



Regular Council
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Tiffany Hollis called to Order the City of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:31 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present - Mayor Tiffany Hollis, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook, Matthew Huggins

Absent - Jeff Barr

Staff present - Jeffrey Sheridan - Interim City Manager, Dave Delande - Finance Director, Jack Liggett - Service Director, Heather Green - Design Review Board, Teresa Monroe - Clerk of Council

Public present - Herb Koehler, Brian Rose, Josiah Rose, Tiffani Bohning, Joanne Schwab, Jeanne Revercomb, Shirley Evans, Gail Dufford, Beth Kistler Olds, Rebecca Sparks, Noah Lebowits, Mike Rush

3. Invocation

Led by Mr. Barnard.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Nicole Shook moved to approve; Kyle Cook seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Mayor Hollis, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Matthew Huggins, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

6. Children's Conservation League annual update

Members of the Children's Conservation League (CCL) of Johnstown attended for presentation. CCL is a philanthropic nonprofit organization that coordinates the Johnstown Santa parade and the Santa House among other activities. Their mission is to add joy and help fill the needs of as many children as they can reach in the Johnstown - Northridge area, striving to promote good moral and spiritual values for the community and its future. They give back to the community with a scholarship program, food donations and their time. They encouraged membership to any who would like to join, meetings are the first Monday each month at 6:30 pm, they meet in the basement of the downtown United Methodist Church.

7. Citizen comments on matters not on the agenda

1. Josiah Rose

Provided some material for council members and read a statement as follows:

- "My name is Josiah Rose and I'm a lifelong resident of Johnstown. I attended Johnstown Christian Preschool, Searfoss Elementary, Adams Middle School, and Johnstown High School. I currently attend Capitol University where I study political science and I am going to attend law school in the coming years. I also currently work for the Ohio House of Representatives, where I advocate constantly for stronger privacy protections, limits on

mass surveillance technology, specifically with all the representatives that we know quite frequently. So, imagine my shock when I came home after my second year of college and I found sitting practically in my own backyard the exact surveillance system that I've spent countless hours at the state level fighting against. Not in Columbus, not in Cleveland, not in Westerville, certainly not in Albany, but right here in Johnstown. The Flock cameras are often presented as a harmless public safety tool, but what they actually create is a system that records the movements of ordinary people who have done nothing wrong. Every car that passes by is logged with a license plate, location, timestamp, vehicle description. Over time, what it creates is a searchable history of people, where they travel, where they work, where they worship, who they associate with. This is not targeted policing. This is mass surveillance. And once these cameras are installed, Johnstown does not stay local. Our residents become part of a massive nationwide surveillance network connected to thousands of agencies across the country. I want to be clear, this is not about our Johnstown Police Department doing anything wrong. This is bigger than any individual officer or police department. The concern is the system itself. Once this data is collected, we lose control over how it's shared, accessed, or potentially abused. Flock is a private organization and they retain all rights to any information collected by these cameras as shown by the articles I've provided. I provided articles and documentation to all council members showing cases where these systems were misused, hacked, or contributed to wrongful stops and arrests. The AI flock system tracks your typical data points and creates a zone map for each individual car. If your car travels outside of your typical identified zone, you'll get pinged as suspicious activity by the flock system. This could potentially ping a local police utilizing the system and increases your chances of getting pulled over by 30%. This isn't just numbers I'm making up. These are in the articles that I provided you. There's already a flock camera near Leafy Dell, meaning every parent picking up their child, every student walking home becomes part of a searchable database across the nation. We're talking about the privacy and safety of our community and our children. Public safety matters. Every person in this room wants safe neighborhoods and effective policing, but safety and freedom are never opposites. Communities across Ohio and across the country are beginning to push back against constant surveillance becoming the new normal, including Cleveland. I urge this council to reject Flock cameras and prevent Johnstown from becoming a part of this nationwide, unconstitutional surveillance network, just as I constantly urge the Ohio House of Representatives every day I go to work. Thank you."

2. Herb Koehler

Read a statement as follows:

- "I'm Herb Koehler, the Village Manager in Granville here representing both the Village of Granville and the Municipal Utility Coalition of Licking County. Mayor Hollis, council members, I'm just here for a couple minutes to express my gratitude for your city manager, Mr. Sheridan, for meeting with me almost three weeks ago. It was good to get a mutual understanding of what our respective opportunities and challenges may be. And we both committed to continuing to connect as needed in the future. My purpose here tonight, as part of the coalition, is to follow up on the conversation I had with Mayor Hollis, my Mayor, my Vice Mayor, Mayor Barnes and council member Jeff Barr, who's not here tonight. On February 4th, we met just to discuss kind of the future of the coalition, understanding and acknowledging that your belief that leaving the coalition was in your best interest and we didn't argue against that. What we requested the meeting for, was for you to consider allowing the coalition to complete our draft facility plan and to use Johnstown's capabilities in that facility plan, and also to continue with partnering on other efforts. You advised you would bring that request back to full council and let us know what your intended direction is. That was about three and a half months ago and we'd like to shape our approach with those questions being answered. I know a lot has happened since that meeting, the departure of your city manager, a weird back and forth over legal bills within the coalition,

that I think we've rectified, but I would advise again that a facility plan completed helps to protect your investment in that plan. And we ask you to consider this along with the other partnering opportunities that we've endeavored together over the last several years. I'm not expecting an answer tonight, I just ask for an update, I know you can't answer my questions from this dais, but I do plan to depart, this is meeting two of four night meetings and the grass isn't going to cut itself. So I'll be departing, but I do ask respectfully for your consideration in that question."

3. Mike Rush

Provided some material for council members and read a statement as follows:

- "My name is Michael Rush. My property backs up to the Grove substation and also the new road for going in for Cologix. What you have in front of you is pictures from my property. So I want to start up in the top left-hand corner. That is a flooded trail in my yard. This trail is a walking path that me and my neighbors have enjoyed. My wife and I bought this place 26 years ago. It used to be a beautiful woods next to it, and that was a trail through the woods and it's gone. I'm okay with that because they cut down their land and anybody can do anything they want on their property, but you can't mess with mine. That's my private property. So, my trail is flooded, that's actually a really nice picture, you go back there now, I went back there this afternoon, my trail stinks. It's frothy. It's nasty. All my vegetation is dying and all the trees that I have back there that don't like wet roots, they're stressing. You go to the next picture down, there's a field tile, a drain, that my kids and I put in that path that drains that water out to a low spot further to the west in the middle of the Cologix field that they're not working on right now. It drains to a low point there. You go to the next picture in the upper right. You see the arrow? There's a low point in that field. That field floods when we get extremely hard rains and within 24 hours it drains out. It hasn't rained out there for quite a while, and this flood in this field, that is exceptional. That's a five-inch rain flood for 24 hours. We're many days past any kind of substantial rain at all. What's happened; you go down to the bottom right picture, my speculation is when LRE cut the groove in, by that red arrow, they cut that field tile, the field tile that I'm referring to is the one represented in green in the bottom left hand corner. That field tile drains out all the land that was the Heimerl, Dague farm back there, it drains all that water into that field tile. It runs subterranean under my land, goes to Mike Petri's land, and then comes out at Kyber Run Creek under Duncan Plains Road. So, what's happened is they cut this groove and suddenly my land doesn't drain anymore. You can also see in the bottom right picture in the bottom left hand corner of that, they got a drain pipe there that's about two feet too high, nothing's draining there. So, I have sent these pictures and emails out to a wide variety of people, Licking soil, Ohio EPA, Cologix, Licking Rural, everyone who needs to. And I was told that I should send it to you all, and I didn't get your emails out yet, but saw the meeting, heck, I'll run over here because it is City of Johnstown land and I want you to be aware of it. Now, besides the inconvenience of me not being able to use my land, and I'm going to suffer some potential vegetation, some large trees dying there, there are a lot of people looking at Duncan Plains right now and if someone walks back there and says that's a wetland, I lose hundreds of thousands of dollars. So much to the credit, Dawn Smith from Cologix, who I highly respect, she's looking into it. Chris Turner from Turner Construction, the head guy, he came out and talked to me there and you guys sent out an inspector as well. But that was a couple days ago, haven't heard anything. I want my land fixed, that's all I'm asking for. So I appreciate your time and any pressure or questions you guys can ask to have this happen sooner rather than later, because vegetation dies big trees die real quick in this kind of stuff."
- He added that Dawn has been great and really respectful, EMH&T came out in December and he can't say enough about how great EMH&T was to them and walking out there and inspecting this and taking care of the problem.

Mayor Hollis asked Mr. Rush to send her an email with his contact information and she would get back to him.

4. Mike Rush

- Invited everyone to attend the Transportation Improvement District (TID) community meeting on May 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Township Hall, to have discussion on direct issues that are wrong with traffic. He added that they will close Duncan Plains Road and divert to Green Chapel to Clover Valley. He said they have no idea how much traffic is coming down Duncan Plains, the road is being destroyed, Green Chapel is closed, Beach is closed, nobody wants to go on Clover Valley. So TID is coming out, it is our chance to talk to them about their plans for our community, what they are doing, how it will work and the phases of construction.

8. Council Committee reports

- Design Review Board:** Met 5/12/26; Next 5/26/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
Board saw again the tabled application for the Kyber Run shopping center, applicant returned with design options for building A and C, which are additions to the existing property. Building A is a standalone and C is connected to Kroger. The board approved one of the options reviewed.
- Planning & Zoning:** Met 5/12/26; Next 5/26/26 @ 6:30 pm council chambers
Discussed and tabled the housing bank legislation and moved the discussion of rezoning, if council chooses to annex the 99 acres, as well as the NCA.
- Finance:** 5/19/26; Next 6/16/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers
No report given.
- Rules:** 5/6/26 Canceled
Will be rescheduled.
- Safety & Service:** Next 6/2/26 @ 5:30 pm council chambers

9. Director Reports

- Police Chief**
Chief Smart is not present; his report is in the public packet for review.

10. Tabled Legislation

- RESOLUTION 2026-19** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LEASE AMENDMENT WITH AMERICAN LEGION POST 254. **Introduced/Tabled March 3, 2026**
To remain tabled.

11. Public Hearings of Legislation - None

12. Introduction of Legislation - None

13. Other Business

1. Mr. Huggins said he did some research on the Flock cameras, he knows there was an allocation of \$15,000 for them in the budget but he does not find any vote of council to approve that. Mr. Barnard said Chief Smart asked for it in his budget, the budget was approved, so he can spend it. Mr. Huggins said he would have thought there would have been more open discussion on something of that type of technology, and for the public to weigh in. He added that he is not a big fan of the Flock cameras, as a conservative, he thinks they are a grave abuse of power. Mr.

Barnard said it was discussed for three different budget cycles for three years, no one was trying to hide anything, it was openly discussed. Mr. Green said it was presented in Finance and in Safety and Service Committees and there is a policy that was put in place. Mr. Green said the presentations and that policy could be sent out to any who would like it.

2. Mr. Green asked about the status of the CIC. Mr. Delande said he sent out an email update.

3. Mr. Cook said Monroe Township has reached out about meeting, he wanted to see what everyone thought about that. Mayor Hollis said it just needs to be non quorum, so they can send three people, they asked for May 27th at 6:30 pm. Members to meet first will be Nicole, Matt and Kyle. Mr. Cook said he will reply to the township.

4. Ms. Shook congratulated the freshman band for a superior rating at state and congratulations to the class of 2026 who will be graduating Friday night.

14. Adjourn

ACTION: Mayor Hollis moved to adjourn; Kyle Cook seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Mayor Hollis, Ryan Green, Donald Barnard, Matthew Huggins, Kyle Cook, Nicole Shook

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 6 - 0

The meeting ended at 7:08 pm.

Next Council Meeting June 2, 2026