

April 15, 2021

**Special Meeting-**

The special meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held via Zoom on Friday April 2nd, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Attendance-**

All members of the Common Council were present. Also present were City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger, Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller, CDA Director Valerie Maginsky and City Counsel William Frank

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm by Mayor Kelly Decker.

Kelly Decker:

Hey, I am recording. I apologize that for some reason, my phone locked up. Wouldn't allow Facebook. So I'll post it afterwards. It is Thursday, April 15th, 2021. It is 7:00 PM. I'll call the meeting of the Port Jervis Common Council to order. I do have a flag .

**Pledge of Allegiance-**

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

Tim Simmons:

God bless America.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Okay. I'm going to do a roll call. I'm going to ask everybody to mute your mic, please. I'm getting a lot of noise. Just mute your mic unless you have a comment or If I call on you, so I'm going to go right around the room. Tim.

Tim Simmons:

Tim Simmons, fourth ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Mayor Kelly Decker present. Valerie.

Valerie Maginsky:

Valerie Maginsky CDA executive director. Present

Kelly Decker:

Robin.

Robin Waizenegger:

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Robin Waizenegger City clerk treasurer present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Regis.

Regis Foster:

Regis Foster, Fourth ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Maria.

Maria Mann:

Maria Mann, second ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Stanley.

Stan Siegel:

Stanley Siegel fourth ward forward Council and present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Lisa.

Lisa Randazzo:

Lisa Randazzo, Council woman at large present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Kristen.

Kristin Trovei:

Kristin Trovei. Third ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Dominick.

Dominick Santini:

Dominick Santini. First ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you, Gerry.

Gerry Oney:

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Gerald Oney, third ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Do I have any other Council people on?

Chandler Campbell:

Yes, I'm on Kelly.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Go ahead, Chandler.

Chandler Campbell:

Thank you. Chandler Campbell. Second ward Council present.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Okay, the purpose of this special meeting is for two purposes one is for a federal appropriation's application that literally came upon us within the week. We thought we had additional time. They shortened it up and it became due tomorrow. So I'm going to just throw it out there. The first thing I have to thank Will, Jim, Jack, and most importantly, Valerie for just excruciating work over the last 24 hours to get us to this point where we could potentially acquire a lot of money through the federal government. The other reason that we're here tonight is for a recreation commission appointment that I mistakenly forgot after, I thanked Mike Latini for all his years of service after he stepped down, I never appointed Conrad Savoury to the recreation commission and they're actually meeting right now. So, I am going to make that appointment effective immediately for Conrad Savoury to the recreation commission to expire on January 31st, 2028. All right, so now we'll move back to the federal appropriations. Just a few minutes ago, did anybody from the Council not see this? Yeah. Like at all in the half an hour ago. Everybody saw it?

Gerry Oney:

What is the resolution?

Kelly Decker:

It is the resolution that, that is spelled out. So, there's one resolution and there are a list of four schedules.

Gerry Oney:

Oh yeah, I read it.

Kelly Decker:

You did see it. Okay. Thank you. All right, so I'm going to read the resolution. I'll let Valerie just hit upon the four items that are being covered and why. And I already kind of explained to the Council that some weren't allowed or that it would cost us more money than what it would be to get funding for. So, the resolution goes like this, the resolution of the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis, whereas US

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representative Sean Patrick Maloney is accepting applications for community funding projects from qualified municipalities, such as Port Jervis and whereas the City desires additional funding to meet public link needs and provide public benefits.

Kelly Decker:

And whereas if awarded and it is feasible to accept particular grant, the City will contribute any required local share of costs and or matching funds necessary to implement the grant project. And whereas it is the opinion of the Common Council that submitting applications for future available grants is in the best interest of the residents of the City. And now therefore it is hereby resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis, hereby approves the online submission of the potential project, a description of which is annexed here to as schedule 'A' which I'll read. And then Valerie will explain to the office of representative Maloney for consideration of federal funding and that such submission be completed no later than April 16, 2021 at 11:59 PM. And it is further resolved that the mayor or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all applications and documentations required by representative Maloney or his staff to effectuate the intent of this resolution is further resolved that the Common Council fully supports this initiative and directs mayor Kelly B. Decker or his designee to provide an appropriate letter of support of submission.

Kelly Decker:

So before we get into the discussion, I will read the... before we get into the motion and then discussion I'll do each schedule and I'll let Valerie explain. Schedule A, the first one, federal agency, transportation, housing and urban development, department of transportation, local transportation priorities. This project would be engineering design of MacArthur circle, traffic pattern improvement, and underpass rehabilitation. The project cost request is a \$100,000. The description is servicing New York state, route 6 and 209.

The MacArthur circle underpass is dedicated in 1907. In 2018 the structure, which on separate section maintains on one side vehicles and pedestrians and on the other on the Norfolk Southern own railroad tracks in 2018, the underpass received the yellow flag designation from New York state inspectors with no major improvements since 2018, the City's expecting an updated report from a late 2020 early 2021 re-inspection. From either side of the MacArthur circled traffic pattern services, eight different streets in that this pattern was over-engineered and makes ingress and egress very difficult for vehicles and pedestrians. This traffic pattern is to be studied and engineered reports supplied to remedy deficiencies, conducive with the rehabilitation of the underpass. Valerie, anything more to add?

Valerie Maginsky:

Unless someone has a question.

Kelly Decker:

Are there any questions in regards to that? Council.

Gerry Oney:

No that was pretty descriptive.

Tim Simmons:

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Are we clear with whose responsibility the underpass actually is? I mean, there was some question as to whether or not we were, or the railroad is.

Kelly Decker:

So, I've had the Assessor give me all the records, but we don't see where there was any... We see where it was turned over to the City, but we don't see where there's any responsibility. Obviously, we're in a fight if anything is shared, if not, not them replacing it because they built it. But obviously with the Erie Railroad that built it, which is now Norfolk Southern, but yeah, we're still going to work on that. This is just a start the engineering process.

Tim Simmons:

Okay. Thank you.

Kelly Decker:

Stan.

Stan Siegel:

Yeah, that was my question but also, \$100,000 will cover the engineering and the repair?

Kelly Decker:

Not the repair, but the engineering.

Stan Siegel:

Okay. And the repair we'll do separately?

Kelly Decker:

Yeah. So, what we're hoping to do is, we know that within a short period of time, they're going to be coming out with some infrastructure monies. We were told this through the Mid-Hudson Mayors that there'll be some infrastructure packages coming out and that's what we need to be prepared for, is to have the stuff engineered and ready, when they have the monies ready so that we can have those projects before them.

Stan Siegel:

So, the engineering makes it shovel ready?

Kelly Decker:

Yes.

Kelly Decker:

Anything else?

Kelly Decker:

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Okay. Number two, that schedule 'A' is professional agency and department of agriculture community facilities grants. This is for the purchase of two fire engines and one light rescue vehicle. The cost would be \$2 million. The description as a 100% rural community of 8,558 residents for the 22.9% poverty rate and a low to moderate income rate of 61% plus due to reaching their 20 year lifespan in with the original manufacturing company, defunct and parts. Now salvaged instead of being newly manufactured, the City needs to decommission two fire engines and one heavy rescue vehicle to save money and extend operational capacity. The City seeks to replace these vehicles with two fire engines and one light rescue vehicle, specialized equipment and storage will be included. Are there any questions on that?

Tim Simmons:

Mayor, I just want to add, I've had some discussions with the Chief and he wanted to point out that engine one and engine four would be replaced. And this engine three would also be replaced if we want to try to see any resale value of those particular apparatus how exactly to do this. Also, if we're looking ahead to a central firehouse... Downsizing consolidating the fire department, we really, really need to have some new apparatus in order for that to happen. Seeing how the average age of our fire apparatus right now is eighteen and a half years right now and the newest piece of equipment... Is eight years old...

Tim Simmons:

Also in our conversations, he had mentioned that if we were able to pick up two, maybe three apparatus and we go through the Houston Galveston program that they have by putting them together and kind of like a bundling type of things you want to call it that. We could save considerably if there... And also if we could find other agencies that are going to be purchasing at the same time, we could piggyback off of those. And if we're having two build and they're having four that's six and might get a considerably lower price there as well. So now is definitely the time. If we can get this, it would be huge, huge. We can't say it enough huge for our fire department. Right now, engine one and engine four are having some exhaust issues and because due to the fact that they are custom trucks. You can't just go and... like the Midas and say, "Build us an exhaust system", because they just don't exist.

So, we're looking at fabrication of new parts, which is probably going to be double or triple the cost of an exhaust system. If we could do it through a conventional, say a conventional method rather. So now is definitely the time if we can do it, this would be once again huge for the fire department, and move them forward.

Firefighting is a serious and dangerous business, and you have to have the proper equipment of case in point, they lost a firefighter down in Spring Valley recently. And It's just an example of just how dangerous this is, and how we absolutely have to have up-to-date equipment. And thank you for listening to me.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Anyone else? Okay. The next schedule is for number three federal agency-

Regis Foster:

Mayor-

Kelly Decker:

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Yes.

Valerie Maginsky:

Mayor, I'd like to add... And my video's off so I'm just on my phone now. The way this works is, it's something of a lengthy process after we finished this evening, and the Common Council directs me to which ones are going to be submitted. Maloney's staff reviews items and we'll come back to those that they have additional questions on and or are interested in moving forward. There's going to be a select group of applications that actually gets moved forward into the appropriations committee. And then from the appropriations committee, the requests are actually incorporated into law and signed into law. So, after that, they want to see anything expensed within 12 months' time. So my suggestion here and objective was to put items together that if did not move forward with the appropriations process, we could then move forward with alternative methods. The alternative method for this particular item, the purchase of two fire engines and one light rescue vehicle.

If we do not hear anything from Sean Patrick Maloney's office in the near term. Then I would suggest that we move forward with an application to USDA Rural Development, which is actually the agency that we would be applying to anyway. It is the hope that if it moves forward under the appropriations, that additional funding more and over what we would normally be eligible for might be available. So I just wanted to let everyone know that that is the secondary objective here, that one way or the other, these are important projects and we're seeking ways to fund them one way or the other.

Kelly Decker:

Great, thank you.

Valerie Maginsky:

Thank you.

Kelly Decker:

So, number three is the federal agency would be in the Environmental Protection Agency, the state and tribal assistance grants, as well as clean water and wastewater. This would be known as the Hudson street project, Stormwater management and engineering. Basically, it would be for the reservoir runoff from reservoir number one, down to Hudson Street, and then the reservoir runoff from Glass street to Kingston Avenue. The project cost, this is for engineering only is \$75,000, but it will have a 20% match of 15,000. The description is to perform engineering design of a flood control project covering 4,000 feet of disintegrating sidewalls, which collects runoff from mountain side streets and reservoirs. The objective is to manage, reduce and recapture storm water runoff. This project was due to be addressed by the US army corps of engineers and was about to commence in 2001 when 9/11 occurred, the project has not continued since that time.

The sidewalls have disintegrated further in the meantime. Any questions on that one? Dominic's somehow got signed off. And the last one, number four, schedule A, federal agencies of the Environmental Protection Agency, the state and tribal assistance grants, as well as the clean water wastewater. And this is for the City-wide wastewater rehabilitation. The cost is \$902,000 with a match of 20%, 180,400 it's one year worth of materials to continue the phase rehabilitation of 31 miles of wastewater lines and affiliated manholes. This phase project is the result of a New York state DEC

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consent order to minimize inflow and infiltration. The required match is the City of Port Jervis funding and additionally includes labor and machinery. Any questions on that?

Stan Siegel:

Yeah, this is aside from the President saying he's going to put all that money into infrastructure, right?

Kelly Decker:

Absolutely.

Stan Siegel:

So if this doesn't go through, we could apply for the other... Whatever it's going to be?

Kelly Decker:

And we have every intent to, yes.

Stan Siegel:

All right. Thank you.

Kelly Decker:

Any other questions? Okay. So you can make a motion to move on all four, or if you want to do them individually, you may do that as well. What's your pleasure?

Stan Siegel:

Individually, I think.

Kelly Decker:

Individually?

Stan Siegel:

That's what I would like.

Kelly Decker:

Okay. All right. So on the engineering design of MacArthur circle traffic pattern improvement and under past rehabilitation, do I have a motion?

Stan Siegel:

I move.

Kelly Decker:

I got a motion by Mr. Siegel. I think it's a second by Mr. Oney.

Regis Foster:

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Yes.

Kelly Decker:

Discussion? All in favor?

*Chorus of Ayes*

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? *Silence* So carried. And number two, the purchase of two fire engines and one light rescue vehicle. Do I have a motion?

Tim Simmons:

I move.

Stan Siegel:

Second.

Kelly Decker:

Motion by Mr. Simmons second by Mr. Siegel. Discussion? All in favor?

*Chorus of Ayes.*

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? *Silence* So carried. A number three. This is on the Storm wastewater engineering for the reservoir runoff. Do I have a motion.

Lisa Randazzo:

I move.

Kelly Decker:

A motion by Mrs. Randazzo? Do I have a second?

Gerald Oney:

Second.

Kelly Decker:

Second by Mr. Oney. Discussion? All in favor? Oh, I'm sorry Maria, go ahead.

Maria Mann:

Thank you, Mayor. I just have a general question. If the City is awarded any of these federal grants that we are applying for, does it come back to the Council for an additional vote? So, for whatever percentage that the City has to match for funding. So, these right now, we're just given approval to

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submit the application and once approved, they come back and they say, okay, the City's responsible to pay this percentage amount. Is that how it works?

Kelly Decker:

Valerie, I'll let you speak to that.

Valerie Maginsky:

Yes. Referring to the resolution, the third, whereas says if awarded and it is feasible to accept a particular grant, the City will contribute any required local share.

Maria Mann:

Necessary to implement the grant. I have it. And I have that highlighted actually. So I just wanted clarification Valerie. I didn't mean to interrupt, but I did want clarification. So, it will come back to the Council for final approval to go. Is that how it works?

Valerie Maginsky:

Correct.

Maria Mann:

Okay.

Valerie Maginsky:

Yeah, it would.

Maria Mann:

Thank you.

Kelly Decker:

Any other questions? All in favor?

*Chorus of Ayes*

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? *Silence* So carried. Thank you. And for number four, and this is on the City waste for rehabilitation. Do I have a motion?

Regis Foster:

I move.

Kelly Decker:

Mr. Foster. Do I have a second?

Gerry Oney:

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Second.

Kelly Decker:

Second by Mr. Oney. Discussion? All in favor?

*Chorus of Ayes*

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? *Silence* So carried. Okay folks, that's all I have for you. Valerie, again I can't thank you enough for the work you have done along with Will, Jim and Jack. It's certainly appreciated, and we thank you.

Maria Mann:

Thank you, Valerie great job.

Kelly Decker:

Thank you. Thank you, Maria. Moving forward. Thank you.

Tim Simmons:

Excellent work Val.

Kelly Decker:

I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Lisa Randazzo:

So moved.

Kelly Decker:

Motion by Mrs. Randazzo. Second by?

Stan Siegel:

Second.

Kelly Decker:

Second by Mr. Siegel. Discussion? All in favor?

*Chorus of Ayes*

Kelly Decker:

Opposed? *Silence* So carried. Thank you. Have a great night everybody.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 pm.

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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