

November 23rd, 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 November 23rd, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Kelly Decker and all members of the Common Council were present. Fire Chief Jeffery Rhoades, City Clerk-Treasurer Robin Waizenegger, and Special City Counsel Michael Fox and Corporation Counsel William Bavoso were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance-

Mayor Decker & Eckert Diaz from Boy Scout Troop 68 led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Youth Report given by Mr. Michael Conklin-

No report to be given.

Senior Report-

There was no report to be given today.

Veterans Report-

There was no report to be given today.

Public Comment-

No public comment

Minutes Approved-

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, Seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve the minutes of the November 9th, 2015 regular meeting.

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

Committee Reports:**Finance Committee-**

November 23rd, 2015

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 \$359,648.65.

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

The next meeting will be held on December 17th, at 7pm in the council chambers.

Fire & Emergency Management (FEM) Committee-

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve the Fire Department elections to be held on December 17th, 2015 at Delaware Engine Company from 12:00pm-8:00pm.

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

The next meeting will be held on December 21st, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Code Committee-

Last meeting was November 4th, 2015.

Several new laws will be discussed.

The next meeting will be December 2nd, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve the resolution for the revision of Local Law #4 2014 regrading vacant building fees to be 2,400.00 for the 1st year and 3,600.00 for the 2nd year.

MOTION RESCINDED

Mr. Bell thinks the fees are too high.

Mr. Hendrick agrees that the fee hike is too high and suggests holding off till the New Year to decide.

Mr. Ritchie asked Mr. Siegel why he thinks by doubling the fee would help the situation, Mr. Siegel responded by saying that he believes that by increasing the rate the owners would be forced to either sell or fix them up.

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the public hearing on December 14th at 7:00 pm for Local Law #6.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Ritchie to approve the public hearing on December 14th Local Law #7.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve the public hearing on December 14th Local Law #8.

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

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee-

UPDATE:

Garbage pickup for the week of thanksgiving will be as follows; the 1st, 2nd & 3rd ward will be normal pick up and 4th ward garbage will be picked up Wednesday November 25th.

Loose leaves will be picked up City wide starting the first week of December.

The City compost and brush pile will be open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

Next meeting will be held December 10th, 2015 at 6:00pm

Police Committee-

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Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Ritchie to approve the October police report.

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

The next meeting will be December 10th at 6:30pm.

Liaison Reports:

Community Development Agency (CDA)-

Last meeting was November 18th.

Mr. Hendrick reported that Ms. Maginsky is working on the 2016 budget.

The next meeting will be December 23rd at 7:00pm.

Industrial Development Agency (IDA)-

Discussed the possible amendment to the pilot and lease agreement with 100 LLC. After review the board agreed to have the chairman sign the agreement and will be presented to the council during executive session for approval.

The IDA is still waiting for paperwork from Future Homes Technology/Excel.

Mr. Ritchie also mentioned that Mr. Paladino did not attend the last meeting due to a scheduling conflict, however, is invited to attend the next IDA meeting.

Next Meeting December 9th at 6pm.

American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)-

Last meeting was October 1st, 2015

Next meeting to be held February 4th at 6:00pm in the council chambers.

Housing Authority-

Last meeting was held on October 27th.

No report to be given.

The next meeting will be November 24th, at 7:00pm at Hillside Terrace in the conference room.

Recreation Commission:

Updates:

The Youth Center Thanksgiving break the schedule will be 11:00am-6:00pm November 23rd and 24th and 11:00am-3:00pm November 25th.

Youth basketball registration for the 2015-2016 season will be held at the Youth Center on Saturday December 5th from 9:00am-12:00pm, Sunday December 6th from 12:00-3:00pm and Wednesday December 9th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Youth basketball is for boys and girls in grades 3-6.

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Busy Body arts and crafts classes are held every Saturday morning, except November 28th, at the youth center from 9-10:30am. These classes are free of charge and are for boys and girls in grades K-3. Classes will run through December 12.

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 Tuesday January 19th, 2016 at 7:00 at the Youth Center.

Tourism Board-

The City Tree lighting will be held November 28th and Santa & Mrs. Clause will be attending as well as the Salvation Army. All entries for the holiday lighting contest must be submitted by December 7th. To register citizens can email pjtourismboard@gmail.com or call 845-858-4017 and include the following information; name, address, phone number and category. (Traditional or Festive)

Mr. Belcher stated that the tourism board is working on the Christkindlemarkt event which takes place November 29th where the Santa Express will arrive at dusk.

December 11th at 7:00 the Deerpark Reformed Church will be hosting The Big Band Concert featuring Dan Bradley.

The next meeting will be on December 8th at 6:30pm in the down stairs conference room.

Zoning Board of Appeals-

No report to be given.

The next meeting will be held on December 1st, at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Planning Board-

No report to be given.

The next meeting will be held on December 15th at 7:00pm.

Plumbing Board-

No report to be given.

The next meeting will be held on December 2nd at 6:30pm.

Electrical Board-

No report to be given.

The next meeting will be held December 2nd at 6:45pm.

Senior Advisory-

No report to be given.

Access 23 TV-

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Thanked Tom for operating the camera.

Mayor's Correspondence-

Invited citizens to the Annual Rick Drew Memorial tree lighting Friday November 27th at 6:00pm the West End Park. Mayor Decker spoke about how residents are awakened by the 2016 proposed budget and the financial situation the City is currently in. He went on to clarify how Local Government works here in Port Jervis, how we have what is called a Weak Form of government, which means that the mayor has no voting power, the council makes all decisions.

Mr. Decker also ensured citizens that the State Controller's Office has conducted a field and desk audit for the City along with a full audit from a private firm.

Warns residents of the infrastructure issues the City faces, such as the Sewer Project, Tri-State Bridge and the underpass, all which are going to need major repairs which tax payers pay for.

Mayor Decker explains when he received the rough draft of the City's 2016 budget the increase for residents would be 24.4% and while working with the City Clerk Treasurer, they got the figure down to 14.4%.

After the first budget workshop Mr. Decker stated he was approached regarding the accuracy of the figures outlined within the proposed budget. After this concern was brought to the City Clerk Treasurers attention, a clerical error was discovered. The correct increase to residents outlined in the Mayors 2016 proposed budget is 17.4%.

Mayor Decker could not swallow 17.4% increase to residents; therefore he worked with Frank Bell and the City Clerk Treasurer to find cuts that wouldn't disturb services catastrophically. Several cuts were made and together they were able to get the percentage down to 8.93%.

He urges the council to make additional cuts where they can, but to not reduce anymore services.

City Clerk Treasurer's Report-

Apologized for the input error that was made during the preparations of the proposed budget. The error did not impact the level of expenditures or revenues that were in the budget. To stay within the State tax cap, the City would have to increase revenues or reduce expenditures in the amount of \$773,000.00.

Mrs. Waizenegger admits that in prior years the council has approved the spending of reserved funds to balance the budget which has depleted the fund reserve to around \$200,000.00.

She explained that the Orange County Sales Tax sharing agreement is based on population of each city within the county. The City's census was down, therefore, our percentage of sales tax revenue goes down reducing revenue by \$300,000.00

Announced a scheduling conflict with the finance meeting and the Fire Department elections being held on the same evening, December 17th, due to not having a Deputy Clerk, Mrs. Waizenegger will have to reschedule the finance meeting.

Old Business:**Mr. Siegel-**

Reminded everyone that the 4th ward neighborhood watch will not meet in November and December. Don't forget to attend the budget workshops.

Mr. Oney- No old business

Mr. Ritchie- No old business

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Mr. Hendrick- No old business

Mr. Bavoso- No old business

Mr. Cunningham- No old business

Mr. Belcher- No old business

Mr. Waligroski-

Congratulated the D2 youth football league on making it to the super bowl.

Mr. Bell-

Was informed by the health insurance company of a 7.8% increase in premiums which equates to \$178,000.00 and the annual cost at approximately 2million dollars for 2016.

New Business:

Mr. Bell-

Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Waligroski- No new business

Mr. Belcher-

The Humane Society is hosting a fund raiser "Paint My Pet" on December 6th from 3-5pm.
Up Front on Jersey Avenue will be hosting a holiday artistry event on December 5th from 5:00pm-8:00pm.

Mr. Cunningham-

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Motion by Mr. Cunningham, Seconded by Mr. Bell to allow the Dial-A-Bus to be used for the City Lights Tour on December 7th & 8th and December 15th & 16th.

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

Wished everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bavoso-

Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged citizens to get out to the Christkindlemarkt.

Mr. Hendrick- No new business

Mr. Ritchie-

Encouraged everyone to attend the budget workshops to help give ideas on how to reduce the budget more. Thanked the Mayor, Frank and Robin for all their hard work in reducing the budget.

Wished all Port Jervis Residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Oney- No new business

Mr. Siegel-

Reminded 4th ward residents of the garbage schedule during the Thanksgiving Holiday week.

Mr. Siegel also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Public Comment

Laura Meyer, PJ Tourism, invites everyone to the Christkindlemarkt from 10:00am-6:00pm.

William Onofry, 3rd ward, requested that the council repeal Local Law #5 on the grounds that he doesn't think it's legal or fair for the City to be able to reserve properties at the Tax Lien sale.

Executive Session set-

Motion by Mr. Hendrick, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to allow Executive session to include the assessor's office in regards to contractual, IDA with regards to 100 River, seek advice of counsel on 24-32 Front Street and the Tax Lien Sale with invitation to Yvonne Duryea, Mike Fox, and newly elected council members.

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

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to adjourn to executive session at 8:05pm.

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

Meeting Reconvened at 9:34pm

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Siegel to give Mr. Wolfe forgiveness on his water account.

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

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Oney to allow the adjustment of Evelyn Kish's water bill.

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

Motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Siegel to authorize DPW to spend up to \$5,000.00 to replace Neversink Engine Company #1 pad.

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

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to appoint Brandy Figueroa to the Recreation Commission to fill vacant seat with a 4 year term to expire on 11/31/2020.

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

Motion by Mr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Bell to allow the Mike McCarthy to sit on the Recreation Commission as an advisory position with no term limit or voting power.

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

Motion by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Belcher to allow the amendment to the 100 River Road LLC Pilot.

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

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Ritchie to authorize the reimbursement to Mrs. Fuller for property damaged caused by a City tree.

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

Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to settle a pending matter in the assessor's office, file #20, for the 12,13,14,15 tax certiorari using \$280,000.00 to \$205,000.00

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to remove Daniel Kurtz from the Fire Department due to inactivity effectively immediately and to approve new members William Conklin, Lindsay Predmore, Tina Hall, and Brian Vanderveer all to Engine 4.

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

Due to a conflict of scheduling, the next finance meeting will be December 22nd.

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Motion by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Richie to approve a special meeting on November 30th, 2015 at 7:00pm with regards to 24-32 Front Street

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

Meeting Adjourned –

Motion by Mr. Cunningham seconded by Mr. Bavoso to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer