

March 25, 2019

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 March 25th 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance-

All members of the Common Council were present except Maria Mann
Meeting opened at 7:00pm by Mayor Kelly Decker.

Pledge of Allegiance-

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

Youth Report-

Good Evening!

The school district has unused snow days that are being given back on April 12, May 23, and May 28. There will be no school for students.

Family Math Night will be hosted in the Port Jervis High School Cafeteria on 3/27/19 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM for K-6 Grade Students and Families!

2019 PJHS PTSA Me & My Guy Ice Cream Social, Calling all GIRLS K-6 with their favorite guy... Join us for an enchanted evening on FRIDAY, March 29th, 2018 Port Jervis High School – doors open at 6:00pm Featuring DJ G rocking AWESOME music & 2 selfie stations.

Summer Youth Employment Applications are now open. Check the school website or guidance department to apply.

The PJMS Science Olympiad team competed this weekend at the Mid-Hudson Regional Tournament. Tyler Howard and Josh Gore took a 1st place win in a design competition where they had 25 minutes to design and build a wind-powered vehicle. Congratulations to them and fellow Olympians Jordan Henderson, Molly Koenig, and Penny Jones.

The top jobs as parents/guardians is to keep our kids safe and to prepare them for the future. The evening of April 11th is chock-full of just that type of information. Please join us at 6PM at Port Jervis High School for the Junior Info-Session: preparing for college visits, applications, and career planning. We will have a guest from SUNY Oneonta to answer questions from the collegiate perspective.

Immediately following, at 7PM, there will be an inside view of how kids today can conceal drugs and/or alcohol right in plain sight. This “Hidden Mischief Room” is available to ALL district parents.

Congratulations! Freshman **Sara Clune** performed in the New York State GYMNASTICS Finals this past weekend and took 7th place among all those competing. She performed solo!

The Recreation Department’s Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday April 6, 2019. This year Operation PJ Pride is co-sponsoring this event. WE are meeting at 10:00 am at Farnum Park. Volunteers are needed! This is a great community service event

On Saturday April 20, 2019 the Recreation Department is holding the Easter Egg Races at Church St. Park at 11:00 am. The races are for children ages 9 and younger. Kids will compete in relay races, bunny hop races and egg rolls. Prizes and candy for the kids! This is a FREE event. Flyer to come soon.

On Sunday May 5, 2019- Cinco de Mayo- the Recreation Department is holding the 26th Annual Delaware River 5K Run and Walk. Applications for the race are eon-line at www.delawareriver5krun. Applications can also be emailed to you or mailed to you.

Senior and Veterans Report- Mr. Siegel stated that he has received many inquiries about the mail box at Veterans Square being turned away from the street preventing mail drops from a vehicle. He has consulted with the local Postmaster who informed

March 25, 2019

him that the US Postal Service is changing mailboxes across the country to new tamper-proof models due to mail theft. Unfortunately this means that no vehicle drops can be made as the slots are smaller in size and the boxes are to be opened from the sidewalk not roadway for the safety of the mail carriers.

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law #3 Tax Cap Override – Mrs. Trovei introduced the topic of local law #3 outlining that this allows us to go over the 2% tax cap if needed as a safety net. She noted that in past years the cap has been less than a true 2%. She noted that had the City not had the waiver in the past it would have had serious problems accommodating cost increases that are out of our control. She noted that the 2% tax cap would allow us to raise the levy \$118,000 and the current salary increases we are committed to are \$208,000 based on the union contracts which is already over the cap.

The Mayor opened the floor for public input – no one came to the podium.

David Bavoso indicated that he is in favor of the waiver as the contractual increases we have already committed to are in excess of the 2% cap versus possible layoffs.

Stanley Siegel said that he believes the majority of his constituents are against it and he will vote that way.

Lisa Randazzo stated that while she wants to keep tax increases to a minimum she sees the waiver as a failsafe to preserving vital services. Without the waiver layoffs would be inevitable and the City would have to reduce services.

Motion was made by George Belcher, seconded by David Bavoso to close the public hearing.

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

Presentation - Barbara Marie Marszalek - Accelerated Resolution Therapy - Ms. Marszalek stated that she is a Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for Catholic Charities and Orange County Mental Health. She stated that she also works with Empowering Port Jervis and is excited about working in Port Jervis to address alcoholism and mental health recovery from PTSD. She stated that she wants to specifically focus on the youth of the community through the development of a 501c3 charitable organization to create a place for the youth to feel safe while getting appropriate attention, protection, care and treatment. She is determined to bring therapy to the youth in the community in an open safe environment to be named Camelot.

Presentation – Beth Heffner - Orange County Department of Health – Ms. Heffner stated that she is here representing the Home as a Safe Place initiative as part of the Community Health Outreach. She currently is overseeing two grants to obtain products to promote home safety such as smoke detectors, CO2 detectors, cleaning products, baby safety items and the like. They will come out and visit your home to put together an assistance plan. She also is doing free lead inspections if your home is older than 1978. They will do a work plan for remediation and when the plan is completed they will come back and do a lead-free certification. Beth also noted that many agencies are coming together at the local schools which she believes is going to be April 17th in Port Jervis. She also listed a variety of programs available through the OC Dept. of Health.

She indicated that the department has free smoke detectors available, however after April 1st there is a new law requiring 10 year smoke detectors or hard wired systems.

Minutes Approved-Motion by George Belcher, seconded by David Bavoso to approve the minutes of the March 11th, 2019 regular meeting.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1(Mann) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 1(Santini) CARRIED

Motion was made by George Belcher, seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the minutes of the March 14th, 2019 regular meeting.

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 1(Mann) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 3(Santini, Bavoso, Foster) CARRIED

Motion was made by Regis Foster, seconded by Kristin Trovei to approve the minutes of the March 18th, 2019 special meeting.

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 1(Mann) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 3(Santini, Bavoso, Fitzpatrick) CARRIED

Motion was made by Regis Foster, seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve a correction to the minutes of the December 17th, 2018 regular meeting.

March 25, 2019

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

For the Good of the City – Pastor Peter Gable gave an impassioned speech about the beauty of the local area, especially in the fall. He noted however that the beauty of the area only serves to disguise the terrible heroin problem of this drug ridden city. He spoke regarding the organization of Solidarity over Separation as part of Human Solution International which is an organization that promotes cannabis activism. He also promoted the idea that citizens need to unite and volunteer to fix their own community as a hands up program versus a hand out program. His 501c3 organization is a completely volunteer organization and until everyone volunteers and participates in correction they should not cast blame on others. He also promoted living communally.

Mr. Ed DeGroat presented a map from 12/20/1920 and requested that the City give to him the other piece of the unused street to him the same way they gave away part of the street to a neighboring property. He also proposed that it could be divided amongst the property owners in the subdivision.

Bob Perrucci of 15 Center Street stated that he is a neighbor of David Rivera the building inspector. He stated that he has brought to the mayor several issues in this community that needs to be corrected. He stated that the police have been called to his home due to the actions of his neighbor. Mr. Perrucci stated that he is sure there are many false statements amongst the gossip but he believes that there is also truth. He wanted to inform the Council that he thinks that the West End is a powder keg about to explode. He thinks his neighbor breeds fear but he feels that the neighborhood needs corrective action and healing.

Patti Vandermark stated that she is bringing to the council a list of questions:

When was the vacant building fee created and is it in the minutes?

What is the policy and procedure for the vacant building registration?

Why are select buildings exempted?

Are 51-55 Front Street and 29-31 Front Street assessed vacant building fees?

Why is there no mortgage on file for 29-31 Front Street? Noting that Mrs. Hendry and Randazzo both questioned the sale of 29-31 Front without satisfactory answers?

How do we obtain a listing of all of the city properties that are listed for sale?

Joe Curtis spoke his opinion that when he attended a Code Committee meeting to state the poor behavior of the building inspector no action was taken. He also stated that he believes the City participates in nepotism and gets angry if someone disagrees. He also claims he does not get a call back when he leaves messages for the Mayor. He believes that the citizens have been lied to repeatedly over the years. He questioned the purchase of an additional 1600 acres near the watershed and its purpose. He complained that the downtown got sidewalks but his business did not. He also feels that City administration caters to specific types of people they want to live here. He also stated that he is disappointed with the Republican Party in the City and feels there are no leaders.

Business:

Ms. Randazzo- She noted that the next meetings of the plumbing, electrical and code committees will be on April 3rd at 5:30, 5:45 and 6:00pm respectively.

She stated there have been questions about the operating permits referenced in a letter sent out by the fire inspector and they will be addressed at the Code meeting.

Ms. Randazzo thanked the outdoor club for a wonderful Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser on Saturday Night.

Ms. Randazzo stated that she will give a personal statement as all present are well aware that there are personnel issues in the building department but as with all personnel issues these items are treated as confidential and privileged and cannot be shared. While she understands that as taxpayers you want to know that your representatives are taking appropriate action she will address what information that she can. She notes that the public has tried to use social media as a platform which this council cannot participate in and rejects any suppositions that are out there.

March 25, 2019

In November 2018 the Council did receive a staff complaint from the building inspector's office. At that time there was no complaint of sexual harassment. This type of complaint did not surface until and after several interviews in January. The Council at that time immediately authorized an investigation by a 3rd party. Many on social media have accused the City of having its corporation counsel which is not the case which is the process outlined in our employee policy manual. The City hired the firm of Thomas, Drohan, Auslander, Waxman & Maylee LLP a firm that specializes in labor issues. The results of which will be dealt with internally and the Council will act with the constraints of policy and law.

The incident at the Fox N Hare is an outside incident which is in the hands of law enforcement and the council is awaiting the findings and legal action and will act accordingly after with legal counsel.

With regards to the sexual harassment charges brought forth at the last meeting, Mrs. Randazzo indicated that she was the council person contacted by this person and interviewed her initially. As she felt that this information was beyond her scope of responsibility she turned over her notes through the Mayor's office to law enforcement and made no public statement in an attempt to respect her privacy.

She indicated that all of this is her personal statement and not an official statement of the Council and/or administration.

At this time she asked that if any member of the public feels that they have a valid complaint that they should contact law enforcement and file an official complaint.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick- Gave the Recreation update as follows:

The Recreation Department's Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday April 6, 2019. This year Operation PJ Pride is co-sponsoring this event. WE are meeting at 10:00 am at Farnum Park. Volunteers are needed! Contact the Recreation office at 845-858-4045 to sign up. This is a great community service event!

1. On Saturday April 20, 2019 the Recreation Department is holding the Easter Egg Races at Church St. Park at 11:00 am. The races are for children ages 9 and younger. Kids will compete in relay races, bunny hop races and egg rolls. Prizes and candy for the kids! This is a FREE event.
2. On Sunday May 5, 2019- Cinco de Mayo- the Recreation Department is holding the 26th Annual Delaware River 5K Run and Walk. Applications for the race are eon-line at www.delawareriver5krun.com. Applications can also be emailed to you or mailed to you. Contact us pjrec@frontiernet.net or call us at 845-858-4045.
3. This Spring PJ Rec along with Forward Soccer UK is offering a 6 week Youth Soccer Program. This program is for kids ages 4-6 and 7-11. Soccer will be held at West End Beach Sunday mornings. To register go to www.forwarduksoccer.com.
4. Also this Spring PJ Rec will be offering Youth Cooking classes and Youth Art classes at the Youth Center. Cooking class called Little Chefs @ PJ Rec will be held 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Art class called Junior Picassos will be held 12:30 pm-2:00 pm. Both classes will start on April 27 and run through June 1 (6 weeks). Registration for both classes will be held at the Youth Center on Sunday April 7, 12-2 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday 6-8 pm. Contact the Recreation office for more information.
5. The Youth Center Recreation Room for Spring Break will be as follows:
April 12-April 22- 11:00 am-3:00 pm. No Teen Night over Spring Break.
6. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 24 at 7:00 pm at the Youth Center.

Mr. Belcher- Mr. Belcher noted that garbage pickup in on the normal schedule for the next two weeks and that there will be no paper pickup on Friday March 29th as it is the 5th Friday. Beginning on April 1st there will be yard debris pickup on Mondays. Also starting on April 1st will be hydrant flushing. Bulk waste is available from 7:15 to 11:30 on Saturdays with a dump pass.

The next DPW meeting is 4/1/2019 at 6pm in the council chambers.

Mr. Belcher stated that the tourism committee met on March 13th and noted the success of the Chinese New Year and St. Patrick's Parade and Blarney Blast.

Future planned events include:

- City Wide Yard Sale with applications due on April 14th
- Art in the Park on June 15th for which they are seeking artists to participate
- Family Fun Fair Carnival 7/11-14
- Fall Foliage Festival 9/22
- Monsters on the Mountain a new event for Fridays in October

The next tourism meeting is scheduled for 4/10 at 7pm

March 25, 2019

Mr. Santini- He indicated that the planning board meeting was cancelled and their next meeting will be 4/16 at 7pm. The next zoning board meeting is April 2nd at 7pm.

Mr. Foster-

Motion made by Regis Foster seconded by George Belcher to authorize Chief Worden to enter into an agreement with East Stroudsburg University for a police internship program subject to review by legal counsel

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

Motion made by Regis Foster seconded by Lisa Randazzo to delay the transfer of Kristin Colley to police Administrative assistant from April 1st to April 8th from the Clerk's office.

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

Motion made by Regis Foster seconded by George Belcher to approve a separation agreement for Ellen Waugh upon her retirement.

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

The next police committee meeting is scheduled for 3/25 at 6pm.

In Maria Mann's absence a Motion made by Regis Foster seconded by George Belcher to approve the March IDA minutes.

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

He indicated that the meeting consisted of a meeting with the Orange County IDA Business Incubator program.

He read a statement of thanks to the community from Laura Myers and Maria Mann for making the St. Patrick's Day event such a success.

The next IDA meeting is scheduled for 4/15 at 6pm.

Mrs. Mann- Absent

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Mrs. Trovei- She announced that the CDA will meet on 3/27 at 7pm at the Youth Center.

She noted that the finance committee met on 3/20 and she reviewed the minutes of the meeting. The next finance meeting will be on 4/24 at 6pm.

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the minutes of the finance meeting of 3/20/19.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by George Belcher to pay the bills in the amount of \$372,265.09.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by George Belcher to temporarily change the office hours of the City Clerk to 9am to 4pm as open to the public. The staff will still work 8am to 5pm. This is to allow the clerk's office time to do tasks until they can hire new staff.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by David Bavoso to approve the issuance of a Capital note to include new debt of \$100,000, noting that this has no impact to the budget.

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

March 25, 2019

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by David Bavoso to approve Local Law #3 – Waiver of Tax Cap Limit.
Roll call vote taken

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 1(Mann) NAY: 3(Siegel,Foster,Santini) ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

PJ Pride has the following events scheduled:

- 4/6 Spring Cleanup with the recreation/parks dept. Farnum Park
- 5/1 Reality Tour 5:30-8pm with registration online
- 5/10 Community Outreach 2:30-5pm with Salvation Army
- 6/8 Stop Hop & Roll 4:30-7pm

Mr. Siegel – He noted that he is happy that there is a large turnout at the meeting. There are no Fire Dept. items and no Tri-State Interfaith report.

Motion was made by Stanley Siegel seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the 3/18 Fire Emergency committee minutes.

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

Next Fire & Emergency meeting will be April 15th at 6pm.

Mr. Siegel reviewed the recent tragic fire due to the injuries incurred due the fact that most residents including children had to jump or be thrown from a second floor window. He put forth that he would like the Code committee to pass a law requiring multi-family homes to have escape ladders.

Mr. Siegel expressed the importance of the premises identity laws to have your house # properly displayed for Fire & Emergency personnel to locate you during an emergency. House numbers should be 4 inches in size.

He congratulated the grand Marshalls of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The next PJ Housing Authority meeting is 3/26 at 7pm

Mr. Bavoso- He warned the public to please not rely on all of the information on Facebook and social media without checking to sources of the information. He has seen many false statements regarding recent events.

The next Comprehensive plan meeting will be 4/4 at 6pm at the rec center.

For the Good of the City –

Mr. John Beasley thanked the members of the public who are in attendance. He stated that he sent a letter of complaint but that his complaint had no gravity. However the current matters have to be resolved and it will be time to move on. He stated that he attended several committee meetings and does have a better appreciation of the work that is being done.

Mr. Ed DeGroat asked if the previous building inspector had 2-3 extra hands to assist with the work? He also complained about selective enforcement with respect to cars in yards with no plates and commercial equipment.

Mr. Joe Curtis made a complaint about age related comments and selective enforcement by the building inspector.

Mayor Decker- He noted that he had the minutes of the tourism board but that Mr. Belcher already reviewed them.

Motion was made by Regis Foster seconded by David Bavoso to approve the annual procession by the Mt. Carmel Church on 7/14.

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

Motion was made by Regis Foster seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve an Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Cornerstone Health as per their application on April 13th.

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

March 25, 2019

He expressed his gratitude to Laura Myers and Maria Mann for the St. Patrick's Day events on Sunday the 17th.

The Mayor requested that if citizens have questions or comments please contact him or the council persons via email or phone as he states that he always gets back to everyone as soon as possible and at a minimum within two days. He takes offense to the statement that he does not reply to people.

Motion was made by Regis Foster seconded by David Bavoso to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter regarding compensation of the Deputy City Clerk during a vacancy in the City Clerk's Office and meeting with our legal counsel for advice regarding matters involving attorney/client privilege.

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

Meeting Adjourned to Executive Session at 8:42pm

Meeting Reconvened at 9:04pm

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the CDA Loan Portfolio Sale at the agreed upon rate.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the Mayor to sign and execute the amended documented for the Solar Project One.

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

Motion was made by Gina Fitzpatrick seconded by Regis Foster to approve the use of the recreation center by Bike US MS on May 16th for an overnight stay by 15-20 cyclists on their cross country bike tour. It was noted that a certificate of Insurance has already been obtained.

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

Meeting Adjourned –

Motion was made by David Bavoso, seconded by Dominick Santini to adjourn.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Next Regular Meeting scheduled for 7 pm Monday April 8th 2019.

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer