

February 10, 2020

Executive Session –

The was no Executive Session.

Public Hearing for a scoping session regarding the annexation of properties from the Town of Deerpark. The session was opened at 6:45 pm. Kelly Decker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Robert Murphy of Barton & LoGiudice, presented an overview of the properties to be annexed indicating that this is at the request of the owners in order to obtain municipal sewer and water services to promote the development of the land in the proposed annexation. He showed to those present the sites on two large maps and invited questions. A member of the public asked if they knew what the development of the parcels would include. The Mayor indicated that the parcel near north Maple Avenue would be developed with a hotel, restaurant and retail. The parcel which was Dick's Concrete would become an industrial park. These are the current but not necessarily final plans.

The session remained open until 7:12 at which time Mr. Murphy invited anyone to contact him with any other questions. It was noted that blank forms would be made available in the clerk's office for questions to be submitted through February 19th.

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Dominick Santini to close the public hearing.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

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 10th, 2020 at 7:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance-

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

Attendance-

All members of the Common Council were present. Also present were City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger and Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller.

Meeting opened at 7:15 pm by Mayor Kelly Decker.

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

**Public Presentation on the Capital Project
Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm
Middle School Auditorium
Walkthrough at the Middle School prior to the
presentation at 5:30 pm
Public Presentation on the Capital Project
Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm
Middle School Auditorium
Walkthrough at the Middle School prior to the
presentation at 6:30 pm**

**Congratulations to the Science Olympiad Team
which competed this past Saturday at John Jay HS
in Dutchess County. All represented Port Jervis
High School in the best ways possible. Carry The
Banner!**

**March Math Night is coming! March 18th in the
H.S. Cafeteria at 6 pm. For all elementary**

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students and families. Refreshments will be provided.

The High School Indoor Track team had a solid OCIAA meet at West Point this weekend. PJHS athletes had 10 personal best performances, 2 medals and 2 school records. Top performers were: Roland Zanger (pictured- 3rd in long jump setting a school record, 5th in hurdles also setting a school record), Dana Clarke (8th in the 300), Marcus Best (7th in the 55, and 10th in the 300), Konner Sauschuck (6th in shotput), Jammy Hong (9th shotput), Ana Richardson (5th shotput), and Kanaloa Dias (9th wight throw).

Many of our students participated in the “Valentines for Our Veterans” Program! These valentines will be passed out to local veterans to show them that we love them.

District-wide staff and students wore the color red to demonstrate their support for the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women movement. The goal of this movement is to help raise awareness and save more lives.

The Middle School’s first ever Galactic Spectacular took place this week and was a surefire hit! Qualified students were given an invite to experience their choice of a variety of fun-filled activities around the building. Activities included pizza and juice in the cafeteria, game rooms, a Baby Yoda film in the auditorium and music and activities in the gym. While this kick-off proved to be a success, we anticipate it being grander going forward!

The 5th grade at HBE celebrated their reading and writing unit on argument essays. Students researched worldwide problems and took a stance based on the research they found. Students debated their topics with peers and presented their cases to their peers.

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Veterans & Seniors – Councilman Siegel reported again on scams targeted at Veterans and Seniors and urged everyone to be diligent with respect to fake utility companies, fake SSA calls, IRS calls, Jury Duty calls, and Computer compromised calls. Do not process any payments in any form. Hang up on any callers and report them to the SSA, IRS or police. He also noted a 2-part webinar worth watching sponsored by AARP entitled Imposters stealing money, damaging lives at 7pm on February 18th and 20th. Mr. Siegel and Simmons both indicated that a fraudulent IRS tried to scam them this past week.

He also noted that the new VA Clinic at 100 Pike Plaza will be having an open house tomorrow at 10:30.

Presentation: Ms. Megan Tanneman from the Orange County planning department presented an electronic presentation on the process and importance of the Census. She noted that the census is used to determine political regions and allocation of billions of Federal Funding dollars. She encouraged everyone to participate and indicated that the data collected is protected and safe. She encouraged everyone to complete census forms and to encourage others to be counted as well.

The Mayor also reviewed why the census is so important to the City and will do a city committee to encourage census participation.

Minutes Approved - A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the minutes of the January 27th, 2020 regular meeting.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Maria Mann and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve the minutes of the January 29th, 2020 special meeting.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

For the Good of the City (Public Comment) –

Mr. George Belcher - He spoke regarding his support for the Mayor's nomination of David Bavoso as City Attorney. He reviewed all of Mr. Bavoso's experience and work on the Common Council. He recommends backing the Mayor's choice and would like to see William Bavoso continue with the annexation. He also advocated for the City to approve the appearance of the city warehouse buildings on Franklin Street. He also encouraged citizens to contact their State Senator at 844-617-2691 to advocate for action to control prescription drug costs.

Mr. Ed DeGroat – He spoke making allegations regarding the city giving away property in the city and he claimed to own half of the street through quit claim deeds. He played several recordings of the Mayor and Stanley Siegel doing motions to give away City property and claims the city attorneys lied to the council. He expressed his belief that David Bavoso would make a lousy attorney.

Linda Van Horn – She thanked the Council members who stood up to choose a more appropriate City Counsel. In addition, she expressed her opinions on 29-31 Front Street, the repairs made and the mortgage that was issued and that it was a result of the council being bullied by the Mayor.

Mr. Peter Grech – He stated that someone referenced Roberts rules of order for meetings at the last meeting and wants everyone to know that strict adherence to those rules would now run afoul of the open meetings laws. He also presented a claim that he was grabbed at the last meeting by the arm by a member of the audience which he asserts was an assault. He also noted how he felt assaulted by being chastised by Lisa Randazzo at a previous meeting.

Business:

Mr. Foster – A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Maria Mann to approve the minutes of the Police Committee minutes from the January meeting.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Foster then reviewed the highlights of the minutes.

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the January Police Report.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

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Mr. Foster then reviewed the highlights of the report.

The next Police committee meeting will be 2/20/2020 at 6pm.

The next ADA meeting will be 3/2 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Foster noted that he attended the Chinese New Year event downtown this past weekend and found it to be a very good event.

Mr. Santini – He noted that the Plumbing and Electrical committee meetings were cancelled last week and will meet next on 3/4/2020 at 5:30 and 5:45.

Mr. Santini reported that the Code Committee met on February 5th and reviewed Sidewalk installation guidelines, multi-family inspections and city park rules. The next Code meeting will be March 4th at 6pm.

Ms. Campbell –

Ms. Campbell gave the Recreation Update as follows:

1. The Recreation Department is sponsoring a Casino field trip to Mohegan Sun Pocono in Wilkes Barre PA on Saturday March 14, 2020. Cost for the trip is only \$35. Participants must be 21 or older and must have a valid ID with them. Participants will receive \$25 in slot play and a \$5 food voucher when they arrive at the casino. Charter bus will leave Port Jervis at 4:30 pm and return at approximately 7:30 pm. For more information please contact the Recreation office at 845-858-4045. Limited tickets are left for this trip.
2. The Youth Center update:
 - Schedule for President's weekend will be as follows:
Friday February 14 and Monday February 17- 11:00 am- 3:00 pm
 - Dance at Teen Night on Friday February 21- Dance will be 6:30 pm-9:00 pm
3. Maintenance report:
 - Refurbished and stained garbage cans in parks and trails
 - Finished clearing overgrown brush at Tri-State Rock and the River Walk along Water Street
 - Repairing Recreation light fixtures
 - Cleaning up City entrance ways
 - Continue daily park checks- as we have no snow this winter
4. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Youth Center

Ms. Mann- She noted that the IDA has not met, and their next meeting is scheduled for 2/18/2020 at 6pm.

Ms. Mann also noted that the VA Clinic is open and that a Grand Opening has been set for tomorrow at 10:30 am. She noted that the next tourism event will be the St. Patrick's Day parade on 3/8 along with several activities downtown after the parade.

She also noted the Tourism board is considering a John B Jervis Day and a Roaring into the 20's event. Their next meeting is 2/12 at 7pm.

Mr. Oney – A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the minutes of the DPW Committee minutes from the February meeting.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Oney then reviewed the highlights of the minutes.

Garbage pickup will be one day late for the week of 2/17 due to the President's day holiday. 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. He also

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announced that the 2020 Garbage schedules are available. He noted that Xmas tree pickup has ended. Culvert work continues, as well as site cleanup and work on the small bridge over Clove Brook.

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council recognizes the need for the need of continued training of its staff

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby

Approves the training and travel for the Department of Public Works Office

June 2020 3 Day Education classes held at Cornell/Ithaca University for a Statewide Highway Public Works
yearly training school.

And Various regional meetings, membership meetings and classes as they arise throughout the year

With the cost approved in the 2020 budget.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis was awarded New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) funding of \$1,882,500.00 for the acquisition of land and/or establishment of conservation easements to protect City water supplies; and

WHEREAS, within this project's required match totaling some \$809,500.00, the City is responsible for \$15,000 in legal services; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to work with the Orange County Land Trust, Inc., (OCLT) a New York not-for-profit corporation which services and participation are outlined within the grant application and will apply its expertise in outreach and guidance throughout the grant project and ongoing stewardship after formal project completion; and

WHEREAS, the OCLT is contributing in-kind services to the required match and will otherwise be compensated by grant funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Orange County Land Trust, Inc. and the City of Port Jervis as reviewed and approved by City legal counsel.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The next DPW meeting will be 3/2/2020 at 6pm.

Mrs. Trovei – She noted that the CDA has not met and will meet next on 2/26/2020 at 7pm.

She also noted that the finance committee has not met, and their next meeting is 2/19/2020 6pm.

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to pay the bills totaling \$1,744,477.86

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Timothy Simmons to approve the renewal of the fire department insurance policies with VFIS at a 3% increase.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Gerald Oney to advertise and solicit for bids for the trenchless sewer project as necessary with a bid opening on 3/20.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

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A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Stanley Siegel to allow the City to participate in the EIC Energize New York program which provides assistance to commercial property owners to decrease energy usage or obtain more efficient systems.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council desires to develop and maintain tourism and recreational opportunities and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Club of Port Jervis has previously maintained and developed with the City the Watershed Trail System and Pump Bike Track at no cost to the City and has been an integral partner in developing recreational based tourism

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis authorizes the Mayor of the City of Port Jervis to enter into a contractual relationship to operate and maintain the Campground facilities located at Elk-Brox Park, a municipal park owned by the City; the Watershed Recreation Area and Trails and any specific designated recreational areas assigned by the Common Council and accepted by the Outdoor Club for the year 2020.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Ms. Trovei updated the council on the activities of Operation PJ Pride for seeking continued grant funding and noted that they will be having their Touch a Truck event on 5/2/2020.

Mr. Simmons – Mr. Simmons indicated that the ZBA met on 2/4 with a public hearing conducted regarding a lot variance for a garage being replaced by William Wagner that was approved. The next ZBA meeting will be 3/3/2020.

He informed the council that the Planning Board meeting will be 2/18 at 7pm with two public hearings regarding a hair salon at 114-122 Franklin Street and the construction of a new Dunkin Donuts across from the existing one.

Mr. Siegel –

The fire and emergency committee met on 1/21/2020 and their next meeting will be 02/19/2020 at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Maria Mann to approve the Fire and Emergency Management Committee minutes from the 1/21/2020 meeting.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Siegel noted that he attended the Fire Department Banquet this past weekend and thought it was a great event noting that the DJ has volunteered to do future banquets at no cost.

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons to approve a Polar plunge event for 1/16/2021 with a blizzard date of 1/23/2021. The Mayor reminded Mr. Siegel that they need to complete an event application. The Mayor also offered to make the plunge for the amount of \$5000 to be donated.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:

Excelsior Engine Company No. 5 requests the following be approved:

**Attend a steak bake in Liberty on 06/19/2020; and
Attend a steak bake in Middletown on 09/12/2020.**

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:

It is hereby requested that Tri States Hose Company No. 6 be permitted to attend the following event:
Parade in Haverstraw, New York on 05/16/2020

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AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:

It is requested that the below named firefighter be approved for Inter-Department transfer as stated:
Michael R. Jergensen - from Delaware Engine Company No. 2 to Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4
Firefighter Jergensen is reported to have cleared all obligations to Delaware Engine Company No. 2, The members of the Board of Officers of the Port Jervis Fire Department approved this request on 02/03/2020.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:

It is hereby requested that the below named person be approved for active membership into the Port Jervis Fire Department in the Company stated:
Kaitlin P. Rodriguez (a/k/a Kaitlin Eckenrod) - Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

He noted that the next meeting of the landlord Association will be 2/13 with the topic to be discussed of the Impact & protection of the Coronavirus.

He noted that PJ Housing's next meeting will be 2/25 at Hillside Terrace at 7pm.

He also reminded all Fourth graders that they can get free passes for themselves and their entire family to all National Parks by applying for a free federal park pass programs at Grey Towers through every kid outdoors program.

Mr. Siegel expressed a Happy Chinese New Year and stated the event this weekend was very good.

Mr. Siegel noted that while he always encourages people to contact him, however today he received an anonymous letter on a serious matter and cannot respond due to the anonymous nature of the letter. He encouraged the person to contact him directly to be able to give them feedback.

Ms. Randazzo – She indicated that she had no information to report at this time.

For the Good of the City (Public Comment) –

Mr. Ed DeGroat expressed that he likes the Mayor as a person but does not like what he does. He characterized deals made by the city, it's city attorney as dishonest, done behind closed doors and unethical.

Linda Van Horn noted that she is not against annexation but wants total transparency and wants anyone with any interest in the deal to disclose same.

Karen Conklin wanted to know if Mayor Decker wanted public volunteers to help with the census. Mayor Decker indicated that he is, and she can email him if she would like to volunteer. She also wanted to ensure that the Sidewalk regulations being done by the Code Committee are ADA compliant and ensure accessibility. Mr. Santini assured her that is the case.

Mr. Peter Grech claimed to have evidence why David Bavoso is not qualified to be a City attorney based on his stand on the resolution of the council to implement meeting rules that conflict with open meetings laws. He presented Mrs. Trovei with a bill for his research services on this topic.

Mayor Kelly Decker – The Mayor requested a motion and a motion was made by Timothy Simmons and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve a contract with Orange County to participate in the County-wide radio network system for Fire and Police services at a value of \$300,745 pending attorney review.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

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The Mayor requested a motion and a motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Gerald Oney to approve a contract with J Fletcher Creamer and Son to park a trailer on City property while working on the O&R Sub-station on the corner of Park Avenue at the amount of \$500 per month rent to the City pending attorney review.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor requested a motion and a motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the event application for the Port Jervis Soap Box Derby on June 14, 2020 plus practices.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Ms. Mann questioned how long the property will be rented on Park Avenue. Mayor Decker indicated it could be as much as a year and a half. He also indicated that the monies to be received can be used for repairs at that site to a wall that is currently in disrepair.

The Mayor indicated that he has a letter for joint participation in several events by the 1st Assembly of God and the Port Jervis Recreation Department for Movie nights throughout the summer and a back to school event on 8/15/2020.

A motion was made by Maria Mann and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve the joint events.

The Mayor appointed Angela Castelana to the Tourism Board

The Mayor requested a motion and a motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Gerald Oney as follows:

RE: TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE CDBG PIKE ST. ADA SIDEWALK PROJECT (NYS HCR PROJECT NO 938PF145-19) AND TO APPOINT A CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR THE REVIEW

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to install ADA Sidewalks on upper Pike St.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of the CDBG Program, the Common Council shall make certain determinations regarding the environmental impacts, if any, of the proposed Wastewater Improvement Project; and prior to making these determinations the Common Council shall designate a Certifying Officer to compile an Environmental Review Record regarding the proposed project in accordance with 24 CFR 58.38 and other HUD requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis, Orange County, New York, that the Common Council shall serve as Lead Agency, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.6 of the NYS SEQRA Act, to review the environmental significance of the proposed project and to make final determinations regarding significance, as may be required; and

RESOLVED that Director John R. Farr, City of Port Jervis Department of Public Works, is designated to serve as the Certifying Officer for the City of Port Jervis to conduct an environmental review of the proposed project, to compile an Environmental Review Record of the proposed project in accordance with 24 CFR 58.38 and other applicable regulations and to report the Environmental Review Record to the Common Council for further determinations.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor read a note from Maryann McCarthy thanking everyone for their sympathy.

The Mayor requested a motion and a motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Stanley Siegel to dedicate the walkway along River Road to Michael McCarthy and have a dedication ceremony on May 7th, 2020.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mayor Decker reactivated the members of the HR Search Committee to begin another search for HR services for the City.

He thanked the Fire Department for a good banquet event.

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The Mayor indicated that with respect to his appointment of a city attorney he will reserve his rights until the next Council meeting to do interviews with perspective attorneys

He then questioned members if anyone spoke to any attorney on behalf of the City today with respect to the City Counsel position.

Mr. Simmons indicated that he was contacted by someone asking about the position and he also asked the ZBA attorney to refer others.

Mayor Decker indicated that a council member contacted someone personally today and no members indicated that they had. He indicated that in order for the process to be successful all members need to be honest and open with him.

Meeting Adjourned – A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Stanley Siegel to adjourn.

AYE: 9 ABSENT: 0 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm executive session and 7:15 pm general business session on Monday February 24th, 2020.

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer