

December 20th, 2017

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 20th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance-

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

Attendance-

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

Youth Report- No report

Senior Report- No report

Veteran Report- No report

Public Comment-

Don Copa, 2nd ward, indicated that he is in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary, and urged Council members to reconsider.

Joan Rollman, 2nd ward, stated that she is also in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary and asked the Council to reconsider.

Helen Piserchia, 3rd ward, indicated that she is in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary and stated that not only does Mayor Decker deserve a raise but the position itself. She also noted that she feels her ward representatives do not share the collective opinion of her ward.

Jill Bidner, 4th ward, noted she would like to see less taxes and more local jobs.

Linda Vanhorn, 4th ward, stated that she doesn't think sitting Council members should approve raises for themselves and noted seniors are struggling throughout the City and agrees there are no jobs.

Deb Decker, 2nd ward, indicated that she was a senior citizen on a fixed income and is in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary.

Wayne Kidney, 1st ward, agrees that the Mayors position should get a 2% salary increase and spoke with several seniors who are not in favor of any increase.

Minutes Approved-

Motion by Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mr. Foster to approve the minutes of the December 11th, 2017 regular meeting.

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 2 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 1(Mr. Siegel) CARRIED

December 20th, 2017**Mayor's Correspondence-**

Mayor Decker urged all residents to partake in a survey to help the Port Jervis School District select a new Superintendent of Schools. The survey can found on the schools website www.portjervisschools.org

Mr. Decker appreciates all public comments relating to the 2018 budget and noted the City will be focusing on education and annexation in the coming year. He also noted that the 2018 budget caused a lot of conversation and urged the community to stay involved.

City Clerk Treasurer's Report-

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Belcher, to allow Executive session to discuss two purchase offers for City owned property and invite Mr. Dominic Santini, and to seek advice of counsel regarding matters involving attorney/client privilege.

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

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 \$856,366.78

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Belcher to continue to pay any necessary bills for General Fund, Water Fund, and Capital Account for the remainder of the year.

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

Mrs. Waizenegger noted that according to the new tax reform residents can pay their county taxes starting December 27th, 2017.

Old Business:

Mrs. Randazzo- No comment

Mrs. Fitzpatrick-

Read letters from residents in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary.

Mr. Belcher-

Read letters from residents in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary.

Mrs. Hendry- No comment

Mr. Bavoso- No comment

Mr. Foster- No comment

Mrs. Mann- No comment

Mrs. Trovei- No comment

Mr. Siegel- No comment

New Business:

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Mr. Siegel-

Mr. Siegel noted that he has received many comments on the proposed Mayors salary increase. He also asked for clarification on the contingency budget process, indicated that he doesn't agree with approving raises for sitting Council, read letter from a resident asking the Council to look into house assessments and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mrs. Trovei- No comment

Mrs. Mann-

Wished everyone a happy, healthy holiday and New Year.

Mr. Foster-

Thanked everyone for public input and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Bavoso-

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mr. Siegel to approve a public hearing for proposed local law #2 of 2018 to be set for January 22nd, 2018 at 7:30pm.

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

Mrs. Hendry- No comment

Mr. Belcher-

Mr. Belcher indicated that he is also in favor of an increase for the Mayors salary.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick-

Announced a benefit breakfast for the Fournier family will be held at the Erie-Trackside on December 23rd from 9:00am-11:00am. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Randazzo-

Mrs. Randazzo reminded residents that the 2018 garbage schedule can be found on the City's website and her Facebook page. She also noted she appreciated all the public comments and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Vote on 2018 Budget

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to adopt the 2018 budget with an 8.13% increase.

Mrs. Trovei explained the contingency process, reviewed budget and informed the public how the Council got to 8.13%.

Mrs. Hendry thanked residents for the last 2 years of service and explained why she would be voting no for the 2018 budget.

Mr. Bavoso reviewed his position on the 2018 budget and noted he will be voting yes and would address the Mayors salary in January.

Mr. Belcher agreed with Mr. Bavoso.

Mr. Foster also agreed with Mr. Bavoso and noted he will be addressing the Mayors salary in the New Year.

Mr. Siegel stated that he loved his job as a Council member but doesn't like budget process; he indicated that he will work on stabilizing the budget for next year and will be voting no for 2018 budget.

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Mrs. Mann addressed the Mayors salary and indicated she will be voting no to the 2018 budget.
Mrs. Fitzpatrick agrees with Mrs. Mann and indicated she will be voting no to the 2018 budget.

Mayor Decker stated that taxes are going up because of past 0% tax increases and urges the Council to vote yes on the 2018 budget and believes the City is on the right path.

The Mayor called a roll call vote:

Siegel – No
Trovei – Yes
Mann – No
Foster – Yes
Bavoso – Yes
Hendry – No
Belcher – Yes
Fitzpatrick – No
Randazzo – No

AYE: 4 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 5 ABSTAIN: 0 DENIED

Mrs. Waizenegger informed the Council they had two options moving forward. They could go back to the table and come to decision by December 31st, 2017 or the 2017 contingency budget takes effect. She also explained the contingency process.

Motion by Mr. Siegel seconded by Mrs. Mann to approve the Council to hold additional budget workshops.

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

Mrs. Randazzo stated that she voted no because of the lack of consensus amongst Council members.

Mr. Siegel noted that the Council needs to review the proposed budget again.

Mrs. Trovei scheduled a budget workshop to be held on December 21st, 2017 at 6:00pm.

Public Comment- No public comment

Meeting Adjourned –

Motion by Mr. Foster seconded by Mr. Bavoso to enter into executive session at 7:20pm.

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

Robin Waizenegger
Clerk Treasurer