

December 12th, 2016**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 December 12th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Kelly Decker and all members of the Common Council were present. Building Official David Rivera, DPW Director Jack Farr, CDA Director Valerie Maginsky, Recreation Director John Faggione, Police Chief William Worden, City Clerk-Treasurer Robin Waizenegger and Corporation Counsel William Bavoso were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance-

Mayor Decker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Youth Report-

The Port Jervis High School National Honor Society recently contributed new shoes to the Kucher's Kids Shoe Drive. The students went shopping with over \$500 collected through donations and bought 70 pairs of shoes. Last weekend, the students marched in the holiday parade to thank the community for their support. Shoes that were donated and purchased will now be distributed through the school.

The Runnin' Raiders had a great start to their season. There were plenty of personal bests to go around.

Parents and guardians of PJMS students, please join us Wednesday, December 14th for "common core math workshops for adult helpers of middle school students." Members of our Math Faculty will present a workshop focused on the following topics which have been requested by parents who have asked for more information about the New York State common core math assessment. Students in Mr. Tuthill's design classes had a friendly competition this week with the Aluminum Boat Challenge. Teams of students had to design and build boats made of aluminum foil and test to see whose boat could hold the most pennies. The winning group for 7th grade was Dylan Okahara and Nick Cirulli.

On Monday, December 5th, the PJCS D celebrated 40 years of excellence at HBE. The students and staff gathered for a special assembly, joined by more than 30 former staff and several former students.

The HBE Drama Club is pleased to present, Annie, Jr. the musical Friday, December 16th – Sunday, December 18th, 2016. Tickets are \$7.00 for ages 3 and up.

Saturday, December 3rd, students and staff from Port Jervis Schools traveled to the United States Military Academy, West Point, to take part in Wreaths across America. Wreaths across America organization places holiday wreaths at the graves of those interred in military cemeteries across our nation. Superintendent Thomas Bongiovi led the Port Jervis contingent as they assisted in laying more than 7,000 wreaths at West Point.

The next school board meeting will be held December 20th at 7:00 pm.

Senior Report-

Mr. Siegel informed residents that the Port Jervis senior shuttle will be discontinued after January 1st, 2017.

Veteran Report-

No report

Public Hearing-

December 12th, 2016**2017 Budget**

Mrs. Trovei gave an overview of the 5th budget workshop where the council voted to bring the proposed budget increase of 7.66% to the council meeting for further discussion and a possible vote. She also stated that she would feel comfortable with a 5% increase. Encouraged council members to voice any concerns or changes during the public hearing.

Mrs. Randazzo suggested some minor changes to the budget such as removing the 18th Police Officer position for 2017 and suggested a lateral transfer to fill the Watershed property maintenance position and replacing with hiring part time summer help, removing ½ of the water/sewer revenue. She noted that those changes would bring the increase down to 7.42%.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick had no comment

Mr. Belcher noted that he would like to see the 18th Police Officer position in the budget and not be removed.

Mrs. Hendry had no comment

Mr. Bavoso commented that he was comfortable with the budget increase after the last workshop. He doesn't want to see cuts in any department and is comfortable with a 7.66% budget increase.

Mayor Decker agrees with Mr. Bavoso's comments.

Mr. Foster noted that he doesn't want to see any employees laid off and is comfortable with the 7.66% budget increase.

Mr. Vanhorn suggested the sewer revenue be segregated moving forward.

Mrs. Trovei noted that she spent hours in meetings and speaking to department heads over the past few months and feels that more cuts could've been made that wouldn't have included layoffs. She stated that she is disappointed by the process, not so much the percentage the council concluded at.

Mr. Siegel commented that the City needs to do more with less and voiced his concern that the 4th ward residents will not be able to afford a 7.66% increase in taxes and cannot vote yes.

William Worden, Police Chief, clarified his need for the 18th Police Officer but is willing to compromise and revisit the issue in June 2017 for a September 2017 hire.

Jack Farr, DPW Director, noted the City employees have done more with less for several years. He informed the council that a Water Department employee may be interested in transferring to the Watershed position but cautions the council on the importance of back filling the vacancy.

Michael Sobolewski, CSEA Union President, clarified misconceptions regarding the employees' Health Insurance premiums and thanked the council for allowing himself and the employees to part of the budget process.

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Siegel to close the public hearing relating to the 2017 budget.

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

Public Comment-

Ed Degroat, 3rd Ward, informed the council that he has decided to decline the City's offer to settle a land dispute on Farnum Street.

Charlene Trotta, Tri-State Chamber of Commerce, voiced her concerns on the proposed event fee and urges the council to reconsider.

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Amador Laput, President of the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce, requested that any future event fees should be waived for the Chamber of Commerce and spoke about the importance of the organization to the community.

Howard Kuperman, 4th ward, thanked City for their contribution and resources to the Chamber of Commerce over the years. Mr. Kuperman voiced his opinion on the several ways the Chamber benefits the City of Port Jervis and urges the council to revisit the proposed event fee.

William Onofry, business owner, congratulated council on their hard work during the budget season; however he warns the council about selling City owned property below fair market value and its potential consequences.

Minutes Approved-

Motion by Mr. Belcher, Seconded by Mr. Foster to approve the minutes of the November 28th, 2016 regular meeting.

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

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, Seconded by Mrs. Randazzo to approve the minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 special meeting.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: (Mr. VanHorn, Mr. Siegel) CARRIED

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to pay the current bills for General Fund, Water Fund, and Capital Account for a total of \$457,049.37.

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve the 2017 Budget with a tax increase of 7.66%

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 4 (Mrs. Hendry, Mr. VanHorn, Mrs. Trovei, Mr. Siegel) ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mrs. Trovei thanked all involved with the budget process and looks forward to continuing their hard work into the New Year. Mrs. Hendry agrees with Mrs. Trovei and praised her for stepping up into the Finance Chair position and doing such a great job.

The next finance meeting will be held on December 21st, at 6:30pm in the council chambers.

Fire & Emergency Management (FEM) Committee

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Mitchell D. Weed for active membership for Neversink Engine Company No. 1.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. VanHorn to approve Tammy Aber, Roseann Weeks-Aber & Randall Aber for an inter-department transfer from Fowler's Rescue Salvage Company No. 3 to Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4.

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

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Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve Jennifer Snyder as a driver for Delaware Engine Company No. 2.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Delaware Engine Company No. 2 to host a Christmas party on 12/17/16 and New Year's Eve party on 12/31/16.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Excelsior Engine Company No. 5 to attend a Christmas with Santa event on 12/18/16 at 9:00am.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Delaware Engine Company No. 2 to hold a fundraising wrestling Tournament being held at the Port Jervis High School 3/18/17.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4 request to allow Daisy Troop 250 to hold meetings at the firehouse on alternate Monday's beginning at 6:00pm.

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

Motion by Mr. Siegel, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4 to host a Christmas party on 12/10/2016.

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

Mr. Siegel congratulated all 25 & 50 year members.

The next meeting will be held on December 19th, 2016 at 7:00pm in the council chambers.

Code Committee-

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Siegel to approve a public hearing on 2017 Local Law #1 relating to the repeal of 2015 Local Law#7 to be held on January 9th, at 7:00pm.

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

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve a public hearing on 2017 Local Law #2 relating to leaf pick up to be held on January 9th, at 7:01pm.

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

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve a public hearing on 2017 Local Law #3 relating to the Watershed rules & regulations to be held on January 9th, at 7:02pm.

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

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Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve an event fee application, that must be completed prior to all events being held within the City and to stop hanging banners from underpasses and to utilize frames for event advertising.

Mayor Decker noted that the City will stop hanging banners from the underpasses and utilize the new signage frames throughout the City.

Mrs. Trovei insisted even City events should complete the event fee application for cost analysis purposes.

Mayor Decker gave an overview of the application and noted the application will be available on the City's website.

Mr. Siegel mentioned that the application is to make things better not worse.

Mrs. Hendry informed residents that the Code committee has been working on a viable event fee law for the entire year and explained the reasoning behind the law.

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

Next code meeting to be held January 4th at 7:00pm in the council chambers.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee-

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mrs. Fitzpatrick to approve the December 2016 DPW meeting minutes.

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

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve the 2017 City Improvement Resolution.

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

Update:

Garbage and recycling will be on its normal schedule for the next week. The schedule for the week between Christmas and New Year's will be as follows.

Monday: No pickup

Tuesday: 1st ward garbage and recycling

Wednesday: 2nd ward garbage and recycling

Thursday: 3rd ward garbage and recycling

Friday: 4th ward garbage and recycling (please have it out by 7am as the DPW closes at 11am)

There will be no paper pick up that week because it is the 5th Friday of the month.

City wide bag leaf and loose leaf pick up has ended and will begin again in the spring and will be announced at a later date. If you need to dispose of leaves and yard debris, the brush pit and compost pile will still be open every Saturday from 7:15 until 11:30 am.

We are still experiencing severe drought conditions even though we have had some rain, so please try and conserve water as much as possible. No outside use of water, shorter showers, fix leaking toilets and faucets, turn off the water when brushing teeth or shaving. Thank you for helping out in any way you can as any little bit helps.

Next meeting will be held January 3rd, 2016 at 6:00pm

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Police Committee-

The next meeting will be December 20th at 6:00pm.

Liaison Reports:

Community Development Agency (CDA)-

The next meeting will be December 21st at 7:00pm.

Industrial Development Agency (IDA)-

The next meeting will be December 21st at 6:00pm

American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)-

Discussed 2017 projects.

Next meeting to be held February 16th at 6:30pm in the Mayor's Conference room

Housing Authority-

The next meeting will be December 27th, at 7:00pm at Hillside Terrace in the conference room.

Recreation Commission:

The Recreation Department is collecting new toys this holiday season for children of the Tri-State area. Toys can be dropped off at the youth center- 134 pike street- weekdays between 11 am-7 pm. Toy drive ends on December 22. If you need another time to drop off please call us at 845-858-4045 or email us at pjrec@frontiernet.net and we can arrange it. All toys collected will be given to the Elks Club here in port Jervis for their annual Christmas Eve party. Please help us help the youth of the community. Thank you!

The youth center schedule for the winter break is as follows: Youth center will close at 5:45 pm on Thursday December 22nd, closed Friday December 23rd, open 11:00 am-3:00 pm December 26th-30th and January 2nd, 2017.

Adult basketball is held Sunday mornings 9:30 am-11:30 am at the A.S.K. gym. Participants must be 18 years old and out of high school. Participants must also be Port Jervis school district residents.

Co-ed youth basketball is held Saturday afternoons 12:00 pm-3:00 pm at the A.S.K. gym. 3rd and 4th graders play from 12:00 pm-1:15 pm and 5th and 6th graders play from 1:30 pm-3:00 pm. Beginning in January we will add a Wednesday night league for the 5th and 6th graders.

There is no recreation commission meeting in December. The next recreation commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 19th, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the youth center.

The recreation commission would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

Tourism Board-

The next meeting will be on December 15th at 6:00 pm in the Council chambers.

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Zoning Board of Appeals-

The next meeting will be held on January 3rd, at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Planning Board-

The next meeting will be held on December 20th at 7:00pm.

Plumbing Board-

Mr. Bavoso mentioned plumbing license renewals are due by the end of the year and reminds residents that plumbers working within the City limits must be licensed.

The next meeting will be held on January 4th at 6:30pm.

Electrical Board-

Mr. Bavoso mentioned electrical license renewals are due by the end of the year and reminds residents that electricians working within the City limits must be licensed.

The next meeting will be held on January 4th at 6:45pm.

Senior Advisory-

No report given.

Access 23 TV-

No report given.

Mayor's Correspondence-

Mr. Decker urged residents to attend the Planning Board meetings.

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Belcher to approve the cancellation of the December 27th, 2016 council meeting. The next council meeting will be held January 9th, 2017 at 7:00pm.

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

Thanked all involved with recent events, Mrs. Trovei for stepping up to Finance Chair and wished everyone a happy holiday.

City Clerk Treasurer's Report-

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to approve Mrs. Waizenegger & Mrs. Trovei to process and pay bills during the remainder of December, 2016.

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

Informed the council and residents that all department heads are continually trying to find cost savings throughout the year not only during budget season.

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Mrs. Waizenegger also suggested the Code Committee formulate a plan for a future budget impasse or veto by the Mayor. She also wished everyone a happy holiday and reminded residents that County tax and water bills are due in January.

Old Business:

Mr. Siegel-

Announced the 4th ward neighborhood watch meeting will be held January 18th and suggested remembering Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Bell & Mr. Simmons over the holiday season.

Mrs. Trovei-

Reminded residents that December 13th is the last day to enter the holiday lighting contest.

Mr. VanHorn- No comment

Mr. Foster-

Congratulated Woogies Deli on being named business of the month and thanked everyone involved with the Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, Kutcher shoe drive, Rick Drew Parade and tree lightings.

Mr. Bavoso-

Thanked tourism for the Christkindlemarkt and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mrs. Hendry- No comment

Mr. Belcher-

Thanked all mutual aid departments for assisting Port Jervis during this time with the Ambulance service.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick-

Thanked the Tri-State Chambers for the Rick Drew holiday parade and Mary Decker for the Kutcher Drive.

Ms. Randazzo-

Gave an update on PJVAC and explained they are still waiting state approval to resume operations.

New Business:

Ms. Randazzo-

Invited everyone to the Musical Annie being held December 16th- 18th and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

December 12th, 2016**Mrs. Fitzpatrick-**

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. Belcher-

Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mrs. Hendry-

Wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Bavoso- No comment**Mr. Foster-**

Wished everyone a happy holiday.

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to allow Executive session to discuss, a personnel matter involving the Director of Public works, a discussion with City Clerk-Treasurer regarding a DPW employee vacation request, a matter regarding 100-200 skyline Drive which is contractual matter consideration and potential litigation matter, a discussion regarding 24-32 Front Street matter which is a litigation matter and a contractual matter, a discussion of the 2017 contract agreement between the City of Port Jervis and the Human Society, a discussion regarding the STAR program/Port Jervis School tax issue, a contractual issue discussion regarding potential 3 bike race series for 2017, a discussion regarding the pending tax certiorari proceeding on 33 Ralph Street with invitation to include, Jack Farr, Robin Waizenegger, John Faggione, Teresa Spradling and to seek advice of council regarding matters involving attorney/client privilege.

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

Mr. VanHorn-

Wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mrs. Trovei-

Wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Siegel-

Informed Council that he sent a letter to senator Schumer regarding the Port Jervis MTA location and the lack of handicap accessibility, suggested the council consider alternative ideas to the proposed white water park. He feels the process is taking too much time, money and the constantly changing structure of the river. Encourages residents to become PJVAC volunteers and wished everyone happy holiday.

December 12th, 2016**Public Comment-**

William Onofry, business owner, addressed the recent zoning conflict relating to a property on Front Street and cautioned the council on future decisions.

Charlene Trotta, Tri-State Chamber of Commerce, reported that the Kutchers Shoe Drive have collected over 800 pairs of shoes.

Ed Degroat, 3rd ward, hopes to find a resolution without legal action.

Kristin Trovei asked Mr. Degroat for clarification on why he changed his mind from the agreement, he agreed to.

Ed Degroat responded that after speaking to neighbors, they feel City property should remain City property.

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to enter into executive session at 8:55pm.

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

Meeting Reconvened at 10:20pm

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mrs. Hendry to approve unused 2016 vacation time for employee #418 to be carried over and used by March 31, 2017.

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

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. VanHorn to approve unused 2016 vacation time for employee #511 to be carried over and used by March 31, 2017.

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

Motion by Mrs. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Mrs. Randazzo to approve the hire of Sara Burns, Warren Ponds and Daniel Keuntje, pending a background check, as Co-Ed Basketball Instructor's for a \$575.00 stipend, Dawn Jones and Steven Smalls as program volunteers and Rosie Forbes as adult basketball volunteer.

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to forego the tax deed on 24-32 Front Street and assign our interest of purchase of property foreclosure sale bidder to Jim Blanton and Daniel Radike.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 1(VanHorn) CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned –

Motion by Mr. Bavoso seconded by Mr. VanHorn to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

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

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer