

April 27, 2015

Regular Meeting-

The regular meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held in the Council Chambers, 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York on Monday, April 27th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Decker and all members of the Common Council were present. Acting Director of Public Works John Farr, Building Official David Rivera, Fire Chief Jeffrey Rhoades, Police Chief William Worden, CDA Director Valerie Maginsky, Special City Counsel Michael Fox, and Corporation Counsel William Bavoso were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance-

Mayor Decker, Victoria Fisher from Troop 242, Rebecca Fisher from Troop 385, and Nicholas Williams from Pack 67 of Den 5 led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Youth Report given by Mr. Michael Conklin-

Congratulations to this year's scholar athletes: Robert Cal and Taylor Johaneman.

The Girls Indoor Track Team with a cumulative GPA of 93.41 and The Boys Indoor Track Team with a cumulative GPA of 92.44 received The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Team Scholar-Athlete Awards.

The Varsity Boys Swimming Team and the Varsity Girls & Boys Indoor Track Teams received awards for their participation and placements in the New York State Championships.

Congratulations to Megan Lissner and Cady Robles for being accepted into the New York State Summer School of the Arts Program at SUNY Fredonia.

The performance of "Peter Pan" was a huge success, congratulations to all who participated especially Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Long.

The sophomore class is selling the discount cards again for \$12 a card.

ASK celebrated National Public Health Week to bring awareness to the public about the importance of health.

The teachers at HBE acknowledged Autism Awareness Month this April.

On April 28th & 29th the HBE PTA will be holding a clothing drive.

There is no school this Friday May 1st.

My brother and I got to be a part of the Hudson Valley Honor Flight, where we passed out blankets and were guardians on the flight.

Matt O'Sullivan- from Media Solstice

Matt demonstrated the new website for the city, explaining all the different features.

Senior Report-

There was no report to be given today.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm in the Farnum building.

Veterans Report-

There was no report to be given today.

Public Comment-

Anne Horsham, Empowering Port Jervis; talked about New Parent University who is holding child birth and pregnancy fitness classes in town, and that they are holding a class for narcan training on May 1st at 6pm.

Hank Dunn, VFW 161 & Naval Ship; Mr. Dunn asked for permission to hold the Memorial Day Parade, Veterans Day Parade, and the Ceremony of Pearl Harbor Day.

Christopher Van Houten, First Ward; talked about how he believes his car and home had been vandalized and how the police were unresponsive.

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Public Comment (Continued)-

Wayne Kidney, 1st Ward; Mr. Kidney asked that the Counsel reverse the amendment of Local Law #12 of 2014 made March 9th. He also asked what the projected revenue of the sewer use fee for the year, what does that number represent as a tax increase, and is a portion of the money going into the general fund?

Mrs. Waizenegger clarified that the sewer fees are budgeted between the Capital Fund in regards to future bonding and General Fund because the sewer is defined as a general fund activity. The funds are to be used for repairs and replacement. Mr. Kidney also explained that he felt that the amendment of the law being voted on after executive session when the public and press are gone was sneaky.

Lorraine Marquez, 1st Ward; talked about how the neighbors on her street are being inconsiderate by not using driveways and blocking up the narrow street

Minutes Approved-

Motion by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Hendrick to approve the minutes of the April 13th, 2015 regular meeting.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Committee Reports:**Finance Committee-**

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Waligroski to pay the current bills for General Fund, Water Fund, and Capital Account for a total of \$1,833,171.64.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Bell spoke about how he had originally thought he was undercharged for his first water/sewer bill in January, because he thought the original law was written to be billed per unit.

The next meeting will be held on April 29th, at 6:00pm.

Fire & Emergency Management (FEM) Committee-

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Siegel to allow Engine 2 to assist at the BOCES live burn at the Orange County Fire Center on May 7th and to allow Engine 2 and Truck 7 to attend alive burn at the Orange County Fire Center on May 21st.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve David Moore Jr. as a driver for Neversink Engine Company #1.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Bell to approve active membership for Sherri Fischer and Victoria Howell to Tri-State Hose Company #6 as well as Junior membership for Austin Wildrick to Neversink Engine Company #1.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The next meeting will be Monday May 18th, at 7pm in council chambers.

Code Committee-

Last meeting was April 1, at 7:00pm.

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be May 6, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee-

Last meeting was April 6th.

UPDATE:

Garbage and Recycling is on its regular schedule for the next two weeks.

The City Transfer Station for bulk waste is for city residents only and is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month from 7:15 until 11:30am. Please be sure to bring proof of being a city resident.

Hydrant flushing will continue for the next few weeks. Please open your cold water faucets to flush any discolored water prior to use. To find out when and where they will be flushing go to www.portjervisny.org.

City wide yard debris collection will be done every Monday City wide until everything is collected and future collections will be announced prior to any change. No loose leaf pick up so please bag your yard debris and put by the road.

Next meeting will be held Monday May 18th, 6:00pm

Mr. Waligroski asks that we be respectful to the DPW staff and not overload the leaf bags.

Mr. Siegel also asked to that everyone be respectful and mindful that all of the leave bags must be opened before being dumped out and make sure that there is no animal feces in with your leaves.

Police Committee-

The last meeting was April 6th.

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Oney to approve the Permanent appointment of Kevin Moscatiello to Detective to the Port Jervis Police Department affective April 27th, 2015.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 13th, at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Liaison Reports:**Community Development Agency (CDA)-**

Last meeting was held on April 22nd.

Ms. Maginsky is currently working on the Micro Enterprise Grant; she has it all ready to be sent up to Albany as well as the Community Development Block Grant for Municipal recovery project.

She is also waiting for announcement of the Workshop Schedule for the New York State Consolidating Fund Application .

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 27th at 7pm on the second floor of the Recreation Center.

Industrial Development Agency (IDA)-

The last meeting was held on April 8th.

Nothing to report

The next meeting will be May 13th at 6:00pm

American's with Disabilities Act(ADA)-

Last meeting was canceled.

Next meeting to be held will be announced at a later date.

Housing Authority-

Last meeting was held on March 31st.

Renovations are still ongoing.

The next meeting will be April 28th, at Hillside Terrace in the conference room.

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Recreation Commission-

Updates:

- This Sunday May 3rd the Recreation Department is hosting the 22nd Annual Delaware River Run.
- Due to no school this Friday May 1st the Youth Center will be open from 11 am until 5 pm, and no teen night.
- Parks are now open for the season please remember that smoking and dogs are not permitted in City Parks.

For any questions on programs or events contact the Recreation Office at (845) 858-4045 or email us at pjrec@frontier.net.
The next meeting will be Thursday May 21st, at 7:30 at the Youth Center.

Tourism Board-

The last meeting was held on April 14th.

The City Wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday May 2nd from 9:00am – 4:00pm with over 100 residence and businesses signed up. The map for this event can be found distributed around town at many local businesses.

Plans for the Stephen Crane Red Badge of Courage Day are underway.

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to allow horses in Veterans Square Park for Stephen Crane Red Badge of CourageDay.

Mr. Siegel would like to add that there be someone designated to pick up behind the horses.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Siegel to ask the DPW to provide the tourism board with sand bags and trash cans in Veterans Square Park for Stephen Crane Red Badge of Courage Day.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The next meeting will be on May 12th, at 6:30pm in the down stairs conference room.

Zoning Board of Appeals-

The last meeting on April 7th.

The next meeting will be held on May 5th, at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Planning Board-

The last meeting was scheduled for April 21st but canceled due to lack of business.

The next meeting will be held on May 19th, at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Plumbing Board-

The last meeting was held on April 1st.

Nothing to be reported.

The next meeting will be held on May 6th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Electrical Board-

The last meeting was held on April 1st at 6:45pm in the Council Chambers.

Nothing to be reported.

The next meeting will be held on May 6th at 6:45pm in the Council Chambers.

Senior Advisory-

There are no major developments to discuss.

Access 23 TV- No report.

Mayor's Correspondence-

Please talk to our Assessor about 421F tax exemption if you are thinking about doing any updates to your homes.
 On April 23rd Mt. Hope, Deerpark, and Port Jervis had a meeting where there was full participation where it was decided that Tom Faggione was approved for 13th District County Legislature until the upcoming election later this year.
 As fire hydrant flushing's continue Mayor Decker promises to keep the website, nixle, and Facebook up to date.
 Mayor Decker would like to stop any concerns or rumors about Hose 6 closing; there are no plans to that affect.
 Crusing Port will return Tuesday May 5.

Motion by Mr. Belcher, second by Mr. Hendrick to appoint Mrs. Maria Mann to IDA Board with term to end January 31, 2020.
 AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Laurel Grove Cemetery is on the Haunted Trail of New York.

On Monday May 4th at 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany there will be State of New York Public Service Commission Hearing on Orange and Rockland gas and electric rate increases.

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Siegel to allow for the Veterans parades on May 25th, November 11th, and December 6th.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to celebrate National Day of Prayer at Riverside Park Thursday May 7th at 7:00 am.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Ritchie to allow St. Mary's Church to celebrate Corpus Christy Sunday June 7th.

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Bell to approve Tri-State Chamber of Commerce 10K and 5K races with no changes to routes from previous years.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

City Clerk Treasurer's Report-

On May 2nd from 10am until 4pm there will be a Veterans hiring fair at OCCC 115 South Street Campus.
 Orange County Elections Board is looking for Election Inspectors, it does pay \$200 but is a very long day.
 Both water and first half city tax bills are due April 30th.

Old Business:**Mr. Siegel-**

To address Mr. Kidney's concerns the sewer was intended to be by apartment. Mr. Siegel does agree that water and sewer should be metered. As far as the executive session goes voting needs to be done after they have time to discuss at executive session and the public and press are more than welcome to stay and wait.

Lock your doors, if you see something, do something.

Mr. Oney-

Would like some to maybe notify the public what the council will be voting after executive session ahead of time.

Mr. Ritchie-

Would like to suggest maybe holding public hearings when there are changes or clarifications to public law.

Mr. Hendrick- No old business.

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Mayor Decker discusses how if we switch to meters we will lose 3 months of income as we currently bill prior to water usage which is not a possibility when the meters are turned on. He stated that the City of Port Jervis cannot afford that kind of loss of income. In regards to the change of water to a tax, the council chose not to do that in order to keep the City under the Income Tax Cap.

Mr. Bavoso- No old business

Mr. Cunningham- No old business

Mr. Belcher-

Would like to offer a pre-written letter to any citizen or business to oppose the rate increase by Orange and Rockland.

Mr. Waligroski-

Would like to remind everyone of the on-going construction on 84 and to please use caution coming in to town.

Mr. Bell-

Explained that even though he didn't want to he had to raise the rent on his apartments for the first time in 6 years due to the new sewer fees.

New Business:

Mr. Bell- no new business

Mr. Waligroski-

Reminder that Soap-Box Derby practices are starting tonight and the top of Jersey Avenue will be closed off.

Mr. Belcher-

Explained that even though he didn't want to he had to raise the rent on his apartments as well due to the new sewer fees.

Mr. Cunningham- no new business

Mr. Bavoso- no new business

Mr. Hendrick-

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Ritchie to send Animal Control Officer Murray to the 6th Annual ACO Conference presented by the town of Guilderland.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Ritchie-

Wanted to talk about the Arbor Day Event last weekend and all the great things that Ms. Maginsky and Mayor Decker have planned.

Mr. Oney- no new business

Mr. Siegel-

Thanks Tom to from Access 23 for being here to video tape.

Explained what a beautiful celebration was held last weekend for Arbor Day down at the Turntable.

Mr. Siegel would like to remind all Fire Fighters and EMS personnel that they receive a \$200 tax credit.

Reminds Fire Fighters that the Department NYM Certifications are currently being collected, so get all documents to the Chief or your Captain.

Public Comment

Wayne Kidney, 1st Ward; explained that he has problems the wording of the law even after Frank had read it allowed tonight.

Merlinda Craig, 3rd Ward; talked about how on street parking on some of the more narrow streets can be dangerous and cause issues for emergency vehicles.

Executive Session set-

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to allow Executive session for legal, personnel, and contractual matters with invitation to Chief of Police William Worden, DPW Director Jack Farr, and Ms. Maginski.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to adjourn to executive session at 8:31pm.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Reconvened at 10:10pm

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Belcher to hire Mary Moore as a part time police clerk.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Mr. Ritchie to accept CHA Engineering as the City's engineer for the design and implementation of PJ Safe Routes sidewalk and curb grant project PIN# 8780.48.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Waligroski to accept the resignation from Peter DeVoe from his position of Water Treatment Plant Operator for the City of Port Jervis effective June 11, 2015.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Siegel for the Mayor to sign a contract with Energy in the Bank for electrical services.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Siegel to execute the contract between the City and Orange County to utilize the summer youth employment program for the youth in operation of the Orange County Employment and Training summer program with the five allotted slots available.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Belcher that all City employees with cell phones return their cell phones by June 1st and receive a \$40 stipend per month after that.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Siegel to allow the Mayor to sign an agreement between the City and McGooey and Hauser Construction and Engineering to replace 410 feet of sanitary sewer pipe on Jersey Avenue with connection to Wagner Place.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned -

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Siegel to adjourn the meeting at 10:15p.m.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer