

December 27, 2017

Special Meeting-

The Special meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held in the Common Council Room, City Hall, 20 Hammond St., Port Jervis, New York on Wednesday, December 27th, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Kelly Decker and members of the Common Council were present. City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger, Police Chief William Worden, DPW Director Jack Farr, Building and Code Enforcement Director David Rivera were also present. Corporation Counsel William Bavoso was absent.

Mayor Decker opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor indicated that the only agenda item for the Special Council meeting is to discuss and vote again on the same proposed budget as was voted on at the 12/20/2017 meeting 2018 budget.

Public Comment-

Jill Bidner, 4th ward, indicated that she hopes the Council will continue to trim the budget as she cannot afford to pay any additional rent and made a plea for a job offer.

Motion made by Kristin Trovei , seconded by George Belcher to approve a the proposed budget at an 8.13% tax rate increase.

Discussion:

Siegel – stated majority of his constituency, that have spoken to him, expressed a desire for him to vote no as their representative.

Trovei – Voted yes and will vote yes again as approximately 7% of the increase is contractual , which cannot be changed, and while she understands the socio-economics of the City she sees the proposed budget as the best option at this time in the face of an 11% contingency. While she knows it is difficult to approve this level of increase she reviewed all of the items included and impacting the budget including the raise in PINS Age, Court Consolidation, the desire to do no layoffs and contractual requirements.

Mann – She stated that she previously voted no and will do so again as she feels that there should have been changes and compromises made. She is not voting no for an 11% increase but cannot vote yes as she feels her input was met with resistance.

Foster – he will be voting yes as the Council has reviewed the budget multiple times without substantial changes possible. He looks forward to making more changes in the upcoming year.

Bavoso – no new comments at this time.

Hendry – Indicated that her vote will not change from no, however she does fully understand after sitting through many budget workshops why individuals would be voting yes and while it not the best budget it probably is the best in lieu of the economic circumstances and better than 11%.

Belcher – no new comments at this time.

Fitzpatrick – no new comments at this time.

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Randazzo – While I voted no the first time it was purely because of the feeling that there was not clear consensus and that more negotiation was necessary. However, as it is clear that a contingency budget, which is required by law, is worse. The contingency budget was clearly outlined by the City Clerk/Treasurer, which has all been verified, and as there was not changes of a material nature that were tolerable to the majority of members she will now be voting yes.

Mayor Decker – While as, Mrs. Trovei articulated, the majority of the increases, 7%, are contractual, the proposed budget is understandable and an agreeable amount. There are items from the past that impact the base we trend on but we must move forward. The Council did a decent job in further reducing his proposed budget and that this budget is in line with his 5 year strategic plan. He looks forward to making changes in the upcoming year to positively impact the following year's budget to a more reasonable level.

The Mayor called a roll call vote:

Siegel – No

Trovei – Yes

Mann – No

Foster – Yes

Bavoso – Yes

Hendry – No

Belcher – Yes

Fitzpatrick – Yes

Randazzo – Yes

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 3 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mayor Decker indicated that there is an additional item of business with respect to the Soap Box Derby.

Motion by Kristin Trovei, seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the Port Jervis Soap Box Derby event in June of 2018 as a City sponsored event.

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

Motion by Kristin Trovei, seconded by Lisa Randazzo to dissolve the current contractual relationship with the Port Jervis Soap Box Derby with respect to the annual race event.

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

Public Comment-

Wayne Kidney, 1st Ward, indicated that he was glad the budget passed at 8.13% knowing that it is the best that could be done. He also thanked Sarah Hendry for her representation.

Kristin Trovei, Mayor Decker, CCT Robin Waizenegger, Regis Foster and Stanley Siegel expressed their thanks for the service Sarah Hendry gave to the City during her term of office and encouraged her to have continued involvement with the City.

Meeting Adjourned - Motion by Sarah Hendry, seconded by Regis Foster to adjourn the meeting at 6:19pm

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

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk-Treasurer