

April 12, 2021

**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 April 12th, 2021 at 6:30 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 except Dominic Santini. Also present were City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger and Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller. City Legal Counsel was absent. Meeting opened at 6:30 pm by Mayor Kelly Decker.

**Executive Session –**

There was no Executive Session.

**Public Hearing – none**

**For the Good of the City (Public Comment) – none**

**Minutes Approved** - A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Kristin Trovei to approve the minutes of the March 22nd, 2021 regular meeting.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the April 2nd, 2021 special meeting.

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 3 (Oney, Siegel, Trovei)

**Business:**

**Mr. Foster** – A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded Lisa Randazzo to approve the March Monthly Police Report.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

Mr. Foster reviewed the highlights of the report for all present.

The next Police committee meeting will be 4/15/2021 at 6pm.

The next ADA meeting will be 5/3/21 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Foster noted that the gas main replacements on Erie Street started today.

**Mr. Santini** – Mr. Santini was absent. Ms. Randazzo reported that the Code Committee met on Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup>. The items discussed were the NYS Cannabis law on which they asked corporation counsel to provide more information to the committee, septic tank cleaning, and the building report. Some highlights of the building report were 100 Pike Street, the moving of the Dollar Tree store, the hotel project, house numbers, D&H canal, excessive dumping, and other projects. They also discussed how many items have been referred to the Court. They also received a detailed listing of items ordered for remedy. The next Code Committee meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

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

1. The Rec. Dept. would like to thank all the volunteers that helped out with our Easter Candy Dash on April 3 at Church St. Park and with our Park Cleanup on April 10 at Farnum Park and Veteran’s Park. The Easter Candy Dash had approximately 50

April 12, 2021

kids “Dash” for candy! All the kids received an Easter Goodie Bag along with all the candy they could grab during the DASH. Thank you to the PJ High School Honor Society students for their help. The cleanup had more than 30 students and adults “pitch in” to help clean up Farnum Park and Veteran’s Park.

2. The 27th Annual Delaware River 5k Run and Walk will be held on Sunday May 2. Race time is 9 am. Registration is online only this year! You can register at [www.delawareriver5krun.com](http://www.delawareriver5krun.com). We are closing registration at 200 participants this year- so sign up early! We already have close to 90 runners/walkers already signed up!
3. The Rec. Dept. will be putting the basketball rims back up at the basketball court at Farnum Park this week. The rims were removed due to disrespectful and unacceptable behavior at the court which affected all others at the park. The rims remained down during the COVID pandemic as well. We hope moving forward that all using the court will be mindful and respectful to everyone in the park. If behavior becomes an issue again the rims will be removed once again.
4. A reminder that dogs are allowed in the Dog Yard, The Water Shed Trails, The Mike McCarthy Walkway, and the D & H Trail. Please clean up after your dogs! We have dog waste bags at these locations but also bring your own waste bags- in case we are out. Dogs are not allowed in any other City Parks!
5. A reminder also to use the garbage cans that are in the parks. We don’t want to see water bottles or garbage on the ground. Thank you.
6. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for this Thursday April 15 at 6:30 pm.

**Ms. Mann-** The Tourism Committee will meet on 4/14 at 7pm. She noted that the City-Wide Yard Sale is the next event which is planned for Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am-4pm.

The IDA will be meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

**Mr. Oney** – A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the hiring of Preston Simonson as a full time Laborer at the Step 1 rate with a 6-month probationary period effective today.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Regis Foster to accept the DPW minutes for the month of April.

He noted that garbage pickup is on its normal schedule for the next two weeks. Hydrant flushing has begun and will continue for the next 4 to 5 weeks and Nixel notifications will be sent out concerning locations being flushed. Leaf and brush drop off is available on Saturday mornings from 7:15 to 11:30 at the brush pile on Canal Street. Yard waste pickup is being done weekly and everyone is reminded to use bio-degradable bags. He also noted that the street sweeper is out cleaning up winter debris on city streets.

The next DPW meeting will be 5/3/2021 at 6pm in Council Chambers.

**Mrs. Trovei** – She noted that the CDA met on 3/24 and discussed finances, Section 8 activity, grant work and she also noted that CDA is always looking for grant opportunities. They are always working on applications with short deadlines.

The next CDA meeting will be 4/28 and they will still be meeting remotely by Zoom at 7pm.

Mrs. Trovei shared the highlights of the minutes of the 3/24/2021 Finance meeting minutes.

The finance committee’s next meeting will be 4/21/2021 6pm.

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Gerald Oney to approve the March minutes from the finance committee.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to pay the bills totaling \$285,174.83.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Regis Foster to approve a resolution regarding raffle sales as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council has received through the NYS Gaming Commission a request for raffle ticket sales in our jurisdiction to benefit the organization known as Music for Humanity who are selling throughout Orange, Ulster, and Sullivan Counties.

April 12, 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis approves the application for raffle ticket sales in the City of Port Jervis and authorizes the City Clerk Treasurer to respond accordingly to the NYS Gaming Commission.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Gerald Oney to approve a resolution for an EFC Loan as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Consent Order, Case No. R3-20130126-91, the City of Port Jervis Common Council is mandated to repair and rehabilitate the City's 33-mile wastewater system in order to reduce inflow and infiltration into the system; and

WHEREAS, to this end, the City successfully completed in 2020 a cost-effective rehabilitation of some two-miles of wastewater piping by using the Perma-Main Cured-In Place-Pipe (CIPP) Manhole to Manhole Inversion Rehabilitation System and with \$750,000 in funding from the NYS CDBG public infrastructure pilot grant ("Trenchless Sewer Repair – Phase I); and

WHEREAS, the City is currently eligible for a NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYS EFC) hardship assistance loan of \$20 million at zero-percent interest over a rolling 5-year period and for an additional loan of up to \$985,000 with interest at market-rate; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the City take these advantageous EFC loan(s) at this time in order to meet compliance deadlines to complete system rehabilitation under the NYS DEC Consent Order and to avoid possible fines for non-compliance of \$32,500 per day; and

WHEREAS, competitively obtained NYS CDBG grants are designed for gap, not end-to-end project financing; and

WHEREAS, if performed with conventional excavation methods, the estimated wastewater line repair has been estimated to cost \$99 million dollars or more;

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to prepare for a final closing on the NYS EFC loan package on or before the EFC deadline of December 2, 2021, as stated in the NYS EFC January 10, 2019 Funding Commitment Letter to the City of Port Jervis, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby directs and approves that by no later than June 25, 2021, which is the EFC deadline for submission of the complete Financial Application for CWSRF funding in this current EFC IUP funding period, the Port Jervis Community Development Agency, the City's Attorneys, the City's Engineers, the City Clerk – Treasurer, the DPW Department and other City Departments, shall fully prepare for submittal to the NYS EFC, a hardship assistance loan application for the amount of \$20 million and for the five-year CIPP repair of the remaining City wastewater lines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all applications and documentation required by NYS EFC to effectuate the intent of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if approved, the Mayor, or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all loan and contract documents, including, but not limited to, financing documents with NYS EFC for the hardship assistance loan; and the Common Council hereby approves the expenditure of all reasonable and customary sums to close on the financing transaction.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve a resolution for an auction of City Property as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council recognizes the need to dispose of properties acquired by Tax Lien in the most expeditious and financially prudent manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby empowers the Mayor in coordination with the City Clerk Treasurer, Deputy City Clerk Treasurer and City Attorney to set and hold an auction of said City properties as soon as possible in coordination with the legal restraints placed due to COVID. It is also noted that not all of such properties may be designated for sale at the discretion of the Council.

April 12, 2021

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve a resolution for renewing the City's Insurance policies as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council recognizes the need to maintain appropriate insurance coverage for the City and whereas the Finance and Insurance committee is going to evaluate proposals from our broker of record Marshall and Sterling at their Finance committee meetings,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby empowers the Finance Committee to make the decision regarding the continuance of insurance coverage for the City for the period 5/22/2021-5/21/2022.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve a resolution for the sale of a City Vehicle as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council recognizes that there exists the following surplus equipment and/or vehicle which are no longer necessary for municipal purposes have no appreciable value and/or are in need of significant repair as follows:

Bus: 2002 Ford Bus Vin# 1FDXE45F02HB22653

And WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need to dispose of this vehicle and equipment effectively.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that permission is given to dispose said equipment/vehicles in the most cost-effective way possible through auction services, scrap sale or other means.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Timothy Simmons to approve a resolution changing items in the 2021 Capital Note as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council approved purchases totaling \$50,000 on a Capital Note for the year 2021 and.

WHEREAS, the City's needs have changed since the listing of expected expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis approves a reallocation of monies from computer equipment purchases in the building department, Mayor's office, and recreation department to purchase a boat trailer for the fire department in the amount of \$8600.00 to transport a boat that they are acquiring through a grant as reviewed and recommended by the finance committee.

Mr. Simmons gave a detailing of the grant and the need for a new trailer.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

**Mr. Simmons** – He informed the Council that the Zoning Board did not meet due to lack of agenda items and that their next meeting is 5/4/2021 and that the next meeting of the Planning Board is 4/20/2021 at 7pm.

Mr. Simmons announced a 4<sup>th</sup> neighborhood watch meeting on Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Engine 4 firehouse on Owen Street at 6:30 pm. He extended an invitation to any resident of all the other wards if they want to come. It would be beneficial to learn about neighborhood watch and set up similar groups in other wards.

**Mr. Siegel** – He informed the Council that the last fire and emergency committee meeting took place on 3/15/21 and their next meeting will be 4/19/2021 at 7pm in-person in the Council chambers.

April 12, 2021

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:  
Delaware Engine Company No. 2 requests the following be approved for Active membership:  
Robert D. Novak

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:  
Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4 requests the following be approved for Active membership:  
Brian S. Vanderveer

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:  
Neversink Engine Company No. 1 requests approval to hold a Barbecue & \$100 Gift Certificate from Prime Time Meats Raffle from May 1st to August 5th.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) A motion was made by NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons as follows:  
Excelsior Engine Company No. 5 requests a date correction on an event previously approved:  
Change their request to host an Old Timers Night from 05/22/2021 to 05/15/2021 as the date of the request was made in error.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

Mr. Siegel reminded firefighters that there will be a combined County Zoom Training on 4/15/2021 via Zoom at 7pm on professionalism in firefighting.

He announced a washdown of downtown streets to be done on 4/18/2021 at 7:30 am.

Mr. Siegel discussed the importance of have 4-inch high visible house numbers on all residences and buildings to assist emergency responders in locating places they are being called to respond to. Locating a house during an emergency can be a matter of life and death so please put numbers on your houses.

The Port Jervis Housing authority will meet next on 4/27/2021 at 7pm.

Mr. Siegel reminded all veterans of the medical services available at Castle Point, Montrose and locally.

Mr. Siegel read a notice from Henry Dunn of VFW 161 indicating that he following events have been planned by their parade committee:  
Memorial Day Parade on 5/31/2021 with lineup at 9:30 and step off at 10:30 for all parades Veterans Day Parade on 11/11/2021, and Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies on 12/5/2021 at 1pm at West End Beach or if inclement weather at the Tri-State Naval Station, 46 Barcelow Street.

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons to approve the veterans related events.

Mrs. Waizenegger asked if it would be necessary to have them complete event applications? The Mayor indicated that it would not be necessary.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

Mr. Siegel thanked Dorothy Weber for knitting blankets for the veterans at Castle Point, especially the red, white, and blue blankets.

He also expressed get well wishes to Dick McKeeby and condolences on the passing of Stanley Nowak, a local farmer, and Pat Farace.

**Ms. Randazzo** – She reminded residents that if they are having any problems getting vaccinated to reach out to their Council Members or Mayor's office.

April 12, 2021

Ms. Randazzo also detailed a program called Connect for seniors and disabled adults which is run by NYS and the Orange County Office of the Aging. It is a great program that can provide seniors and care givers to get connected to services at 1-800-342-9871 or 845-615-3719.

**For the Good of the City (Public Comment)** – none

**Mayor Kelly Decker** – The Mayor indicated that at the next Council meeting there will be a presentation on sustainable design and resiliency to become a carbon positive City.

He announced that Arbor day ceremonies will be on 4/24 at the Riverside Park Pump Track at 10am with the planting of 4 trees.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve an amendment to the Barton and Loguidice agreement to complete the work necessary for the annexation by 9/30 for an additional \$8725 per entity with an agreement to be drawn up by legal counsel and that this payment will not be made until the completion of the work.

Mr. Siegel stated that he wanted to understand any concerns with respect to the recent correspondence from the DEP regarding sewage disposal. The Mayor detailed factors for response to that correspondence and that this issue has been referred to the City's environmental attorney who will handle that issue and that he has faith in our attorney to resolve any such issues.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made at the request of the Mayor by Maria Mann and seconded by Gerald Oney to provide to the volunteer gardener that is maintaining the Promenade \$700 worth of mulch for which the cost will come out of contingency funds.

Maria Mann commented that he does a great job, and she can confirm that mulch is needed.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

The Mayor discussed the fact that the City Clerk Treasurer is retiring, and he appointed Council members Randazzo, Trovei, Siegel and Mrs. Waizenegger to do interviews of the candidates culled from the resumes received.

Orange County continues to have vaccination pods around the county, and it is now anyone 16 years old and up that are eligible.

Mrs. Waizenegger did comment that as we are a border community and are having a hard time finding vaccinations in New Jersey or Pennsylvania and do work in NYS you can receive the vaccine in New York.

The Mayor also emphasized that his office would assist in getting people scheduled.

The Mayor indicated that we have several City Events to approve.

A motion was made by Maria Mann and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the City-Wide Yard Sale as a city event on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Timothy Simmons to approve events called Cruzin' Port subject to planning with the DPW and Police Department and certificate of insurance. The events will take place the first Tuesday of every month thru September.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve a march and gathering to memorialize the lynching of Robert Lewis on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1892 by a mob in the City of Port Jervis. The event will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Mayor Decker gave a brief history of the tragic event and work around a memorial plaque.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

April 12, 2021

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Stanley Siegel to re-schedule the Soap Box Derby from the month of June to the month of September due to Covid related delays with practices to start September 9/12 and the race on 9/19.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Maria Mann to approve the Fall Foliage Festival on 9/26/2021.

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

The Mayor announced that on Sunday morning the main street in Port Jervis will be washed down by the Fire Department at 7:30 am so there may be some traffic delays on Sunday morning.

The Mayor also announce that the PBA is going to have a 5K foot chase on the trails Sunday morning should anyone wish to observe that.

Mayor Decker recognized Michael Latini for his work on the recreation commission as his term expires.

Mayor Decker re-appointed Stanley Siegel as a City Marshall to expire on 4/12/2026.

The Mayor also appointed two new members to the IDA. Melissa Newhauser for a term of 4/12/21 to 4/12/26 replacing Mr. Robert Schultz and John Heckman for the term of 4/12/2021 to 1/31/2024 replacing Mr. Michael McCarthy.

Mr. Siegel informed everyone that he has made some connections with respect to transportation to Goshen and Middletown for vaccinations. Please call him if you need assistance at 856-6150.

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

AYE: 8 ABSENT: 1 (Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in-person at Council Chambers City Hall 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York.

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Robin Waizenegger  
City Clerk Treasurer