

December 9, 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 December 9th, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

**Attendance-**

All members of the Common Council were present except Kristin Trovei. Also present were City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger, Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller and Corporation Counsel William Bavoso. Meeting opened at 7:15 pm by Mayor Kelly Decker.

**Pledge of Allegiance-**

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

**Executive session:** There was no executive session.

**Youth Report-** Mallory Conklin gave the Youth report which included information as follows:

High School Ugly Sweater Day 12/13/2019, wrestling team updates, JV girls' basketball updates, a call for varsity club volunteers to work events, HBE charity events, the HBE production of Peter Pan Jr. and the return of the Little Dribblers basketball program.

**Senior and Veterans Report-** Stanley Siegel reminded both seniors and veterans about the importance and availability of flu and pneumonia shots.

He warned of holiday scammers and thieves who now steal package deliveries from porches. He also warned against fraudulent charities and directed people to [www.AARP.com/fraudalert](http://www.AARP.com/fraudalert).

He noted that Veterans benefit costs are going up in the new year. Mr. Siegel thanked everyone involved in the 12/7, Pearl Harbor, ceremonies and noted the Wreaths Across America program happening during the holiday season.

**Public Hearing:** Motion made by David Bavoso and seconded by Dominic Santini to re-open the Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #12 of 2019.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

It was noted that no comments have been received as a result of the SEQR mailings and that no member of the public present wished to speak.

Mr. David Bavoso noted that as there is a 30-day comment period and that the Council may not meet again until January that this Local Law may be re-numbered to Local Law #1 of 2020.

Motion made by David Bavoso and seconded by Dominic Santini to adjourn the Public Hearing and leave it open until the next council meeting.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**Public Hearing:** Motion made by David Bavoso and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to re-open the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2020 Budget.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

David Bavoso noted that after the second Budget Workshop the budget has a 2.04% increase. He detailed the changes made at the second workshop.

Public Comment: None

Motion made by David Bavoso and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to close the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2020 Budget.

December 9, 2019

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Motion made by David Bavoso and seconded by George Belcher to approve the 2020 Budget as modified in the workshops to a 2.04% increase.

Lisa Randazzo thanked all the department heads for their hard work on the budget and through out the year. She also noted that despite her absence Councilwoman Trovei supports the passage of the budget.

Mr. Siegel commented that he for the first time in a while will be voting yes as the percentage of increase is only 2.04% which he feels is appropriate.

A roll call vote was taken in which all members present voted yes.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**Minutes Approved-**Motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by George Belcher to approve the minutes of the November 25th, 2019 regular meeting.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**For the Good of the City –**

Mr. Peter Grech – Discussed the value of a good nights sleep and the problems associated with government to make changes ensuring same for its residents. He advocated for extra-ordinary efforts on behalf of the residents on Canal Street to correct the gate issue due to the unconventional use of that street.

Carol Zalek – She thanked Peter for his speech on her issues. Ms. Zalek also warned residents of fraudulent texts during the holiday season, reminded everyone that she still has an issue with the gate and traffic on Canal Street and thanked Mayor Decker for his efforts on the light issue.

Ed DeGroat - Mr. DeGroat continued to question sales of city property, the status of Farnum Street and his driveway. Mr. DeGroat proceeded to accuse the Mayor and the City attorney of lies and deceit.

**Business:**

**Ms. Randazzo-** Ms. Randazzo announced to the public various programs run by the Orange County Department of Health to assist Citizens including Lead Renovator Training (646-470-7119), HEPA Vacuum Cleaner Loan Program (845-569-0770) and Home Lead Inspections (845-858-1407). All programs are available to City residents and are free or low-cost.

She expressed her delight at the Holiday Parade and Whoville events along with thanks to all those who attended or participated.

Ms. Randazzo announced that the swearing-in ceremonies for newly elected officials will take place at the Erie Trackside on 1/1/2020 at noon.

She noted that the Plumbing and Electrical Boards had re-scheduled their meetings to this Wednesday 12/11 at 5:45 and 6pm respectively.

The Code Committee will not be meeting in the month of January and their next scheduled meeting is 2/5 at 6pm.

She stated that at the last Code Committee meeting they focused on the OCDOH programs, multiple dwelling fees, off premise signage and the status of the renovation at 100 Pike for the VA.

She also expressed well wishes to Councilman George Belcher on his departure from Council service.

Mr. Randazzo expressed condolences to the family of Jennifer Malzahn.

December 9, 2019

**Mr. Belcher** – Garbage pickup will be on the normal schedule for the next two weeks. During the holiday weeks 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ward will be on their regular days while 3<sup>rd</sup> and fourth wards will be one day late. Bulk waste is available from 7:15 to 11:30 on Saturdays with a dump pass. The brush pile and compost pile are also available on Saturday mornings. Bagged yard debris and leaf pickup has been suspended until next spring. He also announced that the 2020 Garbage schedules are available.

The new bridge will hopefully be open by late to mid-December and then there will be a hiatus until construction begins again in the spring.

A motion was made by George Belcher and seconded by David Bavoso to allow the DPW Director Jack Farr and Assistant DPW Director Steven Duryea to carry-over unused vacation time to be used by April 1st, 2020.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by George Belcher and seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the DPW Minutes for December 2019.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Belcher said that the Pearl Harbor Wreath ceremony on the bridge was very moving.

**Mr. Santini** – The Zoning Board did not meet in December due to lack of agenda items. The next Zoning meeting will be 1/7/2020 The Planning Board has not met yet in December. The next meeting is 12/17/19.

**Mr. Foster**- A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by David Bavoso to approve the contract with the Deerpark Humane Society for animal control. It was noted that the contract is the same as last year's including the rate being charged per animal.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by George Belcher to approve the November Police Report.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Foster reviewed the highlights of the report.

The next Police Committee meeting will be 1/16/2020 at 6pm.

He expressed his opinion that the recent holiday events were very nice.  
He expressed his condolences to the Malzahn family.

Regis Foster also gave his thanks to George Belcher and David Bavoso for their years of service on the Council.

**Mrs. Mann**- The IDA is scheduled to meet 12/16th at 6pm. Ms. Mann indicated that the VA is making good progress on the renovations of their space at 100 Pike Plaza. Noting Sewer install, window installations and painting are scheduled for next week.

She congratulated the Tourism Board on the Whoville event.

Ms. Mann reminded everyone that the Josef Kucher Shoe Drive continues until 12/12 and is accepting contributions of new shoes and/or monetary donations.

Maria Mann also gave her thanks to George Belcher and David Bavoso for their years of service on the Council and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**Mrs. Trovei** – Absent

In Ms. Trovei's absence Councilman Bavoso presented business from her committee assignments as follows:

He noted that the next Finance meeting is December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm and the CDA meets at 7pm on that same day.

December 9, 2019

A motion was made by David Bavoso and seconded by George Belcher to use \$8,700 of fund from contingency for the purchase of road salt.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by David Bavoso and seconded by George Belcher to authorize the Mayor, Finance Chairperson, City Clerk Treasurer and/or Deputy City Clerk Treasurer to pay and process payments for the remainder of the year because there will be no second Council meeting in December.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by David Bavoso and seconded by George Dominick Santini to pay the bills totaling \$667,978.34.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

David Bavoso noted that Kristin Trovei sent her thanks to George Belcher for his years of service on the Council.

**Mr. Siegel** – He noted that the Fire Emergency Management meeting was cancelled in both November and December. The meeting date for January is not yet scheduled and will be announced at the first Council meeting in January 2020.

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Regis Foster to approve Excelsior Engine Company No. 5 to Host a Christmas Party for its members on 12/22/2019.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Siegel announced the first ever Polar Plunge Fundraising event to take place on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Port Jervis Fire Department.

The Landlord Association's next meeting will be held on 12/12 at the hall at Goodwill Church.

He noted that the Housing Authority met on 11/26 and has no meeting scheduled for December.

Mr. Siegel stated that all the recent holiday events were nice, gave his thanks to George Belcher and David Bavoso for their years of service on the Council and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**Mr. Bavoso** – Noted that there was nothing further on the Comprehensive Code Project.

David Bavoso then gave a farewell speech thanking all those that he has worked with during his multiple terms as a Council member.

#### **For the Good of the City –**

Peter Grech – Spoke about democracy in darkness as a terminology for lack of information coming from government, especially surrounding executive sessions, to the detriment of its citizens. He also criticized the use of abbreviations. He accused David Bavoso of selling City property for a dollar to one of his relatives which Mr. Bavoso denied. He then referred to the Mayor as dishonorable.

Councilwoman Randazzo interrupted the public comment session to express her displeasure at the mockery and foul comments being made by a few citizens during public comment sessions. She reminded everyone that children watch these telecasts as part of their education in government. She noted that the disrespectful nature of the commentary is not necessary and that opinions can be expressed in a more respectful manner for all involved.

Carol Zalek – She thanked Mr. Foster for the placement of speed monitors. She thanked everyone who is trying to be diligent to come up with a solution to her gate issue. Ms. Zalek also expressed her desire, that as the City seeks economic growth that it not forget the needs of the citizens. She also commented that while Ms. Randazzo's comments are valid she sees it as a problem of people not being willing to sit down and work out their issues amicably.

December 9, 2019

Ed DeGroat – He stated that he feels that he has not been treated decently by the current administration and continued to accuse officials of abuse and called them liars. He also disparaged the work of the city officials.

The Mayor provided input by noting that there were attempts to sit down and resolve issues with Mr. DeGroat but those sessions were not fruitful with respect to any resolution.

**Mayor Kelly Decker** – The Mayor requested a resolution for lead agency for the annexation as follows:

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY OF PORT JERVIS COMMON COUNCIL AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE PROPOSED DEERPARK-PORT JERVIS ANNEXATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Port Jervis (the “City”) and Town of Deerpark (the “Town”) have engaged in deliberations regarding the potential annexation of multiple parcels from the Town into the City (the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 7 of the General Municipal Law, the City and Town must weigh and balance the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the Project on both municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, as amended, the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and the implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”), the City desires to comply with SEQRA and the Regulations with respect to the Project; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis (the “Common Council”) hereby declares its Intent to act as Lead Agency for the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City causes a letter and Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form to be sent to other potentially “involved agencies” and “interested agencies” (as these quoted terms are defined in the Regulations), indicating the Common Council’s desire to serve as “Lead Agency” (as this quoted term is defined in the Regulations) for a coordinated review under SEQRA of the Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by George Belcher and seconded by Dominick Santini to establish the City of Port Jervis as lead agency.

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 (Bavoso) CARRIED

Mayor Decker gave the recreation update as follows:

**Santa’s Toy Box**

The Recreation Department will once again be participating in the annual Holiday Toy Drive. New toys only may be dropped off at the Youth Center Monday-Friday 10:00 am-6:00pm. The Holiday Toy Drive started on Monday, December 2, 2019 and will end on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year that we are participating in this program. Please help us help the children of the community. **All of the toys we collect go DIRECTLY to the children of the Tri-State area. We deliver them to the Elks Club for their annual Christmas Eve party. Also, if you can’t drop off toys during the week you can contact the Recreation office and we can arrange a drop off time.**

**Co-Ed Youth Basketball 2020**

This year we have teamed up with GymRatz of Florida, NY to provide the instruction for this program. GymRatz will offer an 8-week program beginning December 14, 2019. The program will be held every Saturday at the A.S.K. Gym between 11:00 am-2:00 pm and will be offered to boys and girls in grades K-6. Registration for this program will be on-line at [www.gymratzperformance.com/portjervisrec](http://www.gymratzperformance.com/portjervisrec).

**Youth Indoor Soccer 2020**

December 9, 2019

As with youth basketball, we have teamed up with a training company to provide the instruction for the soccer program. Forward UK Soccer, who we have worked with in the past will provide the instruction. This program will be held on Thursday evenings at the PJ Middle School 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm for boys and girls in grades K-6. This is also an 8-week program that is scheduled to start on January 9, 2020. Registration is on line at [www.forwarduksoccer.com/port-jervis](http://www.forwarduksoccer.com/port-jervis).

- We are also sponsoring the Lady Raiders Little Dribblers program this winter. This program is specifically for GIRLS in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. This program will be held on Sunday mornings 10:30 am- 12:00 pm at the PJ High School beginning December 15. This is a 5-week program and registration will take place at the 1<sup>st</sup> class on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.
- For more information on any of our programs or events please call us at 845-858-4045 or email us at [recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov](mailto:recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov).
- There is no Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for December 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 15, 2020 at 7 pm at the Youth Center.

The Mayor announced the visit from Santa event that will take place throughout the City on 12/22 organized by the Fire and Police Department.

The schedule for stops is as follows:

- 12:30 pm: Arrive at Engine 5 firehouse (143 West Main Street);
- 1:00 pm: Arrive at Orange Street fire station (25-27 Orange Street);
- 1:30 pm: Arrive at Engine 4 firehouse (31 Owen Street);
- 2:00 pm: Arrive at City Park located on Barclay Street in Tri-States to be hosted by Engine 6;
- 2:45 pm: Promenade @ Downtown Front Street Hosted by Engine 2

The Mayor thanked the Tourism Board and everyone who was involved or attended the Whoville event this past Sunday.

A motion was made by George Belcher and seconded by Maria Mann to allow the recreation Director John Faggione to carry over 6 unused vacation days from 2019 to be used by March 31, 2020.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by George Belcher and seconded by David Bavoso to cancel the 12/23/2019 Common Council Meeting.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor thanked David Bavoso for his service to the City of Port Jervis as a council member.

Mayor Decker announced the City of Port Jervis swearing in for 1/1/2020 at noon at the Erie Trackside and noted that the entire Council has also been invited to attend the Town of Deerpark swearing in earlier that same day at 10am at the Huguenot Firehouse.

The Mayor requested a resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TRI-STATE BRIDGE ON EAST MAIN Street (U.S. ROUTE 6) IN THE CITY OF PORT JERVIS TO BE OFFICIALLY NAMED THE "FRANK D. BELL MEMORIAL TRI-STATE BRIDGE"**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Port Jervis (the "City") is about to permit traffic on a newly built bridge on East Main Street (also referred to as U.S. Route 6) in the City of Port Jervis; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to make a formal dedication of the bridge to long time councilman Frank D. Bell who tirelessly worked to improve the 4<sup>th</sup> ward that he represented in the city and where bridge is located; and

**WHEREAS**, it was Councilman Bell who was determined to have the new bridge built and road widening in the city and not to see it fall to the wayside; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

December 9, 2019

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis (the “Common Council”) hereby names the bridge the Frank Bell Memorial Tri-State Bridge and authorizes a plaque to be placed on the bridge in his honor.

A motion was made by George Belcher and seconded by Stanley Siegel to dedicate the Tri-State Bridge in honor of Frank D. Bell.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor invited the members of Mr. George Belcher’s family into the meeting.

The Mayor presented a proclamation naming 12/9/2019 George Belcher Day as follows:

- Whereas,** George A. Belcher was born on November 22, 1931 to Amos T. and Anne E. Belcher and is the brother of Jean Bell and Arthur Belcher; and
- Whereas,** George grew up in the Tri-State area of Port Jervis and attended the East Main St as well as the Jr./Sr. High School and graduated in 1950; and
- Whereas,** George enlisted in the United States Marine Corp and served his country for 4 years; and
- Whereas,** George married his wife Linda on July 27, 1969 and had four children Brenda, Lisa, George Jr. and Kathy; and
- Whereas,** George belongs to many civic and community organizations such as the B.P.O.E. 645, P.J.F.D., VFW Naval Ship, P.J. Little League and P.J. Lions Volunteer Ambulance; and
- Whereas,** George was a General Traffic Manager for VAW of America and was elected to the Port Jervis Common Council in 1995. He has served faithfully on many committees ushering in positive changes for the City of Port Jervis including significant savings; so now
- Therefore,** I, Mayor Kelly B. Decker, declare today December 9, 2019 “George A. Belcher Day” in honor of George’s 50+ years of community service here in the City of Port Jervis as well as his 20 years as a council member on the Port Jervis City Common Council.

On behalf of the entire city, I would like congratulate George on all of his many accomplishments and say “Thank You” for all that you have done for our community.

The Mayor presented Mr. Belcher a key to the City and an official City suncatcher. He also presented a bouquet of flowers to his wife Linda for allowing George to spend so much time on behalf of the City. All present expressed their gratitude by standing ovation.

The Mayor wished all a Happy Holidays.

**Meeting Adjourned** – A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Dominick Santini to adjourn.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm executive session and 7:15 pm general business session Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

---

Robin Waizenegger  
City Clerk Treasurer