



**VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY**  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
60 LESTER AVENUE, JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790  
(607) 798-7861  
www.villageofjc.com

**Village Board**

Christina Charuk, Mayor  
Deputy Mayor John Walker

Trustee Clark Giblin    Trustee Mary Jacyna    Trustee Lori Thorn

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**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Johnson City Village Board held in the Village Hall Board Room, 60 Lester Avenue, Johnson City, NY on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**

Present:            Christina Charuk, Mayor  
                        John Walker, Deputy Mayor  
                        Clark Giblin, Trustee  
                        Mary Jacyna, Trustee  
                        Lori Thorn, Trustee

Absent:            None

Also Present:    Keegan Coughlin, Legal Counsel  
                        Kim Cunningham, Acting Village Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Christina Charuk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Charuk advised the meeting attendants where the fire exits are and took roll call.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[1]    The next regular Village Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7:30pm with a work session at 6:00pm in the Johnson City Village Hall Board Room.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

[1]    January 20, 2026 Village Board Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026 and place them on file was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

**BIDS** – None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

**PETITIONS RECEIVED** – None

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## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – VISITORS**

Mayor Charuk opened the privilege of the floor. She advised the meeting attendants pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order any speaker can address the Board for no more than five minutes.

**Mr. Picalilla** – *Albert St.* – third meeting he has come to this meeting with the same topic. Spoke in support of Resolution 27. Mr. Picalilla gave the Clerk-Treasurer a statement which has been added hereto.

Joe Picalila, Albert Street.

This is the third meeting that I have come up here about the same topic because things keep happening in this country week after week that makes my heart ache and my fists clench. But this time I see that I am joined by many others, whom I want to thank for taking their time to participate in civic engagement. So, let me focus my rage into words, and don't worry, I won't run past my 5 minutes.

I rise in support to this legislation presented, and I thank the Mayor for drafting this up.

In the last month, many cities across New York, from Buffalo to Binghamton have passed various legislation limiting or outright stopping ICE cooperation. The legislation from these municipalities makes clear that local resources and personnel do not assist this rogue federal agency and their ill-trained enforcers. The legislation from these municipalities bars their civil servants and employees from offering their time or resources to assist ICE. In many places, the local police have been reminded exactly where they STAND in regards to ICE. Where they STAND, rightly, is between the citizenry and ICE, protecting the Citizens from unjust treatment by ICE. Before we get into a conflict of meaning, let me be clear that when I say the word "citizen" I mean exactly "an inhabitant of a particular town or city" and NOT the narrower definition that relates to "birth or naturalization" which others seem to weaponize against those they deem to be less.

The citizens of our lovely Village deserve peace of mind and protection. They deserve dignity and respect. They deserve to feel welcomed into the fold of community. Some may see people with different nationalities as a threat. I see them as valuable members of our community. Some may think that ICE won't bother coming to little ol' Johnson City. I tell you now, that anyone who has darker skin speaks with an accent, is a member of the press, a concerned bystander, or was born someplace else is terrified right now of what could happen. They are terrified of videotaping peacefully. They are terrified of getting out of the way. They are terrified of speaking up when they witness criminal acts happening in the streets. They are terrified of sleeping in their homes at night, terrified of going to their place of employment, terrified of attending their citizenship meetings, and terrified that their local government will collude with federal agencies to harm rather than protect.

We can stop this now. Right here, in this room, and draw a line in the sand, take a STAND, and say "NO MORE! OUR CITIZENS DESERVE BETTER!"

Citizens of Johnson City deserve to be protected NOW. We should not be waiting for an Act from Governor Hochul (Local Cops, Local Crimes Act) nor should we be waiting for a proposed bill (NY4All) to pass. You can act now, vote this through, and take a STAND. Three voices in this room need to vote in the affirmative, and listen to the constituents.

I hope you make the right choice.

## **Resident of Vestal**

- Confirmed the Mayor signed her oath.
- Asked about a residency card for residents of Johnson City
  - Issue a residency card to all residents so the Village knows who is a resident.
- Police protection
  - Residents come first, Passerby's don't come first
- Asked if ICE Legislation is this the only legislation the Board will cooperate with.
  - How much money are you willing to spend?

**Mr. Schuldt – 10 Olive Street** – Proposing an application for an aquifer permit for opening up a repair shop.

Attorney Coughlin advised this is a pending Planning/Zoning Application. If the variance is unsuccessful, it could potentially come before this Board for a rezone request. The property is next to an Industrial District and it is just outside of it so they have applied for a variance. They are going to convert the building, used for personal storage, currently zoned residential and to a mechanic/towing shop.

## **Mr. Meaney, Weymouth Ln**

- Resolution 27 – hasn't been a problem yet. There have been 2 ICE arrests in Johnson City.
  - Conflicting language
- Resolution 28 – asked if there was a cost associated with this. Gave demographics with five largest categories: Irish, English, German, Italian, Polish. If we are going to connect with someone, it should be one that is more than 1.3% of our population.
- Resolution 29 – increase to pension and healthcare costs for a full-time employee
- Resolution 30 – thinks it is a great program but what is intern going to be doing

Mayor Charuk stated for the good of the public, comments must be respectful and the Board does not engage in back and forth with questions. She responded the intern is pursuing her Masters in Public Administration through Binghamton University and she will be working in an Administrative Assistant capacity.

Mayor Charuk closed the privilege of the floor.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A motion to accept and file the following Communications was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Jacyna. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

[1] Correspondence from Aqil Dharamsey, owner of 26 Crocker Avenue regarding garbage violation.

[2] Correspondence from Elena Gayler, 163 N. Broad Street regarding water bill penalty.

[3] Correspondence from Bianca DiRico, 19 E Bernice Street regarding water bill penalties.

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS** – None

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS** – None

## **PAYROLL AND BILLS PRESENTED**

A motion to approve Abstract #13 of the 2025-2026 Fiscal bills as stated and/or amended, and attached

to the work session minutes and recorded as part of the work session minutes, having been audited by the Board and approved with the amendments, was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Jacyna. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)

Nays – 0    Absent – 0

GENERAL FUND	\$507,844.41
WATER FUND	\$188,498.24
SEWER FUND	\$157,404.75
REFUSE FUND	\$36,227.01
VARPUR	\$273,992.21
SPECIAL GRANT	\$0
DEBT SERVICE	\$0
CAPITAL	\$2,181.44

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Resolution 14 of 2026**

A motion to approve the appointment of Joshua Holland to the Joint Sewage Treatment Board by Mayor Christina Charuk was tabled for one month by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Thorn.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)

Nays – 0    Absent – 0

**Resolution 17 of 2026**

A motion to table the Mayor to sign a Personal Services Agreement with the Clerk/Treasurer was tabled by Trustee Jacyna and seconded by Trustee Walker.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)

Nays – 0    Absent – 0

**Resolution 23 of 2026**

A motion to authorize the Director of Public Services to renew the Curb & Gutter and Sidewalk Replacement for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, in a form acceptable to counsel, with G DeVincentis & Son Construction Company, Inc. including the agreed upon price adjustment per the Consumer Price Index Increase of 2.70% was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Jacyna.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)

Nays – 0    Absent – 0

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCE & RULES**

**Resolution 27 of 2026**

A motion to approve the following resolution was made by Mayor Charuk. The motion was not seconded.

Motion Failed – No action taken

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING A RESIDENT-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY, LIMITING LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, AND AFFIRMING THE DUTY OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO PROTECT COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM HARM

WHEREAS, the Village of Johnson City is a welcoming, diverse, and interconnected community shaped by residents of many national origins, cultures, languages, and lived experiences, all of whom contribute to the civic, cultural, and economic vitality of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the safety, dignity, and constitutional rights of all residents—regardless of immigration or citizenship status—are fundamental to the health, trust, and cohesion of the Johnson City community; and

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Johnson City Police Department is to protect life and property, prevent harm, uphold constitutional rights, and serve the community with fairness, professionalism, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, effective public safety depends upon trust and cooperation between residents and law enforcement, including the willingness of victims, witnesses, and community members to report crimes, seek assistance, and engage with local government without fear; and

WHEREAS, when local law enforcement is perceived as participating in or enabling federal civil immigration enforcement, particularly in the absence of judicial warrants or clear threats to public safety, that trust is undermined and community safety is weakened; and

WHEREAS, civil immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, not a local one, and the use of Village personnel or resources for such purposes diverts limited local capacity away from core public safety and community needs; and

WHEREAS, New York State law and policy affirm the importance of separating local policing from civil immigration enforcement in order to promote public safety, protect civil rights, and ensure equal access to government services; and

WHEREAS, local governments and police departments retain an independent duty to safeguard residents from unlawful detention, excessive force, or actions that pose a danger to individuals or the community, regardless of the source of such actions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Johnson City hereby adopts the following Resident-First Public Safety and Non-Cooperation Policy:

## SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this resolution is to affirm that **the safety, rights, and well-being of Johnson City residents come first**, to ensure that Village resources are used exclusively to promote public safety and community trust, and to clearly define the limited circumstances under which cooperation with federal authorities is appropriate, lawful, and necessary.

This policy is intended to strengthen—not weaken—public safety by ensuring that local law enforcement remains focused on community protection rather than civil immigration enforcement.

## SECTION 2. LIMITATIONS ON CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

1. The Johnson City Police Department and all Village employees **shall not**:
  - Initiate stops, questioning, detention, arrest, or surveillance **for the purpose of determining or enforcing civil immigration status**;
  - Use Village funds, personnel, facilities, equipment, or information systems to assist in civil immigration investigations, apprehensions, detentions, or arrests;
  - Honor or enforce ICE detainers, administrative requests, or transfer requests **unless accompanied by a valid judicial warrant or court order issued by a judge**.
2. Village personnel shall not inquire into, collect, or record an individual's immigration status unless such information is **directly relevant to a legitimate local law-enforcement purpose unrelated to civil immigration enforcement**.

## SECTION 3. PERMITTED COOPERATION FOR SERIOUS PUBLIC SAFETY THREATS

Nothing in this resolution shall prohibit the Johnson City Police Department from:

1. Cooperating with federal, state, or county law enforcement agencies in cases involving **serious or violent criminal conduct**, including credible threats to life, significant bodily harm, or major threats to public safety;
2. Sharing information or providing assistance **when required by law** or pursuant to a valid, signed judicial warrant or court order;
3. Taking appropriate action when an individual poses a **clear, articulable, and immediate danger** to others.

Immigration status alone shall **never** be treated as a criminal offense or as evidence of danger by local law enforcement.

## SECTION 4. AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO PROTECT COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM HARM

1. The Johnson City Police Department affirms its **independent duty to protect all persons within the Village** from unlawful detention, excessive force, intimidation, or actions that pose a risk to individual or public safety, regardless of whether such actions are undertaken by local, state, or federal actors.
2. When federal agents are operating within the Village, local law enforcement shall:

- Require presentation of **valid judicial warrants** before providing access to non-public spaces or assisting in enforcement actions;
  - Decline participation in actions that are unlawful, unsafe, or outside the scope of local authority;
  - Take reasonable steps, consistent with law, to **de-escalate situations**, protect bystanders, and prevent harm to residents;
  - Intervene or document concerns when necessary to uphold constitutional rights and public safety.
3. Nothing in this section shall be construed as obstructing lawful federal activity; rather, it affirms the Village’s responsibility to **protect residents and uphold the law within its jurisdiction**.

**SECTION 5. COMMUNITY TRUST AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

1. All Village employees shall perform their duties without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, or immigration status.
2. The Village of Johnson City affirms that **victims and witnesses of crime are safe seeking help**, reporting crimes, and accessing Village services, and that doing so will not subject them to civil immigration enforcement by local authorities.

**SECTION 6. TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The Village shall take reasonable steps to ensure that all relevant personnel receive training on:

- This policy and its implementation
- Constitutional and civil rights protections
- Applicable New York State law
- Best practices in community-oriented and trauma-informed policing

**SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this resolution is found to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**Resolution 28 of 2026**

A motion to hold over the following resolution was made by Trustee Walker until they get more information.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF AN EXPLORATORY**

## COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH UZHGOROD, UKRAINE

WHEREAS, the Village of Johnson City recognizes the value of international municipal partnerships in fostering cultural exchange, educational collaboration, economic development, and mutual understanding among communities; and

WHEREAS, Sister City relationships promote people-to-people diplomacy, strengthen global awareness, and create opportunities for civic, academic, nonprofit, and business partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the City of Uzhgorod, Ukraine, is a historic regional center with strong cultural, educational, and civic institutions, and has demonstrated resilience, civic engagement, and a commitment to democratic values; and

WHEREAS, Johnson City has a longstanding tradition of welcoming diverse communities and supporting international engagement, education, and humanitarian cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees wishes to explore the feasibility, benefits, and responsibilities associated with establishing a Sister City relationship prior to taking formal action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Johnson City hereby authorizes the creation of a **Sister City Exploratory Committee** for the purpose of examining the potential establishment of a Sister City relationship with Uzhgorod, Ukraine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Exploratory Committee shall be advisory in nature and may include representatives from Village government, local educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, cultural organizations, business leaders, and community members, as deemed appropriate by the Mayor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Exploratory Committee shall be charged with:

1. Assessing the cultural, educational, civic, and economic benefits of a potential Sister City relationship;
2. Identifying potential partnership opportunities and community stakeholders;
3. Reviewing best practices and requirements associated with Sister City affiliations, including those recognized by Sister Cities International; and
4. Reporting findings and recommendations to the Village Board of Trustees within a reasonable timeframe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the creation of this Exploratory Committee does not obligate the Village of Johnson City to enter into a formal Sister City agreement, nor does it authorize the expenditure of Village funds unless separately approved by the Board of Trustees

**Resolution 29 of 2026**

A motion to appoint Stacey Thomas to the position of full-time Clerk in Village Hall at the salary pursuant to the Administrative Support Unit Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective February 4th, 2026 contingent upon the passing of the required civil service test, successful completion of a background investigation and the required preemployment drug test was held over by Trustee Giblin until the Board gets more information and exactly what we have budgeted for the benefits and retirement.

**Resolution 30 of 2026**

A motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Binghamton University student Jillian Sampson for a Masters of Public Administration Internship for January 2026 through May 2026, or through the completion of the required 150 hours with no monetary compensation and contingent upon the successful completion of a background investigation was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Jacyna.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)    Nays – 0    Absent – 0

**Resolution 31 of 2026**

A motion for forgiveness of water bill penalty in the amount of \$37.15 to Elena Gayler, 163 N. Broad Street was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Thorn.

Motion Failed – Vote:

Ayes – 0    Nays – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)    Absent – 0

**Resolution 32 of 2026**

A motion for forgiveness of water bill penalty in the amount of \$51.98 to Bianca DiRico, 19 E. Bernice Street was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Failed – Vote:

Ayes – 0    Nays – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)    Absent – 0

**Resolution 35 of 2026**

A motion for forgiveness of garbage violation to Aqil Dharamsey, owner of 26 Crocker Avenue in the amount of \$750.00 was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Failed – Vote:

Ayes – 0    Nays – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)    Absent – 0

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**FIRE** – No new business

**POLICE** – No new business

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Resolution 33 of 2026**

A motion to authorize the Director of Public Services to submit a Letter of Support for Southern Tier 8’s Application to the Local Government Efficiency Grant (LGEG) for a Shared MS4 Technician Program. (NAPA – Volos Auto) in Line A5110.4.254 back to Line A5110.4.254 was made by Trustee Thorn and seconded by Trustee Jacyna.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)                      Nays – 0      Absent – 0

**PLANNING, ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT** – No new business

**JOINT SEWAGE TREATMENT BOARD**

**Resolution 34 of 2026**

A motion to approve the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board’s request that the owners pass legislation to amend the 2025 Budget to increase Local System Cost ES8120.54000 by \$370,000.00 and decrease ES8130.55100.JS2 HR Personal Services - Hourly by \$200,000.00; ES8130.55169.JS2 Salary Adjustment - Hourly by \$100,000.00; and ES8130.54656 Maintenance Agreements by \$70,000.00 was made by Trustee Jacyna and seconded by Trustee Thorn.

Motion Carried – Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Thorn, Jacyna, Giblin, Walker, Charuk)                      Nays – 0      Absent – 0

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Christina Charuk adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

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Kim Cunningham  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer’s Office.