



CITY OF PORT JERVIS
EST. 1907
NEW YORK

Newsletter

City of Port Jervis

1/4/2016

Volume 2 Issue 1

2016 - 2017

Common Council



The new city council was sworn in on January 1st and was charged with leading our city over the next two years. There are four new members on the council and along with the duties of answering to the constituents in their wards each have been assigned to committees as a representative to report back to the council. The Police Committee will be chaired by Bob Ritchie, DPW by George

Belcher, Finance by Frank Bell, Fire and Emergency Management by Stan Siegel, Code and Legislative which includes Plumbing and Electrical by David Bavoso. The Housing Authority and Senior Advisory representative will be Stan Siegel, ADA is Regis Foster, Recreation Gina Fitzpatrick, Tourism George Belcher and Community Development Bob Ritchie and Kristin Trovei. Most committees have at least four council members that make up the committee and those positions are distributed among the council.

Pioneer Mid-Atlantic Cup Challenge

Triathlon to come to Port Jervis

The city was approached by the Pioneer Challenge Company to hold a Mid-Atlantic Cup Challenge Triathlon to be launched in the city during the

weekend of June 17, 18, and 19 2016. An extensive amount of logistics must take place to provide an event venue to make this race successful.

Mayor's Corner



2016 can be a promising year for the City of Port Jervis if we all work together. I finished the inaugural address with an old phrase that "Teamwork makes the dream work." Yes we will have financial constraints in this New Year but will see some projects move forward. Economic development is engaged as there will be at least 5 major construction projects underway or completed downtown. We will be focusing on our housing inventory and getting a homeownership program underway. Volunteering can also help move the city forward with un or underfunded city projects that make our city look a little bit nicer. If you have ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact the mayor's office. Let's work together and make it happen.

The council charged the mayor with **(next page)** setting up a committee to work with the organizers for the event. If anyone is interested in being on this committee, contact the mayor's office at (845) 858-4017. All contacts for the council can be found on the city's website at portjervisny.org

2016 Budget City Budget Passed

The City of Port Jervis Common Council passed the 2016-2017 Budget which called for an 8.54% increase in city taxes with a vote of 6 in yeas, 2 nay, and 1 absent.

Prior to the vote Mayor Decker expressed concerns regarding the budget not providing for a proper fund balance. The mayor stated that New York State recommends that the fund balance should be at least 10% of the operating budget. That would mean that the fund balance should be around \$1.4 million and is only around \$250,000. In addition the mayor expressed concerns that this budget only provides basic operations and does not allow for projects to be done along with maintenance. He expressed concerns that some infrastructure has been neglected for years as well as new work not being on a regular maintenance schedule

due to lack of funds. The mayor did state that paying for this is a challenge and that nobody likes to pay higher taxes but that the city council really needs to look at how money is raised in the city either by taxes, fees or alternative revenue sources to move the city ahead.

Additionally, Finance Chairman Frank Bell stated although he, the mayor and the City Clerk-Treasurer were able to get the cost of a budget down to 8.9%, the council needed to add another \$26,000 plus. He said through hard work, diligence, and department sacrifices the council was able to get it down to 8.54%. Councilman Ritchie agreed hard work was done to get the budget to where it is at

but agreed with the mayor that alternative revenue sources must be sought and suggested writing letters to find businesses. Additionally, Ritchie stated that we need to look at cutting the cost of healthcare benefits without cutting personnel.

Councilman Siegel commended the people who came out to speak in public hearings about the budget and he stated that he believes that the council could come up with additional revenue and cut expenses. He said he likes quotes and quoted President Woodrow Wilson "The ear of a leader must ring with the voices of the people." He said the people in his ward simply cannot afford increases so he will vote "No" on the budget.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Emergency Warning Siren 1pm	2
3	4 DPW 6:00pm Fire B. of O. 7pm	5 Zoning 7pm	6 Plumbing 6:30pm Electrical 6:45pm Code 7pm	7	8	9
10	11 Common Council 7pm	12 Civil Svc 1pm Tourism 6:30pm	13 Dem Com 7pm IDA 6pm Finance 6:45pm	14 CDA 7pm	15	16
17	18 Dr Martin L King Day Fire & Emerg Mngmt 7pm	19 Planning Board 7pm Rec 7pm	20 4th Ward NW 7pm	21 Drug Task Force 7pm Rep Com 7:30pm	22	23
24	25 Common Council 7pm	26 PJ Housing 7pm	27 State of the City Ad- dress 6pm	28 Police Com 7pm	29	30