

CODE COMMITTEE
City of Port Jervis
Common Council Chambers
Minutes – Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018 – 7:02pm

Lisa Randazzo
Committee Chairman

David Rivera
Building Official

Kristin Trovei
David Bavoso
Stanley Siegel
Committee Members

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Mrs. Randazzo – Mrs. Trovei – Mr. Siegel – Mr. Bavoso – Corporation Counsel - Mr. Rivera – Mr. Brady – Mr. Cicalese – Mrs. Muller

Absent:

Public Comment: No public comment.

Building Officials Report: Attached

Old Business:

1. Fire Inspection Fees and Operating Fees-

Mrs. Randazzo asked what needed to be done in order to move forward with the proposed fees suggested by the Fire Inspector and the Fire Chief. The fees would generate revenue and provide additional safety requirements.

Corporation Counsel inquired about current code language pertaining to fees.

Chief Cicalese indicated that the City code has language similar to the ICC and provided the committee with an overview of the different classifications of Operating Permits and why implementation is important.

Corporation Counsel asked how many buildings in Port Jervis would be subject to an operating permit, if the fee was implemented.

Mr. Brady noted roughly 140 businesses. He also stated the City has roughly 275 businesses in total.

Mr. Rivera stated that most businesses and multifamily dwellings have not been inspected in years and operating fees would allow the Building Department to ensure compliance. He suggested the committee consider making the position of Fire Inspector full time.

Mrs. Trovei agreed that the full time position and the proposed fees go hand in hand. She indicated that the position had been discussed at the finance meeting, however, the finance committee is requesting a fee schedule and revenue projection.

Mr. Brady stated that based on other municipalities rate schedule the city should expect to generate \$40,500.00 for fire safety inspections and \$30,440.00 for operating permits and multi dwelling inspections.

Corporation Counsel asked if the current language in the code is sufficient for what is being proposed and if not what changes are needed.

Mr. Siegel noted his concern is for life safety rather than the monetary benefit.

The committee asked Mr. Rivera and Mr. Brady to provide a fee schedule and to note the specific code changes that are necessary in order to move forward.

2. Homestead Tax Classifications-

Corporation Counsel informed the committee that if a homestead classification is in place, the law covers all homes up to a 3 family dwelling. No modifications can be made due to New York State mandates.

3. Discuss Scofflaws-
Mrs. Randazzo stated topic would be tabled.
4. Vacant Building Registration Fees-
Corporation Counsel informed the committee that the departments provided documentation showing how much time has been spent on vacant building properties. After reviewing, it is his opinion; the fee should be higher to reflect the actual cost of time spent. He will meet with necessary department heads and report back to the council with a recommendation.

New Business:

1. Proposed Changes to the Vacant Building Registration Law-
The committee along with Mr. Rivera and Mrs. Muller discussed the collection of vacant building fees for properties that are considered occupied foreclosures.
Mr. Rivera suggested only charging the occupied foreclosure properties with current code violations.
Mrs. Muller suggested charging occupied foreclosure properties after the first year of filing registration forms.
The committee is in agreeance that the law should allow for vacant building registration fees to be collected for vacant properties, not occupied foreclosures.
Corporation Counsel asked the committee if the property is occupied should the fee be collected, if not the law needs to be changed.
Mrs. Muller and Mr. Rivera stated the law contradicts itself and needs to be revised.
2. Social Services and Pathstone Property Inspections-
Mr. Rivera provided an overview of Pathstone inspection protocols and asked the committee to consider creating a law to allow Pathstone inspections to go through the Building Department.
Mrs. Trovei suggested contacting Pathstone.
Mrs. Randazzo asked Mr. Rivera to research other municipalities and their procedures on social service inspections.

Update:

126 Front Street is scheduled for a court appearance on October 4th, 2018 and will keep the committee updated.

32 West Main Street is still awaiting an owner's signature in order to move forward with demolition. Corporation Counsel suggested the council declare the property a dangerous building and order the insurance money to cover the cost.

Mr. Siegel asked Mr. Rivera to look into 19 Owen Street for structural damage.

Mr. Rivera will review the property with the City Engineer.

Public Comment: *About Topics Covered in Tonight's Meeting*

No public comment.

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Bavoso to enter into executive session at 7:58pm.

AYE: 4 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion by Mr. Bavoso, seconded by Mrs. Trovei to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm.

AYE: 4 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Next Scheduled Code Meeting: **November 7th, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Council Chambers**