

May 11th, 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, Director of Recreation John Faggione, Police Chief William Worden, CDA Director Valerie Maginsky, City Clerk-Treasurer Robin Waizenegger, Special City Counsel Michael Fox, and Corporation Counsel William Bavoso were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance-

Mayor Decker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A moment of silence was taken in memory of Chris Farlekas.

Youth Report given by Mr. Michael Conklin-

Congratulations to all of the new National Honor Society Inductees. Port Jervis Seniors Gillan Cordisco and Troy Chuckran were named senior scholars for humanities.

Spring sports are coming to a close. Signups for fall sports have already started.

The top ten seniors were announced, they are: Patti Ann Little-Valedictorian, Austin Wilson-Salutatorian, Kaitlyn lane, Garrett Reichert, Eliza Garcia, Taylor Johaneman, Robert Cal, Amber Perez, Jillian Cordisco and Andrew Henderson. Mr. Gibaldi's Classes' at the Middle school are learning building skills; they are building napkin holders to picnic tables.

Through May 18th, students are encouraged to drink at least 8 glasses of water a day.

PJMS and the Department of Health are teaming up to showcase healthy, seasonal foods for students. They received a grant from the Orange County Farm to school program which provides information on healthy eating habits, as well as, new kitchen equipment for our cafeteria.

Students are also invited to the farm to table food tasting each month. This month's feature: salad! 3 bean and Caesar salad will be prepared by Bill Harris, Food service manager. Meg Oakes, a registered dietician and the health and wellness coordinator for the Department of Health was on hand to answer any questions. Food tastings are scheduled for May and June as well and will feature fresh, in-season fruits and vegetables.

Registration for Kindergarten this fall is still on going for ASK and HBE. If you have a child turning 5 by December 1st, you can register them at the red administration building by ASK

Proclamations:

Mayor Decker issued a proclamation to Police Chief William Worden recognizing police week May 10th- 16th and thanked him for the hard work and dedication of his officers.

Mayor Decker issued a proclamation to the Artful Gardeners Club proclaiming that June 7th - June 13th 2015 as artful gardeners week in Port Jervis in an effort to recognize all that the club does to help beautify the City.

Presentation:

Superintendent of Schools, Thomas Bongiovi and Assistant Superintendent for Business, Lorelei Case, presented an informational overview on the school budget. The school board election vote is Tuesday May 19th 2015.

Senior Report-

There was no report to be given today.

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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-

Marissa Storms, 4th Ward; complimented the school board presentation and thanked Mayor Decker for what he does for the school and community.

Chris Van Houten, 1st Ward; was inquiring about the status of his hearing, regarding his suspension from the fire department.

Minutes Approved-

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, Seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve the minutes of the April 27th, 2015 regular meeting.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee-

Frank Bell announced a resolution to transfer unused funds from Berme Road water improvements will transfer to Safe Routes To School Sidewalk Project.

Motion by Frank Bell, seconded by Mr. Richie to move funds from serial bond to capital fund.

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

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Belcher to pay the current bills for General Fund, Water Fund, and Capital Account for a total of \$174,829.64.

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

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Bavoso to pass both March and April finance minutes.

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

The next meeting will be held on May 28th, at 6:00pm in the council chambers.

Mr. Bell mentioned the Epoch Times Newspaper and that Port Jervis was mentioned in the events section and showed pictures of the City wide yard sale.

Fire & Emergency Management (FEM) Committee-

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to remove Christopher Clune- Excelsior Engine Company #5 and Scott Armstrong-Excelsior Engine Company #5 from the active membership rolls effective this date.

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

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve Maghogomock Hook and Ladder Company #7 to have a booth at the soap box derby.

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

Mr. Waligroski recognized all 25 and 50 year members for May.

The next meeting will be Monday May 18th following the DPW meeting in the council chambers.

Code Committee-

Last meeting was May 6th, at 7:00pm.

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be June 3, 2015 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. Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the garbage and recycling will be one day late in all wards during the week of May 25th.

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. Please refrain from doing laundry for 48 hours in the areas that are affected.

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, 6:30pm in the council chambers

Police Committee-

The next meeting is May 13, at 6:30pm in the council chambers with the agenda being executive session for interviewing candidates for the position of sergeant. The committee will have a recommendation for the counsel at the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Richie to approve April's police report.

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

Liaison Reports:

Community Development Agency (CDA)-

Last meeting was held on April 22nd.

On May 18th Pattern for Progress is gathering federal, state and local experts to discuss regional infrastructure issues. Mr. Hendricks will be attending on behalf of the City along with the building official and the city clerk treasurer where topics include water and waste water infrastructure issues and how municipal finances are impacting infrastructure investments in New York State.

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

Industrial Development Agency (IDA)-

Nothing to report

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

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American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)-

Last meeting was May 7th.

There was a discussion regarding building codes in respect to handicap access to older buildings.

The closure of the sub-basement access at Bon Secours was also discussed due to the lack of handicap parking.

Committee reviewed local law 3 and came to the conclusion that 36inch width shoveling paths on sidewalks is more encouraged than enforceable. It was noted that this law went back to code and now to the DPW committee for review or possible editing as another problem is hydrant clearing when the property is owned by disabled or elderly people.

Next meeting to be held July 9th at 6:00pm in the council chambers.

Housing Authority-

Last meeting was held on April 28th.

Renovations are complete; all problems have been addressed and solved. The final project looks beautiful.

Congratulated the rating they received on their HUD inspection. The higher the rate the more money they get budgeted the following year.

Welcomed new member Gail Culver to the team.

The next meeting will be May 26th, at 7:00pm at Hillside Terrace in the conference room.

Recreation Commission:

Updates:

- May 3rd the Recreation Department hosted the 22nd Annual Delaware River Run which was a huge success. Having 360 participants crossing the finish line. The 3rd highest number in 22years. Thanked all that helped make this event successful.
- 2015 summer program is almost complete. Copies will be available at the youth center, Rec's Facebook page, emailed and elementary kids will be bringing them home after the Memorial Day weekend. Youth center has added Saturday hours to the weekly schedule. They will open on Saturdays from 11-3 starting May 16th. The Memorial Day schedule is; Thursday May 21st from 3pm-6pm & teen night 6:30pm-9:30pm, Friday 22nd 11-3, closed Saturday May 23rd and Monday from 11am-3pm.
- 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 Wednesday May 27st, at 7:30 at the Youth Center.

Tourism Board-

The City Wide Yard Sale was held on Saturday May 2nd and had over 100 households and businesses signed up. People from all over the area came to port Jervis to partake in the event.

Plans for the Stephen Crane Red Badge of Courage Day are underway and will be held on June 20th in Veterans Square Park.

Several events are taking place throughout the day from 10:00am-6:00pm.

Arrangements have been made to clean up after the horses and the use of sand bags and trash cans from the DPW. The event

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will also be using two city buses from 11-4 to shuttle guests.

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Siegel to close off Sussex Street from Drew Methodist Church to East Main Street.

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 was held on May 5th.

Two public hearing were held;

130 West Main Street: Zoning Board granted a variance for front and side setbacks, lot width and lot area for dwelling.

140 Jersey Ave building has issues regarding garbage, handicap access and lack of parking. Board will address these issues at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 2nd, at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Planning Board-

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

Plumbing Board-

The last meeting was held on May 6th.

Nothing to be reported.

The next meeting will be held on June 3rd 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Electrical Board-

The last meeting was held on May 6th.

Nothing to be reported.

The next meeting will be held on June 3rd at 6:45pm in the Council Chambers.

Senior Advisory-

There are no major developments to discuss.

Access 23 TV- No report.

Mayor's Correspondence-

Resolution was presented to allow the mayor to execute the "The Youth Employment Program Worksite Agreement"

Motion by Mr. Hendricks, second by Mr. Cunningham

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

Expressed condolences regarding Chris Farlekas, spoke about his love for Port Jervis and how he will be missed dearly.

National Day of prayer, organized by Harold Butler had a great turn out this past Tuesday. Many Clergy members representing the entire area attending. Mayor thanked Mr. Butler for a wonderful event and is excited that next year will be bigger and better.

The mayor went with Jack Farr to the Clarifier Plant, which is currently being built and watched how they perform the testing of the water.

Introduced the new City brochure and explained the contents. Thanked Doug Garnham, the designer, for doing such a great job.

In an effort to rid the City of crime, the City has teamed up with various organizations to launch "Be Part of the Solution". It talks about community, police and City government all working together to help stop crime. Mayor spoke about a letter he received from a group of citizens coming together to solve a particular issues regarding an absentee landlord. Urges people to work together and remember if you see something say something, be part of the solution.

Letter was read from the City Historian Dick Roberts inviting everyone to come celebrate Flag Day on June 14th 7:30pm at River Side Park.

Red Badge of Courage event will now include a living family member of Stephen Crane. Mr. Crane's great grandnephew from Georgia will be there to represent the Crane family.

City Clerk Treasurer's Report-

Thanked everyone who paid their water and tax bills on time.

Spoke about the IRS weekly notice and how it is a great resource for individuals. Encourages everyone who owns a small business or does self-employment tax to watch the IRS webinar by logging onto www.irs.gov.

Old Business:

Mr. Siegel-

Spoke about the passing of Chris Farlekas and remembered what he did for others.

Mr. Oney- No old business

Mr. Ritchie- No old business

Mr. Hendrick- No old business.

Mr. Bavoso- No old business

Mr. Cunningham- No old business

Mr. Belcher-

Thanked the citizens of the City for picking up after their pets and reducing waste left on the streets.

The pre-written letters to oppose the rate increase by Orange and Rockland has grown to 93 letters.

Mr. Waligroski-

Reminded everyone that the DPW is not picking up loose brush this year unless it is tied and bagged into tight bundles. The 2nd and 4th Saturdays the dump will be open to get rid of tree limbs or brush.

Mr. Bell- No old business

New Business:

Mr. Bell-

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to renew the City's liability insurance company with Travelers.

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

May 20th 7:00pm neighborhood watch meeting for the 4th ward at hose 4 firehouse.

Mr. Waligroski- No new business

Mr. Belcher-

Reminded people about hydrant flushing and to hold off on doing laundry till the water runs clear.

Mr. Cunningham- no new business

Mr. Bavoso- no new business

Mr. Hendrick-

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to set the next Council meeting on Tues May 26th, due to the Memorial Day holiday falling on Monday the 25th.

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

Mr. Ritchie-

2nd ward meeting hasn't been set yet.

Mr. Oney- no new business

Mr. Siegel-

Spoke about seeing an old Port Jervis friend on a recent trip to Georgia.

Public Comment

Lorraine Marquez, 3rd Ward; announced neighborhood watch meeting May 27th at 7:00pm

Merlinda Craig, 3rd Ward; praised the National Day of prayer event and thought it was moving and encouraged everyone to attend next year.

Doug Garnham, 2nd ward; asked the board about what the City has to offer the drug addicts rather than focusing on catching the drug dealers?

Mayor Decker commented back and mentioned operation PJ Pride meets every 3rd Thursday and will be addressing this topic.

Executive Session set-

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Richie to allow Executive session for legal, personnel, contractual and City owned properties matters with invitation to Chief of Police William Worden, DPW Director Jack Farr, and Ms. Maginsky and Mr. Rivera.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to adjourn to executive session at 8:30pm.

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

Meeting Reconvened at 9:40pm

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Belcher for the resolution of the surplus equipment and vehicle.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Mr. Bell to adopt the determination of the common council, as presented by legal counsel and remove Chris VanHouten from the Fire Department.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the Building Inspector Dave Rivera to take the Plumbing Inspector test.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Richie to hire Joanne Burton to record minutes for the code committee for the next 6 months at a cost of \$100.00 per meeting.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to approve Sargent Sargente to attend the New York State Police child abuse and investigation school in May.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned -

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Mr. Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer