

September 28, 2020

**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 September 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Present were All members of the Common Council except Kristin Trovei and Chandler Campbell. Corporation Counsel William Frank, Deputy Counsel Stephanie Tunic, City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger and Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller were also present.

**Pledge of Allegiance-**

The Mayor Kelly Decker opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance

**Executive Session** – A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Gerald Oney to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of discussion on:

- |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. 2- Personnel matters   | - 105.f |
| 2. PBA Contractual matter | - 105.e |
| 3. EIB Contractual matter | - 105 h |

plus, other items as necessary for review and legal advice from corporation counsel.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 2 (Trovei, Campbell) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Adjourned to Executive session at 6:32pm

Councilwoman Chandler Campbell arrived during Executive Session

Reconvened from Executive session at 7:18 pm by motion of Gerald Oney and seconded by Timothy Simmons

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor deferred to the Council for the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Timothy Simmons and seconded by Gerald Oney to defer and reschedule the public hearing to the next meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm due to problems with the timely publication of materials.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**For the Good of the City (Public Comment) –**

**Mr. Peter Grech** – Mr. Peter spoke on the importance of wearing masks and following public health directives. He encouraged the local community leaders to act as examples to the public and not have disregard as some politicians have been.

**Mr. Ed DeGroat** – He gave his opinion that he felt he did not have to sign up as someone was allowed to speak during the meeting. It was noted by Corporation counsel that this other person was invited to the podium as part of discussion of an agenda item. The Mayor allowed Mr. DeGroat to speak at the podium but requested that he sign -in for public comment in the future. Mr. DeGroat expressed his opinion that he believes the City has double standards and accused the Mayor of double-dipping.

**Minutes Approved** - A motion was made by Timothy Simmons and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular meeting.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Timothy Simmons and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2020 special meeting.

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

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A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Dominick Santini to re-schedule the October 12, 2020 regular meeting to Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**Executive Session Material –**

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Dominick Santini to approve a side agreement with the PBA with respect to employee # 360.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Dominick Santini to allow the Mayor to execute all necessary agreements for the interconnection agreement between O&R and EIB for the continuation of the Solar project.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Gerald Oney to approve an agreement with respect to the Freedom of Information Requests associated with the Police department under section 50a of the law with amendments as noted by the corporation counsel to paragraph 14.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**Business:**

**Mr. Foster** – Mr. Foster reviewed the minutes from the police committee meeting then made a motion which was seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the minutes.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The next police committee meeting will be 10/15 at 6pm.

There was no report from the ADA committee and their next meeting will be 11/2/2020 at 7pm.

**Mr. Santini** – The Code Committee has not met since the last Council and the next meeting will be 10/7 at 6pm.

**Ms. Campbell** - Ms. Campbell gave the recreation update as follows:

1. The Youth Center Recreation Room is open Monday-Friday 3:00 pm- 6:00 pm. Beginning this week the Rec Room is open for ALL students- whether you are in school or home studying remote. This will remain in effect until the school district enters phase 4 of its reopening plan. When phase 4 begins we will adjust our Youth Center schedule accordingly.
2. The Recreation Commission has decided to cancel the Halloween Parade on October 24 due to the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions set forth by New York State. In place of the parade the Recreation Commission and Elks Club will sponsor a Halloween Costume Dance Party at Riverside Park on October 24, 2020 from 3:00 pm-4:30 pm. Kids and adults are encouraged to come down to Riverside Park- in costume and dance, play Halloween Bingo and take home some Halloween candy- compliments of the Elks Club. DJ G will be providing the entertainment! This event will follow COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions!
3. The Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Little Chefs at PJ Rec cooking class this FALL. Classes will start on Saturday October 24 and will be held at the Youth Center. Class time is 10:00 am- 12:00 pm. This is a 5-week class for students ages 10-13. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions class size will be only 8 students. Cost for this class is \$50. Registration will take place at the Youth Center on October 5-7-14 between 5 pm-7 pm.
4. The Recreation Department is holding a FALL cleanup on Saturday November 14, 2020. Volunteers are needed to help us cleanup leaves before winter settles in. We are meeting at Farnum Park at 10:00 am and will also be cleaning up Veterans Park and Church St. Park. This is a great community service event for students! The cleanup will be over by

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11:30 am and light refreshments will be served at Farnum Park. All social distancing guidelines will be followed. Bring some work gloves, a rake and of course don't forget your mask!

5. For information on the Youth Center or any Recreation program or event contact us at 845-858-4045 or email us at [recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov](mailto:recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov).
6. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Youth Center.

**Ms. Mann** – Tourism has not met since our last council meeting. Their next meeting will be 10/14 at 7pm.

The IDA meeting on 9/17 was cancelled due to lack of business. The next meeting of the IDA will be 10/19 at 6pm.

**Mr. Oney** – Mr. Oney gave the DPW update as follows:

1. Garbage and Recycling will be on its normal schedule for the next two weeks.
2. The City's bulk waste truck is available on Saturday mornings for Port Jervis residents only from 7:15am until 11:30 am. Dump passes must be purchased at the City Clerk's office located at 20 Hammond St. in Port Jervis from 9am to 4pm M-F.
3. Yard Debris pickup will begin on next Monday. Please have all items in compostable bags or cans. Brush should be cut to 12 inches or less.
4. Sewer Relining is going to restart in the area of Hammond and Owen Street
5. Hydrant flushing will begin on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wash laundry when your area's hydrants are being flushed to avoid discoloration.
6. The next DPW meeting will take place on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm in the Council Chambers

**Mrs. Trovei** – On behalf of Mrs. Trovei, Mr. Oney reported that the CDA met remotely on 9/23 at which time they reviewed the status of their finances and grants. They reviewed a new submission for a grant for fire department equipment.

The next CDA meeting will be 10/28.

On behalf of Mrs. Trovei, Mrs. Randazzo reviewed the minutes of the 9/16 finance meeting then made a motion to accept them which was seconded by Gerald Oney.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The next finance meeting will be on 10/21 at 6pm.

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Dominick Santini to pay the bills totaling \$326,737.88.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**Mr. Simmons** – He noted that the Zoning Board meeting on 9/1 was cancelled due to lack of business. The next meeting will be 10/6 at 7pm.

Mr. Simmons indicated that the Planning Board met on 9/15/2020 where they reviewed an application for a minor subdivision from Joseph Piscitelli. The board requested some clarification regarding the boundaries and set a public hearing for 10/20 at 7pm.

The next meeting of the planning board will be 10/20 at 7pm.

**Mr. Siegel** – He noted that Fire and Emergency Management was cancelled on 9/21 and their next meeting is 10/29 at 6:30pm. He did note that he has received budget concerns from the Fire Chief which he will relay next week in writing.

He noted that PJ Housing Authority's next meeting is 10/27 at Hillside Terrace.

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He also reminded everyone about the upcoming rabies clinic in Port Jervis on October 4<sup>th</sup> 10am to noon at Engine 4's firehouse. All social distancing requirements will be in place with one person per pet, hand sanitizing and masks required. For additional information please call Orange County Department of Health at 845-294-2331.

He noted that there are still reports of suspicious behavior in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward. He implored that citizens call the police department at 856-5101 if they see or hear anything.

Mr. Siegel spoke regarding his ideas with respect to the Recreation and evacuation center. He suggested that the school district supply the use of the current middle school as an evacuation center, consolidate firehouses to use Hose #4 firehouse as a senior center.

**Ms. Randazzo** – She detailed the Rotary Field of Flags for heroes program to honor your hero. Please contact the local Rotary for details.

She thanked Bill Conklin for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward meeting the other night and wants to see the re-generation of neighborhood watch and ward meetings.

**For the Good of the City ( Public Comment )**

**Mr. Ed Degroat** – He expressed his concern about possible impacts to garbage collection that Ms. Randazzo has put forth in lieu of an \$80 tax increase due to budget issues and instead suggested closing all city parks.

Mrs. Randazzo responded that she used that as an example of how much a resident would pay commercially for a service that the City provides. She only used that as an example but there are many other things that could be cut. At the last ward meeting she got feedback that the citizens do not want to have DPW or police cut.

Mr. DeGroat expressed his concern again about cuts and being blocked on Facebook.

**Mayor Kelly Decker** – The Mayor informed the public that the City does not control or organize Halloween and that it is a parental choice whether they allow their children to trick or treat. He recommends that if you do not want to give out candy then have your porch light off. Even the Governor said he is not cancelling Halloween.

The Mayor requested a resolution to approve an event application to hold an outdoor dance recital at Riverside Park. A motion was made by Maria Mann and seconded by Timothy Simmons to approve the application.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor requested a resolution to approve the Annual Rick Drew Holiday Parade. A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the event.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

The Mayor indicated that there has been a vacancy on the Housing Authority Board for a short time due to the passing of a member and that he is now appointing Anne Marie Foster to the that vacancy with a term to expire on 5/31/2025.

The Mayor regretfully accepted the resignations of two CDA Board members Ms. Erica Cox and Mr. Richard Roberts and is appointing replacements with staggered term end dates to correct a problem with existing term dates as follows:

Mr. John Russell to a 3-year renewal term to expire 1/31/2023

Mr. Michael Talmadge to a 2-year term to expire 1/31/2022

Mr. George Belcher to a 1-year term to expire 1/31/2021

Mayor Decker stated that he will look into Mr. Siegel's ideas and read a letter from the Recreation Commission as follows:

September 28, 2020

Port Jervis, NY 12771  
845-858-4045

September 24, 2020

Dear Members of the Common Council,

The Port Jervis Recreation Commission would like to express their disappointment in the recent decision made by the Common Council (at the September 14, 2020 meeting) to vote down the proposed plan for a new Community/Senior/Evacuation Center at Farnum Park. Over the past 25 years we have seen the current Youth Center offer activities and events for our youth. We have seen the benefits this community center has provided the youth. However, we are limited in what we can offer.

A new Community Center with an indoor gymnasium plus a renovated Farnum Building would now be able to provide more activities and events for youth, adults and seniors! In surveys with our youth the number 1 request has been for a gym to play basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, etc. The current Youth Center cannot provide these popular activities.

A facility of this magnitude would also provide many healthy and safe activities for adults, and seniors throughout the entire year. Revenue could be generated with a facility like this and our senior population would now have a place to meet, conduct activities and events and exercise.

It is our hope that you will reconsider your decision made on September 14<sup>th</sup> and bring this proposal to a new vote.

Sincerely,

The Port Jervis Recreation Commission

Tom Hoppey- Chair  
Debbie Cunningham- Vice-Char  
Dawn Jones  
Noleen Tomasi  
Brandy Niccolette  
Mike Latini  
Cory Puopolo

Stanley Siegel thinks that financially it would be wise to utilize what we have in using the Middle School as an evacuation center as opposed to ASK Elementary. He wants to expedite the situation.

The Mayor requested that all members hold ward meetings on the Police reform issue during October. He requested that dates and times be submitted to his office as soon as possible.

As background for Police reform in June the Governor by Executive order stated that a plan for police reform must be completed collaboratively with the community by April 2021 in order to continue to be eligible to receive state aid. He stated that there are several links on the City website related to police reform. He stated that Port Jervis has many of the required elements in our policies but have to include input from the community. He listed all of the subjects and training that are required as part of the plan. He also noted that the plans require a lot of support from County Social Services programs. All this must be accomplished without any additional funding.

Mayor Decker also reviewed the NYS Civil service requirements which may be a hinderance to obtaining a diverse police force which may be a source of suggested reforms to NYS.

The Mayor also requested that if any citizen does not want to come to a ward meeting that they can send an email to us through our website. He also requested for interested parties to participate in a committee to formulate the draft plan from now through January.

The Mayor requested a motion to form a Committee to formulate a draft plan for review and potential approval. A motion was made by Timothy Simmons and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to form said committee to complete a draft plan.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

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Regis Foster indicated that the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward meeting will be on 10/8 at Hose 5 at 7pm.

The Mayor also gave a last-minute reminder to complete your Census!!!!

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

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Trovei) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm executive session and 7:15 pm general business session on Tuesday October 13, 2020.

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Robin Waizenegger  
City Clerk Treasurer