

October 22, 2018

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 October 22nd, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance-

All members of the Common Council were present.

Meeting opened at 7:00pm by Mayor Decker.

Pledge of Allegiance-

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

Youth Report- Mallory Conklin gave the youth report as follows:

ASK will be having their PTA Family Fun Run on October 27 8:30-1:00

School physicals are required for all Elementary school students in Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 3rd Grade and 5th grade, as well as all new registrants to the school. The school's physician will be starting physicals in October for students who have not already supplied the school with a physical or notice of an upcoming appointment. Please contact the health office at 858-3100 ext. 13700 or 13701.

At HBE they are having a Krispy Kreme Fundraiser until Thursday, October 25

**Red Ribbon Week at HBE from October 22nd-26th. They are having many events and daily activities to show that they are proud to be drug free.
PTA Mtg. On Thursday, October 25 @ 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

Family fun night in October 26 from 5:30-7:30. It is \$5.00 per child. The kids can trick or treat around the school and receive a pumpkin to take home.

**At the middle school
Holiday wreath order forms are due this Wednesday**

Buy and personalize your PJMS 2018-2019 yearbook online! Yearbooks on sale now until January 25, 2019

**At high school
Fall sports are winding down and winter sport sign ups are happening.**

Check in the guidance office to speak to college reps and be able to apply for FREE. This is a great opportunity for college bound seniors.

The High School will be offering the ASVAB at Port Jervis high school at 8 AM on Saturday, November 3rd. All students interested in pursuing the military should take this important free exam. Students should register in guidance by October 31st.

Student Council/New York Blood Center FALL BLOOD DRIVE is scheduled for November 1, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sign-up in the Main Office STARTING NEXT WEEK. ONE UNIT SAVES 3 LIVES !!! PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING !! THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE !! 40 units is our goal !!!

**November 6 is Superintendent Conference Day - No School for students
Port Jervis City Schools will be closed Monday, November 12, 2018, in observance of Veterans Day. District offices will be closed.**

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November 13 There is a regular meeting of the Port Jervis City School District Board of Education. Meeting to be held in the cafeteria of the High School at 7 pm

November 16 Report Cards will be issued today for students in grades 7 - 12 at Port Jervis Schools.

Come down to Historic Port Jervis on Saturday October 27th starting at 4pm along Front Street for a fun filled October SPOOKTACULAR. Bring your ghouls and goblins all dressed up and snag a pumpkin at participating businesses!! Sales, treats and so much more! Look for the event on Facebook and RSVP.

The Port Jervis Library is having a Halloween Story time at 10:30 am on October 30. Come in costume, parade around the library, decorate a goody bag, and then hear stories. Parents are asked to bring in some type of goody (individually wrapped snack items or small party favors) to share. For kids who have not yet started school.

The 70th annual Halloween Parade will be Saturday October 27th. Parade Lineup at 3pm at City Hall. Donuts and Cider at Farnum Park at the conclusion. There is a rain date of October 28th.

Senior Report- Mr. Siegel reminded seniors and other citizens that the flu season is upon us and that it is important especially for seniors and infants to get vaccinated. He reported that there is a fluzone high dose shot which the CDC says is most effective. He noted that you cannot get the flu from a flu shot as it is dead or weakened virus cells.

Veteran Report- Mr. Siegel stated that the flu shot is important for veterans as well and noted that the shots are free at all VA Clinics. He stated that as cold approaches if there are homeless vets or if you know of a homeless vet please contact the VA for assistance at 1-877-424-3838 or va.gov/homeless.

Mr. Siegel also noted that Veterans Day is coming up on November 11th which is a significant day of remembrance for all who serve our country.

Presentation: Mr. David Rivera, Building Code Enforcement Officer and Mr. James Farr, City Engineer on 32 West Main Street.

Mr. Rivera commented that the structure at 32 West Main Street suffered major damage due to a structure fire on July 18, 2018 which caused a lot of structural damage, since then the City has been pursuing the demolition by the owners. One owner has given written permission for the demolition and has arranged for all necessary services to do the demolition; however the second owner is incarcerated and is not willing to cooperate. Mr. Rivera is recommending to the City that the City order the immediate demolition of the structure under the dangerous building provisions.

Councilman Siegel asked if the City Engineer concurred with this assessment.

Mr. James Farr, City engineer, indicated that he did an initial assessment report immediately following the fire issued a report detailing the structural damage with recommendation for demolition. He also visited the site today and observed that several portions of the roof have collapsed due to the rains this summer and he feels that it meets the definition of a dangerous structure in danger of eminent collapse per Chapter 234 of the City Code.

City Attorney, William Bavoso, began a questioning of the City Engineer, James Farr:

Mr. Bavoso: You are the City Engineer, correct?

Mr. Farr: Yes I am.

Mr. Bavoso: Did you issue a report on July 19, 2018 after visiting the site of the fire, is that correct?

Mr. Farr: Correct

Mr. Bavoso: In that report you laid each of the sub sections of the City code with respect to dangerous buildings, correct?

Mr. Farr: Correct

Mr. Bavoso: And you found the building met every criteria under Chapter 234 as a dangerous building, is that correct?

Mr. Farr: Yes that is correct.

Mr. Bavoso: As you said, you have been back to the property, correct?

Mr. Farr: Yes I was there this afternoon at approximately 4:30.

Mr. Bavoso: Has the structure deteriorated further?

Mr. Farr: Yes it has.

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Mr. Bavoso: In your opinion would this building then qualify the building under section 234-13 of the City Code as a dangerous building which presents an immediate danger to the life and safety to persons and property?

Mr. Farr: Yes, that is my professional opinion.

Mr. Bavoso: Therefore this would qualify it as an emergency situation at this point, would you agree?

Mr. Farr: I agree.

City Attorney began a questioning of the City Building Official, David Rivera:

Mr. Bavoso: David as City Building official have you heard all of the questions and answers as posed to the City engineer?

Mr. Rivera: Yes I did.

Mr. Bavoso: And do you agree with his assessment of the structure?

Mr. Rivera: Absolutely I do.

Mr. Bavoso: You have two owners on this structure and you have received a signed permission from one owner to demolish the structure through a power of attorney, correct?

Mr. Rivera: Yes

Mr. Bavoso: One of the parties is incarcerated and you received an e-mail from the inmate's counselor on October 16, 2018, is that correct?

Mr. Rivera: Yes

Mr. Bavoso: In that email the rehabilitation coordinator aka counselor detailed the questions and answers from the inmate, second owner, regarding his consent demolition of the structure and the counselor indicated that the owner will not cooperate in any manner with respect to giving permission for the demolition, is that correct?

Mr. Rivera: That is correct.

Mr. Bavoso: In summation we therefore have consent from one owner and a statement of no cooperation from the other owner and we have the opinions of both you and the City engineer that the building is a dangerous building in danger of immediate collapse and is a danger to persons and property should it collapse, would you both agree with that?

Mr. Rivera and Mr. Farr: Both agreed.

Mayor Decker asked for further questions from the Council.

Mr. Siegel asked if the owner's insurance company will pay for the demolition. Mr. Rivera indicated that he is under the impression that the insurance company has already cut a check to the demolition company.

Mayor Decker asked if there will be any cost to the City? Mr. Rivera said he is unsure as he has not been privy to the insurance claim.

Mr. Bavoso asked what the estimated cost of the demolition? Mr. Rivera estimated \$64,000.

Mr. Bavoso indicated that the next step would be for the Council to order the demolition under Chapter 234 of the Code.

Motion by Stanley Siegel seconded by George Belcher to order the demolition of the building at 32 West Main Street, Port Jervis New York pursuant to Chapter 234 of the Code.

Under discussion Mr. Wm. Bavoso asked if Mr. Rivera will coordinate with the insurance company during the demolition. Mr. Rivera indicated that he will be working through the owner to obtain insurance information.

Mrs. Randazzo wanted to be clear that if the City did have any costs that they will be billed to the owner and will constitute a lien on the property. Mr. Rivera indicated that he will work with Mrs. Waizenegger on the coordination of the billing and charges and insurance reimbursement and ultimately a tax lien.

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

Minutes Approved-

Motion by Lisa Randazzo, seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the September 24th, 2018 regular meeting.

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

For the Good of the City

Laura Meyer, Tourism Board, spoke inviting the public to the Downtown Merchants Association Spooktacular on October 27th. She encourages individuals to come in costume and detailed all activities.

Linda Van Horn stated that she is here as a Port Jervis citizen, not as a representative of the School Board. Linda Van Horn asked questions regarding the transactions associated with 29-31 Front Street. She indicated that she had attended the finance

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meeting and was not given answers because it was a contractual matter and to be discussed in executive session before any answers can be given. The Mayor indicated that indeed it is a contractual item and conditions must be discussed and decided by the Council before release.

She asked about the request for a salary increase for the Mayor from last year which she has not heard anything additional on. She also expressed that fact that she represents many taxpayers and has attended many finance meetings and feels that she is not being given information she requests. She claims that other taxpayers feel intimidated when asking questions of the board and will not come forward and she now empathizes with them after attending finance meetings and feels belittled by the Council members.

Mr. Hank Dunn presented to the Council a request to move the Veterans Day Parade from the traditional Holiday on November 11th to the observed day by the school district on Monday November 12th. He cited various reasons regarding scheduling.

The Mayor stopped Mr. Dunn due to time limit. He indicated that Mr. Siegel will be bringing the issue to the Council later in the meeting. He indicated that there are some strong feelings due to this being the 100th anniversary of the event that led to Veterans Day on the 11th of November.

Regis Foster made a motion seconded by Kristin Trovei for the Common Council to enter into Executive Session regarding the following matters:

1. Potential contractual/litigation matter on property where the City has a financial interest.
2. Potential Contract regarding sale of tax liens by the City.
3. Potential sale of City owned property on which an offer has been made.

Following the Council meeting we will have an Executive Session regarding contractual matters involving City Officer employment agreements and retirement agreements for City employees.

And

Upon the conclusion of Executive Session, the Council may be meeting with our legal counsel for advice regarding matters involving attorney/client privilege.

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

Meeting adjourned to Executive session at 7:27pm

Meeting Reconvened at 8:16pm

Business:

Ms. Randazzo-

Ms. Randazzo made a motion seconded by Stanley Siegel to sell three tax liens for 210-212 New Ball Street, 225 Jersey Avenue and 227 Jersey Avenue for a total of \$51,886.68 before they mature on November 15th. This was not a solicitation by the City. This offer from Mr. Stack resulted from documents he personally foiled.

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

She indicated that the next Plumbing and Electrical meetings will be on 11/7 at 6:30 and 6:45 respectively.

The next code meeting will be on 11/7 at 7pm.

Motion made to approve the October Code Minutes by Lisa Randazzo seconded by Regis Foster.

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

Mrs. Fitzpatrick-

1. The 70th Annual Halloween Parade will be held this SATURDAY October 27, 2018. Line-up will be on Hammond Street in front of City Hall at 3:00 pm. Parade will start at 3:30 pm. At the conclusion of the parade at Farnum Park prizes will

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be awarded by The Elks and refreshments served by the Recreation Commission. The parade is for children, adults and pets. Please note pets must be leashed. Join us on October 27 for a fun day! Remember to dress in costume. The rain date is Sunday October 28- same times and locations.

2. Registration for our new fall program- Little Chefs at PJ Rec will be held at the Youth Center tomorrow October 23 and October 25, 30 and November 1 at 6:00 pm. This cooking program is for boys and girls ages 9-12. Cost is \$30 per person. Class size is limited to 12 kids! Don't miss out on this fun and educational program!
3. On Saturday November 3, 2018 the Recreation Department is holding a Fall Leaf Clean-Up event. Volunteers are needed to help us clean leaves from our parks. We are meeting at Farnum Park at 10:00 am. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion at 12:00 pm. Contact the Recreation office at 845-858-4045 to sign up.
4. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday October 24, 2018 at 7 pm at the Youth Center.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick made a motion seconded by George Belcher for approval to hire Kathy Potter as a Recreational Specialist to conduct our Fall Little Chefs @ PJ Rec cooking program. The program is scheduled to start on November 10, 2018 and run through December 22.

This is a stipend position and is budgeted for 2018.

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

Mr. Belcher-

Garbage and recycling will be on the normal schedule for the next two weeks until the week of Veterans Day when it will be 1 day later due to the Veterans Day holiday. Paper and recycling pickup will continue to be picked up on normal schedule. Please be sure to use compostable and/or biodegradable bags for disposal. Debris placed in cans must be of 35 gallons or less in size. The Tristate bridge construction is underway so please use caution when driving through the tri-states area. Hydrant flushing will be completed on October 29th. The next DPW meeting will take place on Monday November 5th, 2018 at 6pm here in the Council Chambers.

Motion by Mr. George Belcher seconded by David Bavoso as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common is currently actively involved in a project known as Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Replacement which are NYSDOT PIN number 8780.48,

AND WHEREAS, these projects are part of the OCTC Transportation Improvement Program as a capital plan

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby affirms its commitment to move forward with the project, fund local costs and execution of the project's completion.

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

Motion by Mr. George Belcher seconded by Gina Fitzpatrick as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common is currently actively involved in a projects known as the Route 6 Neversink Bridge Replacement and the widening of East Main Street which are NYSDOT PIN numbers 8756.64 and 8757.08 respectively,

AND WHEREAS, these projects are part of the OCTC Transportation Improvement Program as a capital plan

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby affirms its commitment to move forward with the projects, fund local costs and execution of the project's completion.

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

Tourism met and discussed the results of the Fall Foliage Festival. Plans are now in progress for the Kris Kindlemart on 11/25. Applications for that event are on the city website. He also reminded everyone of the Halloween Lighting contest.

The next Tourism Board meeting will be on 11/14 at 7pm.

Mr. Santini-

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He reported that there was no planning meeting due to lack of agenda items.
 The next zoning meeting is 11/6 at 7pm.
 The next planning meeting is 11/20 at 7pm.

Mr. Foster-

Motion by Mr. Foster seconded by Ms. Randazzo to permanently appointment Officers Stanley Buscek III and Mackenzie Decker effective 10/22/2018 as they have completed all training and probationary requirements.

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

Motion by Mr. Foster seconded by George Belcher to waive the code requirements and allow Scott Jervis to receive a taxi driver license.

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

Motion by Mr. Foster seconded by Ms. Randazzo to approve the police committee minutes.

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

Mr. Foster reviewed the details of the police monthly report and the minutes of Police committee meeting. These included noisy vehicles, the passing of Charles Decker, Free Rabies clinic, feral cat program, police traffic services, comparison of 2017 to 2018 crime statistics and school policing units.

Next police meeting is 11/15 at 6pm.

Motion by Mr. Foster seconded by George Belcher to approve the September Police Report.

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

Next ADA meeting will be on 1/7/2019 at 6:30 pm.

Mrs. Mann-

She reported that the board had met and considered the request for continued sales tax exemption for the 3312 Group. Due to outstanding maintenance issues the board delayed the decision and has set a special meeting for Monday October 29th at 6pm.

Motion by Maria Mann seconded by Regis Foster to approve a partial reduction to the water billing account for the Erie Trackside in the amount of \$377.64.

Mr. Bavoso clarified that the reason for the reduction is for a leaky pipe which is the maintenance issue of the owner.

City Clerk called for polling of members as she could not discern the vote:

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

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

Mrs. Trovei-

CDA has not met and indicated that CDA's next meeting is October 24th at 7pm.

Mrs. Trovei made a motion seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the 10/17 finance meeting.

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

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She reviewed the details of the minutes including 29-31 Front Street, contractual matters, Hiking Trails, homeownership vs rentals, Tax Anticipation Note, 3rd Quarter budget review, proposed budget changes, Sales Tax Revenue, annexation proposed expenses and firefighter cancer insurance.

Next finance meeting is 11/14 at 6pm. This meeting is earlier than normal due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Belcher to pay the current bills for General Fund, Water Fund, and Capital Account for a total of \$409,484.00.

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Foster as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council has recognized that the 2018 Budget requires amendment to reflect actual activity and necessary expenditures and

WHEREAS, it is also recognized that these changes as per will result in Zero impact, and all transactions have been conducted with full knowledge and reporting to the Finance Committee and/or Common Council.

It is hereby RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis authorizes the City Clerk Treasurer to make the budget changes as detailed in an attachment entitled Summary of proposed budget changes.

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Belcher as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis acts as an agent for tax collection one-half of Orange County, and

WHEREAS, the outstanding amounts for the 2018 tax collection period is \$86,960.56 as of 9/30/18, and

WHEREAS, Orange County is desirous of full payment and will reimburse the amount of borrowing done on their behalf through the 2019 tax collection process pursuant to the provisions of Section 209 of the Laws of 1928 of the County of Orange

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis approves the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note to be issued on or about October 31, 2018 with a Maturity date of January 31, 2018 with rates resulting from a competitive bidding process for the purpose of funding tax payment to Orange County.

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Mr. Siegel as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council must provide Cancer Insurance for volunteer interior firefighters effective 1/1/2019 as mandated by law

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby authorizes the City Clerk Treasurer to obtain said policies through the Glatfelter Insurance Group that manages our coverages through safety Group #497 in which we participate for our Firefighter Workmen's Compensation Coverage. The insurance carrier will be VFIS.

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

Motion by Mrs. Trovei, seconded by Ms. Mann as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council is normally scheduled to meet on the second Monday of the month and

WHEREAS, the second Monday of the month of November is the nationally recognized holiday for Veterans Day and city offices are closed

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby moves the Council meeting date to Tuesday November 13th.

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

Mrs. Trovei reported news from the clerk's office as follows:

Reminder that Water & Sewer bills are due by the end of the month.

Reminder that voting is November 6th in all wards.

Reminder Tax lien sale is Tuesday 11/13/2018 at 2pm.

City offices will be closed Monday November 12th for Veterans Day.

Rabies Clinic Results

128 total animals vaccinated. 34 Cats & 94 Dogs

If you live in Port Jervis and had your dog vaccinated a dog license or renewal is being issued free of charge. If you have not stopped in they are being mailed to you.

Special thanks to Dr. Christopher Alwang and the staff of Goose Pond Animal Hospital in Monroe NY for administering all of the vaccinations.

Thanks to Cheryl Ewing, Samantha Muller, Bobbie Jo Muller and Robin Waizenegger for manning the registration tables.

And Thanks to the Howard Wheat Firehouse and their members for hosting the event.

She noted that financial assistance for home energy and heating bills are available through the HEAP program anyone interested should apply by calling 845-291-2002.

She noted that the Port Jervis Elks are having a Harvest of Hope Dinner Dance on November 17th beginning at 7pm with the proceeds to go to Operation PJ Pride tickets are \$20 each.

Mrs. Trovei reminded everyone that 10/24 is the last day to register to be judged for the Halloween lighting display contest and that there are gift certificates from local merchants to be awarded as prizes.

Mr. Siegel-

Mr. Siegel reminded everyone that October is Fire Prevention Month with the theme of Look, Listen and Learn. **Look** for places where a fire can start, **Listen** to the alarms of our smoke and CO2 detectors and Learn two ways out of every room. Please remember to change your batteries in your smoke and CO2 detectors and if your detectors are over 10 years old you may want to update them.

He noted that the Fire Department will be out on the streets on Halloween night.

He thanked Foundry 42 for hosting a fire prevention program this past Saturday for kids.

He stated that the last Fire & Emergency Management meeting was cancelled due to a drill. The next Fire and Emergency Management meeting will be 11/19 at 7pm.

Thanks to the firefighters for their quick response to an auto accident in the Acre this past Sunday.

Port Jervis Housing will meet tomorrow 10/23 7pm at Hillside Terrace.

Mr. Siegel spoke about Henry Dunn's request on behalf of the VFW to move the Veterans Day parade from Sunday 11/11 to 11/12. He stated that he believes the parade should not be moved due to the significance of the date.

Mr. Belcher asked a question regarding Election Day and if the 2nd ward will still be voting in the Council Room upstairs as he heard a lot of complaints. Mrs. Waizenegger responded that most of the complaints were about parking as the primary was held on a day when the courts were in session and the DMV was open. For Election Day both of these will be closed which will ease the parking situation.

Mr. Bavoso-

He noted that the next meeting for the Comprehensive Plan update is 10/25 at 6pm.

He also wished everyone a happy and safe Halloween and urged residents to use caution when traveling through the City that night.

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For the Good of the City-

At the request of the Mayor, Amanda Jaluti from Trinity Solar came up to question the rules surrounding the peddlers permit for door to door sales and requested a possible waiver to year round sales for the fee of \$1500. Mrs. Waizenegger indicated that she came in to purchase a permit but the law states that the sale period is from April 15th to October 15th so it seemed useless for only several days. Mayor Decker indicated that he has also received a letter from her solar company.

Mayor inquired at to the pleasure of the Council on this matter. Mr. Siegel asked legal counsel if they granted the waiver would this open it up to others. Legal counsel indicated that it would.

Mr. Siegel questioned her about why they would want to sell during the winter when their installation work would be delayed. They indicated that they do sales year round such that installs can be planned in advance.

Mayor Decker then recommended that the issue be sent to the Code committee as they are the committee that made the law and should propose any changes to it.

Mayor Decker-

Mayor Decker requested a motion to approve the Tri-States Chamber of Commerce Rick Drew Holiday parade 12/9 with a rain date of 12/16.

Motion made by George Belcher and seconded by Regis Foster subject to insurance and coordination with the Police and DPW.

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

The Mayor noted that the Farnum Haunting took place last weekend and continues this weekend. He noted that the funds raised do go to scholarships. Last year's recipients were Kristin Reiff and Bailey Lane. So come out and have a good Halloween scare where the funds go to a good cause.

Mayor Decker indicated that he has a request from the Historic Downtown Merchants group to do a fundraiser to put plaques with a contribution of \$250 on the downtown light poles. The merchants previously did fund raising for plantings in the promenade. The proceeds of this fundraiser will potentially go to purchase commercial socket string lights, additional plants; new downtown signage or flag post banners.

Motion made by George Belcher and Regis Foster to approve the fundraiser to install plaques on the lamp posts and benches downtown.

Ms. Randazzo asked if this would create additional workload on the DPW. The Mayor indicated that at this point these are recommendations but he anticipated that DPW would install the plaques and details of other items would have to be negotiated.

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

Downtown Spooktacular is this Saturday as detailed by Laura Myers previously.

The Mayor addressed several questions from the finance committee and council meetings on 29-31 Front Street noting the property has been through 4 different owners and was at one point in tax lien status with the City. It has been a problematic property as the City was required to take preventive measures at one point to prevent collapse due to a failed roof. This is similar to the properties at 24-32 Front and 46-48 Front where the City stepped in to get the buildings sold to parties who would rehabilitate and develop them where in both cases the City had expended funds to secure the buildings as well.

The City facilitated a sale which allowed all back taxes to be paid, an outstanding loan to the Port Jervis CDA to be paid and the City took a mortgage interest from the LLC with an additional personal guarantee. This was done as an alternative to a very costly potential demolition by the City. As the purchasing LLC has not made the required payments on the mortgage note the City is now taking appropriate legal action for collection and remedy of the delinquency.

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Motion made by George Belcher seconded by Dominick Santini to move the veterans day parade to from 11/11 to 11/12 at the request of the VFW.

The Mayor indicated that the VFW does the parade but he intends to do some sort of ceremony to honor the original date and the 100th anniversary of Veterans day at the World War I monument at 10:30am and encouraged all to participate.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 1(Siegel) ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mayor Decker indicated that Energy In the Bank is ready to power up the solar grid that will supply the City with energy. The only delay at this time is processing the hook-up with Orange and Rockland. He also noted that in addition to the savings this will generate for the future he verified that EIB did give a contribution in lieu of savings during 2017 which was deposited for Fund Balance growth in 2017.

Motion by David Bavoso seconded by Stanley Siegel to declare 32 West Main Street a dangerous building per the recommendation of our City Engineer and Building Official under Chapter 234 of the Code of the City of Port Jervis and order the demolition of the building immediately.

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

Mayor Decker distributed his proposed budget for 2019 and read the following statement:

The past 4 years I have presented to the Common Council a challenged proposed budget. I have asked them and the citizens of our city to trust the process of recovery for our city. I have also asked for them to understand that there would need to be substantial increases in our budget, to recover from the negative direction that our city was heading. I predicted that year 5, this year, would be a little bit better than the past 4 and that year 6, next year, would have us back on track with average growth.

In just two years we have gone from fiscal distress to undefined. We have gone from less than \$200,000 in our fund balance 5 years ago to nearly the recommended 10% that New York State and fiscal monitors want to see. In the last 5 years we have seen taxable growth in our city, we have seen new businesses, we have seen demolition and new construction, and we have created contracts with sustainable income to our city.

The 2018 rough draft budget given to me was 7.84%. I worked line by line with Mrs. Waizenegger and with department heads to whittle that number down.

Initially, I wanted to make sure that our revenue line increases were conservative in nature from what is predicted. I wanted to make sure that the growth of our city continues its momentum forward and future councils can rely faithfully on these numbers. Next, line by line I wanted to make sure that the requests by our department heads are fulfilled when reasonable and feasibly possible. For instance, the New York State laws for Raise the Age and Centralized Courts will have a dramatic effect on our police department personnel and its budget. Our police chief believes that with this budget proposal he is in a comfortable spot when these two huge impacts go into effect.

There was a thought to take our capital note, that allows for larger purchase items approved by the council each year by taking a loan, and put it directly into the budget this year. I decided keep the capital note purchase to be done the way it has been for years as we are just not to that point of immediate purchase, just yet.

As for water and sewer, I took the finance committee's recommendation to increase the water by \$10 each quarter and the sewer by \$10 each quarter as to begin to satisfy the State of New York in regards to the city's ability to request low interest loans and grants for water and sewer infrastructure projects. After expenses for both funds were calculated, we are now able to put money in a Reserve for Capital Expenditures for the Sewer.

I made sure that there was money to maintain our current staffing with only one exemption and that was to cut 1 seasonal position in DPW, that can be filled if current planned revenues come in higher than expected. I have offered 2% increases across the board to all non-contract negotiated members except for the mayor, councilman-at-large, and council persons who will all remain at a zero percent increase.

I offer the Mayor's proposed budget at 2.92%

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Mrs. Trovei indicated that she will set budget workshops and set the public hearing date at the next Council Meeting. This will allow Council Members to review the proposed budget and solicit any information they feel necessary from department heads prior to any budget workshops.

Meeting Adjourned –

Motion by Regis Foster seconded by Stanley Siegel to adjourn to the meeting at 9:12pm

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

Robin Waizenegger
Clerk Treasurer