

February 21, 2020

Emergency Meeting-

The Emergency meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held at the scene of the fire at 1 Ridge Avenue, Port Jervis, New York on Friday, February 21st, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

Attendance-

Mayor Kelly Decker and members of the Common Council were present except Dominic Santini, Chandler Campbell and Gerald Oney. Acting City Counsel Glen Plotsky, Fire City Engineer James Farr, Fire Inspector Robert Brady, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Laurie Powrie and City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger were also present.

Mayor Decker opened the meeting at 2:32 pm indicating that this meeting has been called on an emergency basis due to the structural fire that occurred today at 1 Ridge Avenue, Port Jervis, New York.

Mayor Decker turned the meeting over to City Counsel Glen Plotsky.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer James Farr if he had inspected the building. Mr. Farr responded Yes.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer James Farr if the building is currently structurally unsafe. Mr. Farr responded Yes

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer James Farr if the building meets the definitions of a dangerous building per the City of Port Jervis Code. Mr. Farr responded Yes

Legal counsel questioned if there had been efforts to contact the owner and/or insurance carrier. The City Engineer James Farr and Assistant Code enforcement officer Laurie Powrie responded that both the owner and insurance company representative were on site and have inspected the damage.

Legal counsel questioned if the owner and insurance representative express any intention of demolition or reconstruction. Laurie Powrie indicated that both the owner and insurance representative expressed that they could not take or afford to take any action today.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer James Farr if more than 50% of the building has been damaged. Mr. Farr responded Yes

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer if as a result of this, are the buildings a danger to the lives and safety of others in their current conditions. Mr. Farr responded Yes.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer if as a result of this, are the buildings at risk of imminent collapse. Mr. Farr responded Yes

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer if as a result of this should both buildings be demolished immediately. Mr. Farr responded Yes.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer if as a result of this, is there an eminent danger to lives and person if not demolished immediately.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer if he felt emergency action should be taken. Mr. Farr responded Yes.

Legal counsel questioned the City Engineer if any contractors had been contacted as of yet. . Mr. Farr responded not yet.

Legal counsel stated that due to the conditions of the building and the imminent danger to the public the council action to be taken would be a motion to immediately demolish the structure.

Motion made by Timothy Simmons to immediately demolish the structures seconded by Stanley Siegel.

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 3 (Santini, Campbell, Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Mr. Kelly Decker informed the Council present that there is another situation due to the fact that there are two private motor vehicles parked adjacent to the house with the keys supposedly somewhere in the destroyed structure. Due to the Emergency nature of the situation he requested a motion to call the police department and have them towed to a City owned location to

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prevent any further damage to them during the demolition. Motion was so made by Timothy Simmons and seconded by Lisa Randazzo.

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 3 (Santini, Campbell, Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

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

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 3 (Santini, Campbell, Oney) NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned at 2:36 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