

Emergency Meeting-

The Emergency meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held at the scene of the building collapse at 55 East Main Street, Port Jervis, New York on Saturday, March 18th, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Kelly Decker and members of the Common Council were present except Gina Fitzpatrick. City Counsel William Bavoso, City Engineer Michael Lamoreaux, Code Enforcement Officer David Rivera and City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger were also present.

Mayor Decker opened the meeting at 4:30 pm indicating that this meeting has been called on an emergency basis due to the collapse of the structure that is an addition to the main building that occurred today due to apparent weight of the snow on the roof of the structure at 55 East Main Street, Port Jervis, New York.

Building Inspector David Rivera informed the Council that approximately 2 weeks ago he was able to get inside the compromised structure and noted that the structure was beginning to fail indicated by the sagging of the floor however now as the roof has failed in the addition the main beams are failing and the floor has collapsed as well. Mr. Belcher noted the bulging side on the addition.

Mayor indicated that he was notified by the neighboring property of the collapse today and the police, fire department and Building Inspector were asked to respond.

City Engineer Michael Lamoreaux briefed the council that he has evaluated both of the buildings 55 East Main Street subsequent to the collapse. He noted that on the separate addition the roof and floor is has completely failed. He indicated that the addition will need to be demolished, however the main building while in disrepair and is deteriorating it is not in danger of collapse and does not need to be demolished. He noted that the main structure is attached to the collapsed structure in an architectural manner not a structural manner. He stated that he did not believe it to be an emergency situation but that it definitely meets the criteria of a dangerous building. Mr. Lamoreaux indicated while being questioned by City Attorney William Bavoso that he felt it could wait the 14 days under the dangerous building code as it is not a danger to fall on the public due to its position at the back and not near the sidewalk. Mr. Lamoreaux indicated to the Mayor that the building should be secured to the height of the addition.

Mr. William Bavoso questioned Mr. Rivera if he has ever been able to have contact with the owner of the property to which he indicated no. Mr. William Bavoso questioned Mr. Rivera as to the nature of the adjacent residential properties being a single family home with small children and an apartment building. The owner of the adjacent lot, Dobbs Mobil, indicated that they use the adjacent lot for storage of their Avis rental cars and have customers regularly picking up and dropping off cars which have to be parked adjacent to the structure. Mr. Rivera indicated when questioned by the City Attorney that the structure does pose an emergency and imminent danger to the adjacent occupied residential properties, will interrupt the business conducted on the adjacent lot, be a danger to the customers as well as vehicles and should be considered an emergency situation.

Given the additional information regarding the use of the adjacent lot the City engineer did state that he could consider the demolition of the addition an emergency situation.

Mr. William Bavoso indicated therefore that the Council should make a motion to demolish the addition to 55 East Main Street that has collapsed as an emergency action under section 234-14 of the Port Jervis City Code as recommended by the Port Jervis Building and code enforcement officer David Rivera and the City Engineer Michael Lamoreaux. Motion so made by George Belcher, seconded by Stanley Siegel.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1(Fitzpatrick) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

It was noted that due to the emergency of the situation bids for the work will not be necessary and first available contractor will be used. It was noted by Mr. Rivera that due to the urgency he will be contacting appropriate contractors for availability.

Meeting Adjourned - Motion by Stanley Siegel, seconded by David Bavoso to adjourn the meeting at 4:37pm

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1(Fitzpatrick) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk-Treasurer