

February 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 February 25th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance-

All members of the Common Council were present.
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-

2/25/2019

Good Evening!

At the high school

Congratulations to all the wrestlers who competed this weekend at the States tournament.

** The Runnin' Raiders took part in the Section Nine state qualifier meet. Our top performers were Dana Clarke, Rudae Gadson, and Parker Tidd. Rudae (4th shot) and Dana (4th 55m) had personal bests, but just missed making it to states. Parker Threw a personal best 46'9" and placed second in the shot put. His second place finish qualified him for the state championships next week at Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. Parker is the 31st athlete (in the last nine seasons) to qualify for the state championships.

Others that performed well were: Tommy Startup, Euryka Burbridge, Kyla Clarke, Roland Zanger, Rene Collado, Marcus Best, Jake Norris, Cora Keys, Kayla Johnson, Kourtney Kroll, Tori Langham, Christian Deal, Alex Kinman, Ben Straebler, And Harry Tomasi.

** The Winter Athletic Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the High School.

There will be a blood drive on March 1 at the high school.

The junior semi formal dance is coming up March 16. Tickets are on sale during lunch periods.

At the middle school

PJMS students are selling Little Caesars Pizza to benefit the PJMS PTA! Orders may be placed until March 7. Items will be available to for pickup at PJMS on March 14 from 2:15-6:00pm. Thanks for your support!

The Stephen Cooley Memorial Scholarship will be hosting their bi-annual Blood and Bone Marrow Drive on Tuesday, March 5th from 4 pm - 8:30 pm at the PJMS Gymnasium.

This week is Dr Seuss week at ASK

Please VOTE for HBE! Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School is in the running to be funded for \$25,000 in indoor/outdoor fitness equipment through Dannon Danimals, Shoprite and Project Fit America! All you need to do is go to the school website and click the link. Voting is limited to 1x per day per email address so please vote every day in the month of February. The three schools with the most votes win and we are competing with over 50 schools in the Northeast so every vote counts!

Thank you

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Senior Report- Mr. Siegel emphasized the importance of paying attention to the issue of drug abuse by seniors. Please watch for signs and symptoms which are often the result of over use of prescribed drugs, especially sleeping aids and pain killers. Should you need assistance contact your local hospital.

Veteran Report- Mr. Siegel announced a program available to Veterans called Access To Home, which is a NYS funded program to provide assistance making modifications to a residence for low and moderate income disabled veterans. Veterans may be renters or owners. Please contact the VA Clinic for assistance applying for this program. Currently there is \$300,000 available and only \$10,000 used so far.

Presentation – The Mayor introduced Kelly Pearson who is a registered dietician working for Shop-rite Supermarkets. The Mayor issued two proclamations. The first proclamation declared March as National Nutrition Month in the City of Port Jervis. The second proclamation declared March 13th Registered dietician and Nutritionist Day in the City of Port Jervis.

Ms. Pearson commented that Shop-rite runs free programs for customers and the surrounding community for nutrition services and education. They also partner with local organizations in providing information and education. It is their goal to educate about diet choices, nutrition for making healthy choices, inspiring change and promoting wellness. She also thanked the mayor for promoting same and the recognition.

Minutes Approved-

Motion by George Belcher, seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve the minutes of the February 11th, 2019 regular meeting.

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

For the Good of the City – Mrs. Linda VanHorn announced that she was here as a private citizen and not as a representative of the school board. She questioned the reasoning of the decision to sell a house in the City of Port Jervis for the amount of \$5000.

Mr. Ed Degroat questioned how the building inspector issued a building permit to Mr. Brendan Hess on a property that he does not own. He also questioned the Council regarding the private business address of the building inspector.

Business:

Ms. Randazzo- She reported that the next Plumbing and Electrical boards will be March 6th 5:30 and 5:45 respectively followed by Code committee at 6pm.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick- Gave the Recreation update as follows:

1. This Saturday March 2 the Recreation Department is hosting the Annual Tom Chuckran Cops and Kids basketball game at the A.S.K. gym. Game time is 10:00 am. This is always a fun game to watch and the kids have a blast! We are also collecting food and supplies for the Humane Society at the game so we are asking all players, coaches and spectators to bring pet food, chew toys, old towels or blankets or cleaning supplies- all to be given to the Humane Society! For more information contact the Recreation office at 858-4045.
2. Only 2 seats are available for the Recreation Department's trip to Mohegan Sun in Wilkes Barre PA on Saturday March 9. We currently have 52 signed up and ready to go! Bus will leave PORT at 11:30 am and return approximately 7:30 pm. Cost is only \$30 per person. Each person will receive \$25 in slot play plus a \$5 food voucher. Participants must have photo ID and be 21 or older. Charter Bus!
3. Snow tubing trip scheduled for this Thursday February 28 is cancelled. No snow. Sorry for those that were interested in attending.
4. Youth Center Recreation Room hours are as follows:
Monday-Thursday 3:00 pm-7:00 pm
Friday 3:00 pm-6:00 pm
Friday Night Teen Night- Fridays 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
5. Upcoming Recreation sponsored events:
Saturday April 6, 2019 SPRING PORT PRIDE CLEAN UP DAY.

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Saturday April 20, 2019 EASTER EGG RACES

Sunday May 5, 2019 26TH ANNUAL DELAWARE RIVER RUN

More information on these events to follow in the next few weeks. Please consider joining us in these community events!

6. The February Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow is canceled. There is no make-up date. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 20, 2019 at 7 pm at the Youth Center.

Mr. Belcher-

Garbage pickup is normal for the next two weeks. The 2019 Garbage pickup schedule is available on the City website and at the Clerk and DPW offices.

Mr. Belcher asked the public to please report potholes to the DPW office so that they can be repaired.

Off street parking rules are in effect until 4/1/19 for snow removal purposes.

The next DPW meeting is 3/4/2019 at 6pm in the council chambers.

Mr. Belcher stated that tourism met on 2/13 at 6pm. He reviewed the minutes from that meeting. He also detailed information regarding the Carnival.

Mr. Santini- Mr. Santini reported that there was no zoning meeting and the next planning meeting is scheduled for 3/5/19 @ 7pm.

Planning board met on 2/19/2019 and approved the Recap Head-start program for updates to their building at 56-58 Church Street. It reviewed a pre-submission for PJ Taxi service. They also reviewed a lot line agreement to add the parcel that was 68 Orange to the adjacent properties. The next planning meeting will be 3/19 at 7pm.

Mr. Foster- Mr. Foster indicated that the next police meeting will be 2/27/2019 at 6 pm and the next ADA meeting will be March 4th at 6:30pm.

Mrs. Mann- She reported that the IDA was scheduled to meet but failed to have enough members for a quorum. The members present informally discussed the possibility of bringing in a new manufacturer. The Chairman scheduled a Special meeting for Monday March 4th at 6pm to formally discuss same.

Mrs. Trovei- She announced that the next meetings of the finance committee and CDA will meet on 2/27 at 6pm and 7pm respectively.

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by David Bavoso to pay the bills in the amount of \$724,791.68.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by David Bavoso to issue the 2019 City Tax Warrant as follows:

TO: ROBIN WAIZENEGGER, CITY CLERK-TREASURER

You are hereby commanded to collect from the several named persons, in the tax roll annexed hereto, the several sums stated in the last column thereof opposite their respective names, a total of \$6,524,951.02 for the 2019 City current budget, with any other unpaid assessments as may be noted in the said City Tax Roll beginning on March 15th 2019.

You are hereby required to receive and collect from each of the said persons, companies, corporations, and associations, one half of the total taxes as listed opposite their respective names without penalties or interest to April 30, 2019, as required, pursuant to Section C6-17 of the City Charter, as amended, and if any such first installment or first one-half payment of such total tax remains unpaid May 1, 2019, you are required to collect an additional six [6] per centum of such first installment.

During the month of June 2019, you are required to receive and collect from each of

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said persons, companies, corporations and associations, the second one-half of such taxes as appear opposite their respective names without penalty or interest added thereto, and of such second installment or second one-half remains unpaid after July 1, 2019 you are required to collect in addition thereto six [6] per centum of said installment. Payment of such second half or second installment shall not be made by any person, company, corporation or association until the first installment of said taxes has been paid, together with any penalty or interest due thereon.

You are authorized to receive the second installment of said taxes set forth opposite the names of any persons, company, corporation or association at the time when the first installment is paid or any time thereafter.

All such taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2019, shall bear, and you are required to collect thereon, in addition to the said six [6] per centum, interest at a rate of one [1] per centum per month from the 2nd day of July 2019.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by George Belcher to approve the January finance committee minutes.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by George Belcher to clarify that John R Farr is the designated certifying officer for the CDBG grant not Valerie Maginsky.

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

Motion was made by Kristin Trovei seconded by David Bavoso to sign all necessary letters of authorization and contract associated with the CDBG funding.

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

She reported that there will be another PJ Pride sponsored Reality Tour performance in April so please watch for future announcements.

Mr. Siegel - Discussed additional communication methods for conveying garbage schedule changes for holidays.

He reported a structure fire on Ball Street today and complemented the quick response and resolution of the fire by the Port Jervis Fire Department.

Mr. Siegel commented on the Chinese New Year Event downtown this past weekend as a good event.

Mr. Siegel reported that the next meeting of the Port Jervis Housing authority will be 2/26 at 7pm at Hillside.

He noted that he has no report from the Tri-State Interfaith Council.

Mr. Bavoso- Motion was made by David Bavoso seconded by George Belcher to award the demolition of 6 properties by the Yanuzzi group from the 2/19 public bid opening. It was noted that their bid was approximately \$100,000 lower than the nearest competitor. It was also noted that this company holds its own asbestos removal licenses and would not be subcontracting that service which may have made the difference in the pricing.

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

Mr. Bavoso reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet on 2/28 at 6pm in the Rec Center.

For the Good of the City – Mr. Ed DeGroat thanked the audience members for attending tonight and stated that we need people like this every meeting due to the corruption in the City.

Several Council members indicated that they were offended by that comment.

Mr. DeGroat then asked if all building inspectors were going to wear body cameras. He also requested from the Council that the public comment period be extended to 5 minutes from 3 minutes.

Mrs. Van Horn asked if she was ever going to get answers to her questions. The Mayor indicated that he will be making a statement.

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Ms. Randazzo asked to make a statement regarding public comment. She informed those present that a lot of the work that goes on before the Council meetings happens in the committee meetings and encouraged people to attend the committee meetings.

Mr. Siegel offered to add anyone to his mailing list for the City meeting calendar. He stated that Councilwoman Randazzo is correct and that most of the work is done in committee.

Mrs. Linda Van Horn stated that she was coming to the finance meetings and felt that the Committee made her feel unwelcome.

Mayor Decker-

Motion was made by Lisa Randazzo seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve the event application for the City Wide Yard Sale on May 4, 2019.

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

Motion was made by George Belcher seconded by David Bavoso to approve the event application for the Fall Foliage Festival September 22, 2019.

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

Motion was made by George Belcher seconded by David Bavoso to approve the event application for the Downtown Spooktacular October 26, 2019.

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

Motion was made by George Belcher seconded by David Bavoso to approve the event application for the ChristKindlemarket December 1, 2019.

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

Motion was made by Regis Foster seconded by David Bavoso to approve the event application for the Whoville Comes to Port Jervis Grinchmas December 8, 2019.

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

The Mayor reminded everyone of the St. Patrick's Day parade and event downtown on March 17th 2019.

The Mayor gave a speech regarding his answers to questions posed on social media.

The speech included:

- 1.) A review of the details surrounding the sale of 29-31 Front Street
- 2.) A statement that the City was investigating the claim of sexual harassment as a personnel issue which cannot be discussed in public
- 3.) The Fox N' Hare incident is a police and court matter that is in the process of being adjudicated and that if necessary upon conclusion of said case if necessary it will be addressed as a personnel issue.
- 4.) A review of the details surrounding the sale of 59 Hudson Street to 59 Hudson Street LLC not to Mr. David Rivera
- 5.) The Mayor clarified that the City has complete discretion as to the method of sale of any City owned property. There will be a discussion on this issue at the next finance meeting if any parties are interested.
- 6.) 30 Farnum Street has violations issued on the property which are in the process of adjudication.
- 7.) The building permit issued on 59 Hudson Street was issued by Mr. David Rivera as he is not an owner but inspections will be done by another inspector.
- 8.) The Mayor suggests that the public refer to the definition of corrupt before they use the term with respect to the City of Port Jervis.
- 9.) Public Comment is part of the agenda process and it is the right of the Mayor to set agendas including periods of public comment and that he will consider the 5 minutes.
- 10.) He indicated that while there has been much angry dialogue on social media, he personally has only received one call from DA Hoovler with whom he discussed all of the matters above to his satisfaction.
- 11.) He indicated that he has responded to the press in a similar like and open manner as information is available.
- 12.) The Mayor provided all of his contact info so that anyone can call him directly as he will not answer issues on social media. Office 845-858-4000 ext. 4017, Cell phone 845-341-3135, email portjervis mayor@gmail.com.

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- 13.) He understands that some people have questioned the possibility of a City Manager. He suggests you study the history of that position in Newburgh before suggesting the same for Port Jervis.
- 14.) There have been questions about a body cam to be deployed. There has been ordered but not yet received a body camera and a fixed camera for the building inspector's office. They will be deployed with appropriate City policies similar to the police body cameras and other cameras within the City.
- 15.) He gave an example of another home sold similarly to 59 Hudson Street where potential offers of \$1000 and \$1500 for the house were both unsuccessful until a sale was made for \$3000 with the intent for a full renovation to a one-family.
- 16.) He was asked with regards to the criteria for City reserving properties at the tax lien sale. He explained that some are reserved for the potential of interest income and others for potential City purposes which are mostly vacant property.

The Mayor indicated that he was accused by a member of the City Council not providing to the Council adequate information for them to make well thought out decisions. He polled the members asking if they felt that he did not supply adequate information.

Randazzo – No, Fitzpatrick – No, Belcher – No, Santini – No, Bavoso – No, Foster – No, Mann – Sometimes, Trovei – No, Siegel – times when not timely but always gets back to members.

Mrs. Trovei added that there is an open channel for Council members to speak up and question the information received and ask for any information that they want. Members can also assist by doing additional research to contribute.

The Mayor asked the public to think about the trolls of social media who make comments when they do not live here, are angry because things are not the way they used to be or are just throwing snowballs to create controversy and slander.

Motion for executive session by Regis Foster seconded by David Bavoso as follows:

- 1.) A personnel matter involving a request for schooling for a City employee working within the City's Assessor Office.

And

Upon the conclusion of Executive Session, the Council may also 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 8:00pm

Meeting Reconvened at 9:23pm

Motion was made by Lisa Randazzo seconded by Gina Fitzpatrick to allow Heather Marino to attend the Assessor Conference with costs not to exceed budgeted limits.

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

Meeting Adjourned –

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

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Next Regular Meeting scheduled for 7 pm Monday March 11th 2019.

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer