



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

1. Call to Order
Mayor Tiffany Hollis called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for March 17, 2026 at 6:34 PM.
 2. Roll Call
Present - Mayor Hollis, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Matthew Huggins, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr
Absent - Nicole Shook

Staff present - Dave Delande – Acting City Manager/Finance Director, Jeffrey Sheridan, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Rusty Smart - Chief of Police, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Sam Stewart, Barb Knoepfler, Terri Fetters, Jeff Rath, Alice main, Deven Draper, Jamie McNally
 3. Invocation
Mr. Jeff Barr offered the invocation.
 4. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Girl Scout Troop 7535.
 5. Presentation; Girl Scout Troop 7535
Troop members addressed Council and provided a short summary of activities and how being a Girl Scout enriches their lives and is preparing them to become strong leaders of tomorrow who care about others.
 6. Proclamation - Women's History Month
Mayor Hollis read a proclamation in honor of Women's History month.
Mayor Hollis gave special recognition to the Clerk of City Council, Ms. Monroe, for her work behind the scenes and said the city is better because of her.
 7. Approval of Agenda
ACTION: Kyle Cook moved to approve; Ryan Green seconded and all were in favor.
AYES: Mayor Hollis, Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Matthew Huggins, Don Barnard, Ryan Green
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0
 8. Action on Minutes
ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to pass the February 19, 2026 Special and March 3, 2026 minutes en bloc as written; Kyle Cook seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES: Matthew Huggins, Donald Barnard, Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Jeff Barr, Kyle Cook
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0
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9. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Sam Stewart

- Thanked council for the workshop held tonight, in particular Mr. Barr because they were his idea.
- Said they were told they would have an explanation for why we pulled out of JAG. As he has looked through this, the big issues seem to be the concerns about the amount of money we were spending on consulting fees to help develop the JAG program. His question is how big of a problem is it really? \$300,000 to \$500,000, is a pretty big range that's floating around out there when talking about it and critiquing JAG. He said the city talks about a tight budget so how does it afford \$300,000 to \$500,000? He is not 100% clear on how it was all set up. He said this came up in the workshop meeting about the need to be clear with the community about how money is being spent and where we're going. He just wants an answer.
- Regarding the lawsuit with Jersey Township and the associated legal fees, he knows that's expensive, but the question is, how big a deal is it? And if the lawsuit goes our direction, does Jersey Township have to pay for our legal fees? He doesn't understand exactly what the situation is with that. Asks where we stand with that and how big of an impact is it financially.
- Said one of his big issues was were there ways to address these problems without pulling out of JAG entirely. Were there other options to address it and change the direction we were going? He said in the words of the Granville City Manager, are we leaving the townships and municipalities open to third party developers that don't primarily care about us? He does not want to be the guy who's dealing with a situation where decisions are getting made by people that don't particularly care about him. He would like the workshops to take on some of those topics.

Mayor Hollis said she wanted to address some of the statements. She said she wished she had the documentation to back up everything she is about to say but she doesn't and that is part of the reason they had to withdraw. She said that council requested, for two years, documentation on the financials and they have yet to see those. She said she was elected to be a steward of taxpayer money and felt that was her job to do first and foremost. She said when she can't get answers herself on where the financials were exactly with documentation, she was uncomfortable at that point. She said she can't speak to the \$3-500,000 for certain because she doesn't have that answer, which is a problem. It is a problem that this council still does not know the answer to that question.

- Mr. Stewart said where was this discussion back in November so he could listen to both sides.

Mayor Hollis said she would love to know that answer also. She said there was not a lot of public discussion in meetings, they were asking for answers as a council, she is not here to rehash the past but can give the facts that she has. She said she has been in contact with Granville and Alexandria. Alexandria admitted they contributed zero dollars even though the agreement was 45% 45% and 10%, they admitted they have not paid anything. Granville has failed to give her any documentation showing that they have paid anything to this point. All of that combined is why we withdrew and in the manner that they did. She said she absolutely did it quickly and swiftly because they were spending money that they didn't know where it was going or what was coming in and going out.

- Mr. Stewart asked if there was a way to reapproach the idea of the communities, the municipalities, and the townships working together in concert as opposed to independent?

Mayor Hollis said collaborating with our neighbors is always on the table, she thinks anyone here would tell you that her passion is to make sure they work together and find a solution that works for everyone. She said she is not saying that JAG was not right, but when they were spending

taxpayer money and they can't look you in the eye and tell you this is what we've spent, she can't get behind that.

Mr. Barnard said he feels everything the Mayor just said on pulling out of JAG is incorrect, there were many presentations, that Mr. Stanart reported multiple times on what they were spending, there were multiple times they had meetings where he reported on what they were spending. Mr. Green said that it was twice formally. Mr. Barnard said these individuals, except for Ryan, who voted against it every time; all voted to continue to do this, to spend every dime, except for the lobbyist. He said that Granville and Alexandria will be trued up and they will pay, it is the Finance Director's job to make sure everything gets paid correctly. Ms. Hollis said so he has to go back through three years of invoices to divvy up between entities? How do you do that? Mr. Barnard said he is not in the finance department but yes. Mayor Hollis asked if he thought that was fiscally responsible, to do it that way, to save three years of invoices and then reconcile at the end of three years with two other municipalities. Mr. Barnard said it could have been done yearly, it could have been done differently. Mayor Hollis said that is why we withdrew. Mr. Barnard said they withdrew because people were putting pressure on certain council members to pull out. Ms. Hollis said she had no pressure at all, from the taxpayers. Mr. Green said and people are putting pressure on certain council members to stay in. There was further back and forth with members talking over each other; Mr. Barnard moved for a break, there was no second.

Mr. Huggins said if anybody really wants to see the entrance into JAG, they can go on YouTube and view the September 19, 2023 meeting where three council members voted against entering JAG. Council rules state that when a vote fails, council members are not allowed to be questioned about that, but immediately, the council was questioned about why they voted that way. Mr. Huggins said that false statements were made to the council members that they gave the keys to Southwest Licking at the time and they basically forced another vote, using scare tactics in his opinion. Mr. Cook said so you would say pressuring, Mr. Huggins said yes, he thinks that vote was done under duress, additionally, when Councilman Green started asking questions before the vote, another council member looked at him straight in the face and said, "You do not need to be privy to everything that goes on in this city or with the leadership in this city. He said as a council member, his goal for his statement is to let the people of Johnstown see, it's all online, September 19th, 2023, look at the vote. He said also at the June 18, 2024 meeting, there was more talk about JAG.

Mayor Hollis addressed the lawsuit with Jersey Township, she said since they are still in litigation, there is not a lot they can talk about, but it is something they should be able to address again probably within the next two council meetings, but don't hold her to that, legal has to look at it, but as soon as they are able to make that public, they will.

Mr. Cook addressed Mr. Barnard and said that he needs to quit accusing them of being pressured to vote a certain way. Mr. Barnard said he thinks it was disrespectful that they didn't have further discussion on JAG and talk to all the people involved.

2. Jeff Rath

- Said he is an Air National Guard Veteran, he lives in Newark, the reason he is here is that he is running for Licking County Commissioner and wanted to introduce himself. He has a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in sports medicine, and served on Newark City Council for sixteen years, so, he has local government experience. He thinks, touching on what some of council was talking about, it is vitally important that the county seek local government input on things that affect those communities and he wants to make sure that happens, not just occasionally but all the time. Obviously there's a lot of concerns with growth, a lot of concerns with taxes, things of that nature, and he has addressed all of those in some of his campaign literature which he will leave on the table if anybody's interested in picking that up. If anybody wants to talk to him, he will stick around after the meeting.

10. Council Committee reports

- a. **Design Review Board:** 3/10/26 canceled; Next 3/24/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
- b. **Planning & Zoning:** Met 3/10/26; Next 3/24/26 @ 6:30 pm council chambers
Further review on Light Manufacturing, nothing to present to council yet. They did approve the use for Granville Milling to do the drive-through.
- c. **Safety & Service:** Next 4/7/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
- d. **Facilities Committee:** Schedule as needed
The lease agreement with the American Legion is continuing through legal review.
Mr. Barr said at the previous meeting, they talked about hiring a commercial realtor, that can be done through Acting Manager Delande, they do not need to formalize that with a resolution or ordinance, it is professional services, he feels this is the appropriate time to give that direction so if there is opportunity now or in the future with a future location for city hall and police department, that they have plenty of time to do it, they should retain somebody. Mr. Delande said he spoke with the Law Director, they are working on the CIC, he did request that they get it up to date, there are board members listed that are no longer here, and also the advantages and the pros and cons of the CIC, what it can do, how it's funded, different things like that, somehow they have to be able to fund it through the city. He will keep everyone updated. Mr. Barr asked about the commercial realtor, and if there was a timeline. Mr. Delande said he is hoping next week they will have everything for the CIC and then he can approach them on the realtor. Mr. Cook said then in two weeks, if they don't have the CIC, then they make a decision on whether they move forward with getting a realtor.
- e. **Rules:** Schedule as needed
- f. **City Management Oversight Committee:** Schedule as needed
- g. **Finance:** Next 4/21/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

11. Director Reports

- a. Police Chief
Statistics report included in the council packet. Chief Smart said the department has hired a new officer who will start this week. Chief said he had the honor of speaking at a career day at the intermediate school. He has also applied for OACP District One liaison and is waiting their selection.

12. Tabled Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2026-19** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LEASE AMENDMENT WITH AMERICAN LEGION POST 254 - TABLED 3/3/2026
Resolution to remain tabled.

13. Public Hearings of Legislation

- a. **RESOLUTION 2026-23** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF REVIEW FOR CODA APPLICATIONS
Mayor Hollis said the CODA (ABR) board was comprised of Ryan, herself and former council member Wes Kobel. The way the board is set up, Kyle Cook will automatically go on as the Planning & Zoning representative and then they will have one seat to fill. They had discussed

keeping Ryan Green on it for continuity.

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to approve Resolution 2026-23 as written, with the nominee to fill the vacancy to be Councilman Green; Tiffany Hollis seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Jeff Barr, Matthew Huggins, Donald Barnard, Mayor Hollis, Ryan Green, Kyle Cook

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

b. **RESOLUTION 2026-24** A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN REQUEST FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL PERRY MILES

Mayor Hollis invited Terri Fetters to speak. Ms. Fetters said that General Miles was a cousin of theirs, Perry was a Brigadier General and retired from the Army, he was very well known. They thought they would try to honor him.

The family has requested an honorary sign that would go at the intersection of US62 and Oregon Street.

ACTION: Kyle Cook moved to pass Resolution 2026-24 to approve the honorary street name sign request for General Perry Miles; Matthew Huggins seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Kyle Cook, Jeff Barr, Matthew Huggins, Donald Barnard, Ryan Green, Mayor Hollis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

c. **RESOLUTION 2026-25** A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN REQUEST FOR MR. LEWIS (LEWIE) MAIN

Ms. Alice Main said that this came as quite a surprise to her, Lewie loved this community and he would be deeply honored, as they all are.

Mayor Hollis said this sign would be at the intersections of Maple and Main Streets and Edwards and Main.

ACTION: Donald Barnard moved to pass Resolution 2026-25 as written; Kyle Cook seconded and the vote was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

14. Introduction of Legislation - None

15. Other Business

1. Jeff Barr said he would like to schedule another workshop, discussion on the workshops being on the second council meeting of the month; Finance committee at 4:30 pm and Special Council workshop at 5:30 pm on April 21st.

2. Jeff Barr thanked those service members from the Ohio Air National Guard, he doesn't know if

the message will get to their families, but condolences to those families that were affected, just keep them in our prayers and thoughts as we have many service members that are in harm's way with conflict and battle on the other side of the earth. So let's keep them all in our prayers.

3. Ryan Green said tonight was a cool full circle moment, his daughter Emma has been coming to these meetings since she was born, she is eight, and tonight she got to speak at the podium and he thinks she did a pretty good job.

4. Fish Fry Fridays at the catholic church during Lent

5. This Saturday is American Legion Breakfast and Easter egg hunt

6. Ryan Green said they saw a presentation on the Flock cameras and asked if there was a schedule for install. Chief Smart said he hopes to have them in the next couple of months. He asked if there was follow up on the protocol and guidelines. Chief Smart said there is a policy in place.

7. Ryan Green said he has gotten messages that a stop sign at Maple was missing. Mr. Liggett said he believed it was to be fixed a couple days ago but he would check.

Mayor Hollis asked Acting City Manager Dave Deland if he had anything, he did not. Mr. Sheridan was asked if he had anything, he did not.

16. Adjourn

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to adjourn; 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 6 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Next Council Meetings: Special March 23, 2026; Regular April 7, 2026