforts to create a city manager vacancy. The process lacked a search for facts as evidenced by not one of us contacting our attorneys that represent over 30 different municipalities to ask them how Mr. Stanearth is doing with this job. Not one of us contacted MKSK or EMH&T who work with him daily and asked what he could do better or rate him against other city managers. Not one of us contacted other city managers who work with Mr. Stanearth and asked how he is as a city manager. And because I was excluded from this process, I didn't know I should be doing these things for us."

Mayor Hollis said she would pause him and remind him to confine his remarks to policy and refrain from accusations. Mr. Barnard said there were no accusations, he said "us".

- " Being a council member forces you to look at decision making as a whole and not as pieces. We should never go into a process of having our mind made up without facts that can be weighed and discussed. Our new council has already done this two times since the start of the year, that is enough. Two times too many for the constituency that elected us to this council and we owe it to them to be better. Let me make it clear, in my opinion, what we have done here to force a city manager vacancy will set this city back years. At a time when we can no longer move backward, Mr. Stanearth has worked tirelessly in the city to protect the city from those on the outside that want to profit from our land. He has stood up to development and made some in Licking County angry because he looked out for Johnstown and the vision of the community that these members and council collectively. He has been the last stop. Instead of rewarding him for his service with continued trust, we forced him out in the hopes of finding someone better. Let me make one thing clear. Time will tell the truth. And I committed to help make sure that ending the story is a story of which our community can be proud. To do so, we must be better than what has gotten us here. Members of this council, including myself, need to do some deep thinking and decide if we are representing and doing

the best for this community. We must stop alienating board members, and that goes for me, with minority perspectives and instead strive for diversity of thought. We must collect facts to have proper debate and evaluation without the cloud of outside influences. If you remember nothing from tonight, remember this quote. Truth is the daughter of time, not of authority. And that's why transparency matters. Because time eventually tells the full true story. Let's be better so this story ends better for Johnstown. Sean, thank you for your service and you truly deserved better."

## 8. Rob Platte

- Read a statement as follows: " As the administrator for Jersey Township, I'm here tonight on behalf of the board of trustees, we'd first like to congratulate those of you who were successful in being elected to a council seat. Some of you we have not met, others we have met, but regardless, please feel free to reach out to any of our trustees or myself. Should you have anything you'd like to discuss, I do realize that this is a public comment section as opposed to Q&A. So, I've formatted my comments accordingly. Over the recent few years, previous councils have been fed misinformation and falsehoods that have created extreme animosity and mistrust of your city by Jersey Township. With regard to the waste of time and money that's been called JAG and the subsequent draft facilities plan, the sad reality is it did not have to happen. It didn't. JAG and the thousands of dollars that have been spent did not have to happen. The county commissioner's agreement allows for assignment to third party providers. It never had to happen. Your previous administration spent hundreds of thousands of dollars seeking an unwanted and unneeded change of the water quality management plan, or 208 plan, when the county commissioner's agreement could have been utilized as it has been amended. Instead of a combative and deceptive attempt to force unwanted and unneeded change, there simply needed to be a meeting of the affected parties to come to a reasonable solution, but that path was never sought. Yes, there were meetings between JAG and Licking Regional beginning no earlier than October 2023. But those were not completely the correct parties to be in those discussions and certainly not all in the room had the best interest of all the communities in mind. What I would like to express tonight though, is that we are encouraged by recent actions of this new council and our excitement to work with the new administration. We would like to thank Mayor Hollis for taking the time and effort to meet with Jersey Township Trustee Dan Wetzel and seek ways that our communities can better communicate, better work together, and better plan together. Jersey was happy to step in and provide assistance during the recent snowstorm in which we understood the city had a truck out of service and was generally in need of assistance during to do snow removal. It is that kind of collaboration and sharing of services that our communities should be engaging in. As a follow-up to that, the Jersey trustees have implemented a template shared services agreement that I'd be happy to share if we were to use that in the future. I'd also like to share that as part of Jersey CEDA with the city of New Albany, we have engaged the planning permit of MBBJ and we will be starting a master plan process for Jersey. We always include the school districts in our rezonings. We will do that with this CEDA process with MBBJ. We would be happy if the city would also be willing to put some

somebody from your council on that as well so that we can have their input. My message tonight is clear, our communities should be working together and planning together, not trying to force the will of one community over another community.

Nicole Shook said she had a question for Mr. Platte, Mayor Hollis said that she may address it to her. Ms. Shook asked if Jersey Township had dropped their lawsuit against Johnstown yet. Mr. Platte said as a matter of law and rule, no, he can say that they haven't, and he doesn't see how that's relevant here, but there is a pending lawsuit that anybody can look up in the common pleas court of the county where Jersey has filed a lawsuit against the City of Johnstown, the Village of Alexandria and the Village of Granville, that is continuing on.

9. Council Committee reports

a. **School District Liaison:** Met 2/5/26; Next TBD

With new members, committee met to get acquainted, highlights were renderings of the school's new multi-purpose building opening in January of 2027 and the North Oregon field site. Collaborative discussion on concerns related to school district crosswalks and what they can do in partnership with the schools, they will continue to discuss crosswalks associated with the high school as well as the elementary. Mr. Stanearth said we are getting a traffic signal at the Leafy Dell/SR37 intersection, hopefully that will resolve some of the crosswalk issues related to school safety. Potential for an engineering firm to give a proposal on what it would cost for assessing the crosswalks and what improvements could be made. The school will be installing a stop sign at Chambers Way and Caswell.

b. **Rules:** Met 2/9/26; Next TBD

Discussed a Social Media Policy for the city, legal counsel will send a draft for review.

c. **Design Review Board:** Met 2/10/26; Next 2/24/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

Board approved a demolition permit for the Granville Mill grain silos on Track Street.

d. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 2/10/26; Next 2/24/26 @ 6:30 pm council chambers

Continued to explore updates to the Light Manufacturing zoning district text.

e. **City Management Oversight Committee:** Met 2/13/26; Next TBD

Committee met with a firm to begin the city manager search, they have worked with many communities in the area. Discussion on an Interim Manager, they have two candidates.

f. **Facilities Committee:** Met 2/13/26; Next 3/3/26 @ 5:00 pm council chambers

Continuing conversation on proposed amendments to the American Legion building lease, working together so they can stay in the existing building and continue to plan for their expansion as well as mitigating the city's risk. Committee to meet again March 3rd to review and recommend the amendment to the lease.

g. **Finance:** 2/17/26 at 5:30 pm; Next 3/17/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

Reviewed audit findings from 2020 and 2021, they expect 2022 and 2023 to come out soon. Discussion on the J-2 water well, it is down, have spent \$45,000 to get it back up and running, it will require another \$65,000 and from that point we may have to drill a new well at a cost of \$400,000. J-4 is being drilled now, all four wells will be needed for the new plant and if needed the \$400,000 could be incorporated into the loan for the water plant.

Nicole Shook asked that all expenses for the city manager search be tracked for separate accounting. Finance committee to discuss further.

h. **Safety & Service:** Next 3/3/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

10. Director Reports

a. Chief of Police

Report included in the packet. Chief Smart said they will see a new cruiser out in the community.

11. Tabled Legislation - None

12. Public Hearings of Legislation - None

13. Introduction of Legislation - None

14. Discussion - Participation in the Water Reuse Association

Sean Stanearth said this topic had been mentioned in the past couple manager's reports and Ms. Shook requested council discussion. He said the conceptual piece of water reuse is to take the discharge from the water treatment facility, after it has been cleaned significantly, and there are multiple applications in which it could be used, one is for industrial use, in order for them to do some of their manufacturing processes, they don't necessarily need potable water, but they need water for cooling or some general manufacturing. He said with us being at the headwaters of the region, our potential is somewhat limited, so this is something we should definitely pay attention to so that we could potentially use some of our effluent, what goes into the creek, and instead of putting it into the creek, maybe there is a possibility that we could use that for some manufacturing applications. Mr. Stanearth said that right now we have a three million gallon plant being built, our well field is at capacity at three million gallons, so having additional capacity may be challenging with where we are at, so if we can gather another two million gallons from the effluent and be able to utilize that for manufacturing, there are other applications such as irrigation, golf courses etc. Where it applies to the State of Ohio is that three years ago, in order to start really taking the regulatory piece of this and implementing it, they needed to form an association, a water reuse board, they looked to outside states and there was already a Water Reuse Association in existence, they were invited to come into Ohio and since then, they needed five communities to get the organization implemented in Ohio, the EPA reached out, and Johnstown was one of the first members of the organization. Columbus, Toledo and Cincinnati are now involved, and a variety of others have started to be a part of the organization, the chapter in Ohio only started three years ago. Mr. Stanearth said the annual fee associated with this is \$1,150.00, we have had Rick, our sewer superintendent, attend some of these meetings, we have had Jack Liggett be a part of those, and he has been a part of the meetings. If we do want to continue to be a part of this organization, we should identify either Jack or Rick to really engage with the regular meetings happening. Mr. Stanearth said they have talked about this with Jacobs Engineering while designing the current wastewater treatment facility, so they have that in mind, that if we want to implement that, they are securing the space to have that put in. There is a cost associated but if we can sell the capacity then

we could do an ROI on the investment. Jack Liggett said to meet the treatment, we would have to add a tertiary filter at the end, probably about a one million dollar investment. Mr. Stanearth said to put things into comparison, the sewer plant could cost \$63 million, the water facility we are constructing at \$40 million, so an additional million dollars to grab an additional two million gallons, shouldn't be a hard sell, but council will have to consider moving forward, if they want to make the investment. Mr. Stanearth asked for council direction on Johnstown remaining part of the association, he said he believes it is already appropriated in the budget, but since there have been concerns over water and sewer he wanted to vet this through council. Ryan Green said it is good conversation, he wants to hear more about it, he thinks it would be appropriate to take it to Safety & Service committee. Mr. Stanearth said the dues were needing to be paid three or four weeks ago so if there is direction to remain they will get that paid. Mr. Green stated this would obligate us for a year.

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

**Passed 7 - 0**

Mayor Hollis asked Jack Liggett to designate who would be most appropriate to participate. Mr. Liggett said it would be both of them, depending on who has what meetings and who is busy with plant upgrades, he said he doesn't think one person needs to be designated, as long as our representative is in the meeting.

#### 15. Other Business

1. Nicole Shook asked about an item in the manager report, she asked about "continued compiling transition materials at council's request to support continuity operations, five pages were provided on Thursday, additional materials are in progress." She said she did not see an email requesting those and she didn't see an email with the five pages. She asked if she missed something. Mr. Stanearth said that a council member reached out requesting some transitional material, he compiled some and is still in process, trying to give a download through a written format so they can have the information and move forward on some of the projects. Ms. Shook requested that be sent to all of council. Ms. Shook told Mr. Stanearth he will be missed.
2. Jeff Barr said JYAA winter sports are wrapping up this weekend, shout out to all the volunteer coaches and parents involved to give kids in our community a positive place to participate and stay active over the winter. Mr. Barr wished Mr. Stanearth good luck in his future endeavors with his new organization, he is sure that he will serve them well, he thanked him for all he has done.
3. Ryan Green said there is a Legion pancake breakfast this weekend, he asked folks to take care of the community events, they need the money and it's good to see everyone there. He thanked the public for coming out tonight, it means it is important to them and he hopes to continue seeing everyone and issues important to them.
4. Mayor Hollis thanked the City Manager for his service to Johnstown and said leadership transitions are never simple and they're rarely easy, but this city is bigger than just one

moment and we'll move forward and she wished Mr. Stanearth the best of luck. She said the 911 calls she is sure they will wish they would be able to make, but she also wants to thank our residents for engagement this evening, that civic participation matters and even when we disagree, it matters. It's important, and honestly, especially when we disagree, it's important to come and speak and give us an opportunity to debate and explain decisions that, you know, I think the conversation that happened with the coalition tonight is a perfect example of that. We have a lot to say, there's a lot that happens here and there's not usually a lot of people here. So, we welcome the opportunity to engage with all of you on a regular basis. This council will continue focusing on the work ahead and long-term success for our community.

5. Mayor Hollis said they do have the option in the separation agreement with Mr. Stanearth to extend his resignation date to February 27th and asked Mr. Stanearth if that was ok to discuss. Mr. Stanearth said yes, he would be able to commit to an additional week, so if council has the desire for him to continue to the 27th. There were no comments or motions made by council.

6. Mr. Stanearth said he would break the silence, and with council's permission he would like to make a couple comments. Mayor Hollis said yes.

Mr. Stanearth read his written comments: " I just want to thank everyone for coming tonight. My wife has been a rock, what I've put her through, I can only imagine and I'm forever grateful for her doing that. And so her rallying people here, not for adversary, but just to show support means a tremendous amount to me. I am deeply grateful and honored for the trust placed in me for the opportunity to serve this community. This community has shaped me and made me who I am today. And I continue to be humbled by the opportunity to serve and get back to the place I call home. I went to a recent graduation party and there was a quote on the wall. It said, "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you." I think I've had to wrestle with that for the last three years because this has been a challenging job. When I stepped into this role, I understood the challenges ahead. Together, we worked through a particular complex period and focused on building a strong, durable foundation for the city's future. Serving as the city manager has been demanding, but has also been deeply rewarding, meaningful, and work that I am grateful to have been a part of. I remain proud of the accomplishments that we've achieved together and I cherish the friendships and the relationships and memories made during this chapter of my life. You all have a special place in my heart. Thank you.

16. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Tiffany Hollis moved to adjourn; 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**

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

**Next Council Meeting March 3, 2026**

