

Minutes

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, October 20, 2025

7:30 P.M.

Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

Prior to the work session, Councilman Sheldon led the budget proceedings. Comptroller Ericka Thomas, Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Timothy Jackson, Deputy Police Chief Scott Forster and Interim Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Roush presented their 2026 budget requests to the City Council for review and consideration.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Dolce, Councilwoman Brackman, Councilman Faulkner, Councilman Daversa, Councilman Russell, Councilman Sheldon, Councilman Reynolds, Councilman Bonfiglio, Councilman Paterniti

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Others Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer John, Comptroller Ericka Thomas, Director Development Crystal Surdyk, Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Timothy Jackson, Deputy Police Chief Scott Forster, Interim Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Roush Corporation Counsel Elliot Raimondo, Acting Director of Public Works Mark Roetzer, Mayor's Executive Assistant Joseph Calimeri

Council President Dolce called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Paul Wolfe of 212 Fulton Street, Jamestown, appeared before the City Council to speak about the No Kings Rally at Dow Park. Upon speaking with others in attendance, he gathered that the overall feeling in the city is fear. He expressed his appreciation to the Jamestown Police Department for their patrols on Fulton Street. Mr. Wolfe also asked if there were updates on obtaining court orders to demolish condemned houses and to pick up the junk and debris on several properties. Crystal Surdyk noted that junk and debris can be picked up on the right of way, and many of the properties slated for demolition will be cleaned up as well. She explained that there are several different steps that must be taken leading up to the actual demolition.

Douglas Beardsley of Jamestown, appeared before the City Council regarding the property tax increase. He asked if tax exempt properties are evaluated from time to time to determine if they can remain tax exempt. Council President Dolce noted that tax exempt properties apply for 501-c3 status through New York State, therefore the city doesn't have any oversight over those. Councilman Paterniti noted that many tax-exempt businesses do make PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments to the city, etc. Corporation Counsel Raimondo stated that the city Assessor reviewed every tax-exempt property in the city and verified their 501-c3 status, etc. Council President Dolce thanked him for his question and noted that this is a question the council receives on a regular basis.

An international college student residing at and attending Jamestown Community College, attended the City Council meeting to gain a greater insight into American politics.

Standing Committees

Housing Committee

Councilman Reynolds noted that due to the budget hearing the Housing Committee did not meet, however, he did mention the demolition updates provided by Ms. Surdyk at the last work session. Following the October 6, 2025 Housing committee meeting, Ms. Surdyk forwarded the demolition spreadsheet to councilmembers to keep them up to date on each property's progress. Progress has been made with demolitions on Cross Street and Fulton Street.

Councilman Paterniti asked if the names of individuals that won bids on the tax sale properties have been released yet, as he has been made aware of a potential dispute between a new property owner and the current tenant. Ms. Surdyk noted that the names have not been released yet, but the tenant should call the Chautauqua County Real Property Tax Office or Law New York to address the situation.

Finance Committee

Resolutions

1. WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown is authorized to establish and collect permit fees for services and regulatory oversight; and

WHEREAS, permit fees have not been updated in several years and current rates no longer reflect the actual cost of processing, inspection, administration, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review and cost analysis has been conducted by Department of Development to ensure permit fees are fair, reasonable, and consistent with the cost-of-service delivery; and

RESOLVED, that the City Council and Mayor Ecklund of Jamestown, New York are supportive of the permit fee schedule update as presented and shall go into effect January 1, 2026.

Ms. Surdyk noted that the increases are across the board for the most part. The hope is to help cover the cost of doing business.

Councilman Faulkner moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Council President Dolce.

Carried: 3 – 0

2. WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown recognizes the importance of maintaining fiscal responsibility and minimizing the financial burden on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, increasing costs and the complexity of providing municipal services require innovative and cooperative approaches to governance at the local level; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. has proposed the creation of a Government Efficiency Fund to assist municipalities in covering the upfront costs associated with exploring shared services, consolidations, mergers, and dissolutions with the goal of this fund being to reduce redundancies, streamline operations, and eliminate duplicate efforts, ultimately leading to significant cost savings; and

WHEREAS, such a fund would provide critical financial support for feasibility studies, legal and administrative costs, and other necessary steps that often present a barrier to initiating conversations about restructuring and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown believes that cooperation among neighboring municipalities is essential in the pursuit of more efficient and cost-effective government operations, with the ultimate goal of improving service delivery and reducing costs to residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Jamestown, New York, hereby expresses its full support for County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr.'s proposal to establish a Government Efficiency Fund to aid local governments in pursuing shared services and structural reform initiatives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Jamestown is committed to being an active and willing partner in future discussions and explorations of shared services, consolidations, mergers, or dissolutions, where such actions may benefit taxpayers and enhance government effectiveness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk will send a certified copy of this resolution to all neighboring municipalities within Chautauqua County, inviting them to consider whether there may be mutual interest in exploring opportunities for shared services, consolidations, mergers, or dissolutions. The City of Jamestown is open to engaging in discussions with any interested municipalities and is committed to working cooperatively to identify ways we can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and better serve our residents. We extend this invitation in the spirit of collaboration and fiscal responsibility, and welcome any communities who may wish to explore these possibilities together.

Councilman Faulkner moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Council President Dolce.

Carried: 3 – 0

3. WHEREAS, as part of Governor Kathy Hochul's Regional Economic Development Councils, the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) that is to be administered by the New York Department of State is an opportunity for one downtown from each of the ten (10) regional economic development councils to be nominated by their respective council for the award for which the submission must come from the respective municipal government entity; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization Initiative process, up to \$10 million in each of 10 communities will be made available to aid in the transformation of communities toward the reinforcement of workforce infrastructure and employment. The initiative will place emphasis on the reinvestment of public and private funds into the downtown neighborhoods and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency is working to prepare for submission on or before November 7th, 2025, the Downtown Revitalization Initiative application for the City of Jamestown, as part of a community-wide stakeholder effort for said grant application, will focus on reimagining the underutilized Brooklyn Square, outline strategies for promoting and connecting waterfront activity throughout the City, adaptive re-use development projects and stabilization efforts of multiple key properties across Downtown, and updates to streetscape infrastructure and parking.

WHEREAS, said application is consistent with and in support of the City of Jamestown’s Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination Study (2017), Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan (2018), Urban Design Plan 2.0 (2019), Chadakoin River Strategic Business Plan (2021), updated Comprehensive Plan (in progress – 2025/2026) and other studies regarding riverfront development and its importance to downtown redevelopment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council is in full support for the submission to the WNY Regional Economic Development Council an application for the 2025 Downtown Revitalization Initiative; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute all necessary documents with The New York State Regional Economic Development Councils and The New York State Department of State, should the City of Jamestown be successful in securing funding for said downtown revitalization efforts.

Councilman Faulkner moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Council President Dolce.

Carried: 3 – 0

4. RESOLVED, That the Mayor be and she hereby is authorized to execute a quit claim deed transferring title to a small corner lot know as Winsor Street, parcel SBL#387.12-1-19 from the City of Jamestown, to the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency for the purpose of sale to a business.

Council President Dolce moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Faulkner.

Carried: 3 – 0

5. RESOLVED, That the City Comptroller be and she hereby is authorized to make the following amendment to the 2025 General Fund Budget for the purpose of appropriating funds toward the purchase of critical computer equipment for a total not to exceed Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and No Cents (\$60,643.00).

INCREASE:	Appropriations	\$60,643.00
A-3120-0201-0000	Police Computer equipment	\$28,480.00
A-3120-0204-0000	Police Office equipment	\$ 6,000.00
A-1680-0201-0000	IT Computer equipment	\$ 8,600.00
A-1440-0204-0000	Engineering/DPW Office equipment	\$ 8,000.00
A-1210-0204-0000	Mayor Office equipment	\$ 1,656.50
A-1420-0204-0000	Corporation Counsel Office equipment	\$ 1,656.50
A-1640-0201-0000	Fleet Computer equipment	\$ 2,250.00

A-1355-0201-0000	Assessor Computer equipment	\$ 1,800.00
A-3330-0201-0000	Parking Enforcement Computer equipment	\$ 1,500.00
A-3410-0201-0000	Wi-Fi Access Points	\$ 700.00
DECREASE:	Appropriations	\$60,643.00
A-1990-0400-0000	Contingency Account	\$60,643.00

Council President Dolce moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Faulkner.

Carried: 3 – 0

- RESOLVED, that Crime Analyst Holly Katta be, and hereby is, authorized to attend the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Analyst Academy to be held at the DCJS Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany, NY from November 2nd through November 8th, 2025 with expenses paid by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services GIVE and STRIVE grants.

Councilman Faulkner moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Council President Dolce.

Carried: 3 – 0

- RESOLVED, That the City Comptroller be and she hereby is authorized to make the following amendment to the 2025 General Fund Budget for the purpose of appropriating funds toward the replacement of the Topsoil Storage Facility for a total not to exceed Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$35,000.00):

INCREASE:	Appropriations	\$35,000.00
	Capital Account	
	A.1990.0400.0000	
DECREASE:	Appropriations	\$35,000.00
	Contingency	
	A.9551.0500.0000	

Council President Dolce moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Faulkner.

Carried: 3 – 0

- WHEREAS, on January 22, 2002 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200201C03 that effective immediately and until further notice instituted a hiring freeze for the City of Jamestown, and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2006 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200611B17 to extend the freeze to any change in employment from Part-Time to Full-Time status, and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that within the Department of Public Works an effort to effectively manage the city's day-to-day responsibilities in a cost-efficient manner, it is in the City of Jamestown's best interest to lift the hiring freeze for a certain position, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that effective immediately the Jamestown City Council hereby suspends the hiring freeze instituted by resolution number 200201C03 and authorized the filling of the following position due to the essential nature of the position.

One (1) Laborer in the Department of Public Works Streets Division. This position is vacant as the result of a retirement in November of 2025.

Council President Dolce moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Faulkner.

Carried: 3 – 0

9. WHEREAS, on January 22, 2002 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200201C03 that effective immediately and until further notice instituted a hiring freeze for the City of Jamestown, and

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Council President Dolce moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Faulkner.

Carried: 3 – 0

Public Safety

Resolutions

1. RESOLVED, That the City Comptroller be and she hereby is authorized to make the following amendment to the 2025 General Fund Budget for the purpose of appropriating funds toward the purchase of critical computer equipment for a total not to exceed Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and No Cents (\$60,643.00).

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A-3410-0201-0000	Wi-Fi Access Points	\$ 700.00
DECREASE:	Appropriations	\$60,643.00
A-1990-0400-0000	Contingency Account	\$60,643.00

- This resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

Councilman Reynolds moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 3 – 0

2. RESOLVED, that Crime Analyst Holly Katta be, and hereby is, authorized to attend the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Crime Analyst Academy to be held at the DCJS Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany, NY from November 2nd through November 8th, 2025 with expenses paid by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services GIVE and STRIVE grants.

- This resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

Councilman Paterniti moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Carried: 3 – 0

Ordinance/Local Law

3. Ordinance updating the Central Business District Parking Permit Fee from \$300.00 to \$600.00.

Councilman Reynolds moved to approve the ordinance amendment, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 3 – 0

4. Local Law 2 of 2025 – Updating the Code Enforcement Program (Discussion item).

The Department of State notified the Department of Development that the Code Enforcement Program in the City Code/Charter, to include language that incorporates code enforcement into the charter and provided specific items to be added. A 30-day public comment period began on October 6,

2025, with the hope that it is voted on during the October 27, 2025 Voting Session. Public comment will remain open for the full 30 days. A Public Hearing will need to be held prior to the vote, however without a message of necessity from the Mayor, the Local Law would need to age 30 days and would be voted on during the November 24, 2025 Voting Session. The local law is awaiting further review by the Corporation Counsel.

Informational Report

5. Establishing the 2025 Trick or Treating hours in the City of Jamestown; 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on October 31, 2025.

Councilman Reynolds moved to approve the Trick or Treating hours, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 9 – 0

Clerk/Treasurer John reminded everyone that the annual rabies clinic is coming up with spots still available. She asked councilmembers to spread the word to their constituents that they can register online through the county’s website.

Public Works Committee

Resolutions

1. RESOLVED, That the City Comptroller be and she hereby is authorized to make the following amendment to the 2025 General Fund Budget for the purpose of appropriating funds toward the replacement of the Topsoil Storage Facility for a total not to exceed Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$35,000.00):

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DECREASE:	Appropriations	\$35,000.00
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	A.9551.0500.0000	

- This resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

Councilman Bonfiglio moved to approve the resolution.

Carried: 3 – 0

2. WHEREAS, on January 22, 2002 the Jamestown City Council adopted resolution number 200201C03 that effective immediately and until further notice instituted a hiring freeze for the City of Jamestown, and

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- This Resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

Councilman Bonfiglio moved to approve the resolution.

Carried: 3 – 0

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- This Resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

Councilman Bonfiglio moved to approve the resolution.

Carried: 3 – 0

Informational Report

Councilman Russell asked about a section of black top on Euclid Ave. The constituent would like to remove the black top and replace it with concrete. The stump from a tree removal that remains will be removed and concrete can be poured at the homeowner's expense with the \$3.00 per square foot reimbursement per sidewalk block.

Mayor's Remarks

In lieu of the Mayor's Remarks, Council President Dolce reminded everyone of the Trick or Treat Trail, to be held at the Riverwalk, on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. He asked that if councilmembers would like to attend and need a table, to please contact Dan Stone to make arrangements.

Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. John
City Clerk/Treasurer