

Special Council Meeting June 24, 2021

The special council meeting of the City of Port Jervis Common Council was held via zoom, 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York on Monday June 24th, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Attendance –

All members of the Common Council were present except Chandler Campbell. Also, present were City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller, Valerie Maginsky and James Farr.

Kelly Decker: Good evening everybody. It is Thursday, June 24th, 2021. It is 7:05 PM. I'll call the special meeting of the Common Council to order. Please rise for the pledge. I have a flag right here.

Audience: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Timothy Simmons: God Bless America.

Kelly Decker: Thank you. I will entertain a motion to go into executive session with the chief, and this is regarding hiring and promotions for the police department with your pleasure.

Regis Foster: So, moved.

Lisa Randazzo: Second.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Mr. Foster. Second by Ms. Randazzo. Discussion. All in favor.

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed. So, carried. I'm going to stop recording-

Kristin Trovei: Are we doing roll call first, or no?

Kelly Decker: No.

Kristin Trovei: After?

Kelly Decker: Yes.

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:05 pm.

Kelly Decker: Okay. It is 7:40 PM. June 24th. This meeting is being recorded via Zoom. I need to do a roll call first. So, I Mayor Kelly Decker present, Ms. Randazzo.

Lisa Randazzo: Councilman-At-Large Lisa Randazzo present.

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Kelly Decker: Mr. Foster.

Regis Foster: Councilman 1st Ward present, Regis Foster.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Santini.

Dominick Santini: Dominick Santini, Councilman 1st Ward present.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Mann.

Maria Mann: Maria Mann, 2nd Ward Council present.

Kelly Decker: Chandler's not here, correct?

Dominick Santini: No.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Trovei.

Kristin Trovei: Kristin Trovei 3rd Ward Council, present.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Oney.

Gerald Oney Jr.: Gerald Oney, Councilman 3rd Ward, present.

Kelly Decker: Mr. Siegel.

Stanley Siegel: Stan Siegel 4th Ward Councilman, present.

Kelly Decker: And Mr. Simmons.

Timothy Simmons: Tim Simmons 4th Ward Council, present.

Kelly Decker: Okay. All right. So, the first order of business that we have, and-

Timothy Simmons: Mayor.

Kelly Decker: Yes, sir.

Timothy Simmons: Don't we need a motion to come out of executive session?

Kelly Decker: Oh, thank you. I'll entertain a motion to come out of executive session.

Timothy Simmons: So, moved.

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Kelly Decker: And motion by Mr. Simmons, do I have a second?

Regis Foster: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mr. Foster. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? So, carried. Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Okay. As far as the EFC application, you were all emailed the resolution of the Common Council regarding authorization, execution of engineering services agreed for this CWSRF project. I will read this resolution.

Kelly Decker: Whereas, by Resolutions adopted on April 12, 2021, the Common Council authorized City officials, departments and the City's Engineer to make a Finance application to the NYSEFC by the deadline of June 25, 2021 in preparation to close on the \$20 million interest-free loan package that was offered in a NYSEFC Hardship Assistance Commitment Letter dated January 10, 2019 to fund the City's NYS CWSRF I&I Correction Project No. 5396-03-00; and

Whereas, the City's Engineer, James Farr of Farr Engineering, has been planning the CWSRF I&I Correction Project, and he already has undertaken a considerable amount of the I&I corrective actions by using Community Development Block Grant funding; and

Whereas, it is an advantageous for the City to continue to use the services of Farr Engineering to plan and implement the CWSRF - funded Project;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Common Council hereby approves the terms of the Short Form of Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services, dated June 24, 2021, and a copy is attached to these resolutions; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor or his designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the City of Port Jervis at least two originals of the attached Engineering Services Agreement; and the City Clerk shall retain at least one fully executed agreement for the City Clerk's records and shall make copies of the Agreement as needed for the CWSRF application process.

Kelly Decker: That being said, I'll entertain a motion to accept that contract.

Regis Foster: So, moved.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Mr. Foster. Do I have a second?

Gerald Oney Jr.: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mr. Oney. Discussion?

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Stanley Siegel: Was he the lowest bidder?

Kelly Decker: Yeah, I believe so. Yeah, it was the regular rate that we... I think it's an extremely low rate.

Stanley Siegel: And he was the one bidder?

Kelly Decker: Yes. There's no bidding for it.

Stanley Siegel: We just appointed him? Okay, thank you.

Kelly Decker: Anybody else? All right, all in favor?

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? So, carried. That would be one absent, okay Bobbie Jo. Okay. The next one, Mr. Foster, hiring and promotions for police department.

Regis Foster: Yes. At this time, I would like to make a motion to hire six patrolmen, and they are Nick Osowick , Robert Breault, Megan Ede, Jennifer Tolentino, Conner Decker and Tyler Wagner.

And this is going to be contingent upon passing their background checks. That's for fingerprints, psychological and medical checks as well. And this will be a probationary period to be effective starting July 8th. And make that a motion.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion-

Maria Mann: So, moved.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Mr. Foster, Second by Ms. Mann. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? So, carried. Thank you.

Regis Foster: Then also at this time, I'd like to make a motion for the hiring of a Sergeant, Daniel Mioglionico.

Kelly Decker: Effective?

Regis Foster: Effective July 1st.

Kelly Decker: And this is also a probationary period?

Regis Foster: Probationary period, yes.

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Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Mr. Foster. Can I have a second?

Maria Mann: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Ms. Mann. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? So, carried. Thank you.

Regis Foster: Thank you.

Kelly Decker: You have seen an approval by our attorney for me to sign the contract between Orange Ulster BOCES. This is a summer youth program; this will be the ninth year that summer program has been here in Port Jervis. What's your pleasure?

Regis Foster: So, moved.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Mr. Foster. Do I have a second?

Gerald Oney Jr.: Second.

Kelly Decker: Second by Mr. Oney. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? So, carried. Thank you.

Kelly Decker: And the last thing that I have on the agenda is from Mr. Faggione. He is making these following requests for the 2021 seasonal personnel. He wants to remove Austin Wilson as the Senior Recreation Leader and appoint him as a Recreation Leader and a Recreation Specialist, and as a Beach Attendant. Number two, appoint Harry Tomasi as the Recreation Specialist (Beach Attendant). Number three, appoint Gary Smith as a Senior Recreation Leader. And number four, appoint Braeden Ross, Andrew Tomasi and Emma Maley as lifeguards. These three were approved at the June 14th Common Council meeting, contingent on them passing their lifeguard certification courses, which they all successfully passed on Saturday, June 19th. What's your pleasure?

Timothy Simmons: So, moved.

Regis Foster: Second.

Kelly Decker: I have a motion by Mr. Simmons. I have a second by Mr. Foster. Discussion? All in favor.

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Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed? So, carried.

Kelly Decker: Ms. Gallagher, we have no other further business to conduct. Since you are on, and you were part of the EFC, did you have anything that you needed to add?

Carole Gallagher: Can you see me? Can you hear me?

Kelly Decker: No. We can hear you, but we can't see you.

Carole Gallagher: I'm not sure why. Oh, okay. Start video. Now you can see me.

Okay. Just for your information, it's not that everything isn't done or started or almost finished, I sent a quick email to everybody of what I need from the Clerk, what I need... And it doesn't mean I don't have some things or... It's just a list. So, we got a checklist, okay? What I need from the mayor, what I need from the Clerk and where it comes from. What I need for tomorrow is the finance application completed and signed by the mayor. And I need to see it before it goes, okay?

And I need the documents for the bond resolution. So, I need a certified copy of the bond resolution, and I need that abstract of minutes that the Common Council had sent, that gets certified also. And if the notice was published and you got something back from the Times Herald Record, then I need that too. If you haven't gotten anything back from the newspaper yet, then they just have to wait.

Carole Gallagher: Those are the things that I need the most for tomorrow.

Kelly Decker: Okay.

Carole Gallagher: There are other submissions on that list that are trying to give you everything that's needed, right? But they don't have to be in tomorrow.

Kelly Decker: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Muller, just, if you have any questions, please get ahold of Ms. Gallagher so that we make sure that we have that tomorrow. I will be available for you after 11:00 to sign that.

Carole Gallagher: Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Okay. Thank you, Carole. Valerie, did you have anything to add?

Valerie: No, if that's what Carole says we just need Jim's contract signed tonight. We'll do some copies and then I'll catch up with Jim tomorrow.

Kelly Decker: He's already signed on. So, I'll just sign it. Yep, we're good. We have Jim's.

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Carole Gallagher: Good. It's coming together. It's not going to be a problem.

Kelly Decker: Okay.

Carole Gallagher: As long as we get the finance application completed, we're really in very good shape.

Kelly Decker: Thank you for all your work. I've seen a bazillion emails in the last couple of weeks. Thank you.

Carole Gallagher: Okay. So, should I sign off?

Kelly Decker: Yeah, you can. Thank you, Carole.

Carole Gallagher: Thank you. All right. Good night, everyone.

Audience: Goodnight.

Kelly Decker: Council, any other problems?

James Farr: All right. So, I'm not sure if everyone has been downtown today, but the hotel project did start today. They are doing some excavation. There are some items that they still need to complete to really start with what they're doing, but there is going to be a lot of activity down there. Starting probably next Tuesday with drilling of the piles. The site is restricted. Nobody's allowed on-site except the building department or anybody that contacts us that wants to take a look at the site. So, if there is some reason why you feel you need to be onsite, please get a hold of me or Laurie, and we will let you in there.

There is safety equipment, hard hats, vests, et cetera, that is required to be on site. We are still working through some of the procedural items with the contractor. They did retain a project manager that I spoke with last night. They only retained them yesterday. Myself and Jack met down there with him this afternoon at about 2:00. So, there's a lot of coordination going on, but there is going to be ongoing activity.

If you or your constituents have any questions or comments about what's going on? Yeah, just please let me know. It's going to be a very difficult project, but we just want to minimize any rumors or innuendos or Facebook stuff. So, if you have a question, just call me directly, please.

Kelly Decker: Thank you.

Maria Mann: Jim I have a question for you.

James Farr: Sure.

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Maria Mann: May I? In the past with other projects that went on, even throughout the city, not just downtown. Wherever the project may be happening, do you know if some of the local businesses are notified a few days before? Like, "Hey, this is going to be going on. So just be aware, if there's traffic or if this part of the street may be closed." Maybe the businesses nearby that are affected could just have a heads up. I mean, it's done throughout the city for other projects so that would be a nice little... just for some of the businesses downtown, because I'm contacted frequently as you know. So maybe if they get it from the department or I don't know if you have a Nixle or...

James Farr: We have tried with them. I was very happy. I got a call last night from somebody that I've worked with in the past that has been retained as their project manager. Like I said, Jack and I spoke with them today. We went over some of the things that they had agreed to as part of the Planning Board process that he was not aware of. So, I asked him to meet with Cory and with Martin, and the two developers, to make sure that they're aware of what they're allowed to do and what they're not allowed to do. And if there's things that the developers agree to do that are not technically feasible to let us know.

And either it might be a decision that could be made at my level, it might be a decision that might have to go back to the Planning Board. For example, they were very concerned about being able to back down tractor trailers down Front Street. They don't think that that's a feasible way to do it. I said, you guys need to figure this out, but at least we were talking to somebody now that has a construction background.

Maria Mann: That's great to hear.

James Farr: So, hopefully we will be able to work through those things and get more communication. Cory did send out letters to adjoining property owners. Not as far as your place, but within about, I don't know, 200 feet in terms of drilling the piles. Their engineer's been out there. I don't have the report yet of the pre-construction drillings, but they did do vibration analysis a couple of weeks ago out there so that they have some background on what the vibration is going to be. So I think we are getting there with them in terms of the level of expertise that they're going to need to have on this project site. And someone to be able to talk to. Nothing against developers, but they're not builders. There's only someone-

Maria Mann: If Chandler and myself can be included just because we are... I mean, we're represented as our Ward. I mean, we represent the entire city, but more so, we have our constituents and business owners within our district. And we don't need to know every little detail, but when we're contacted, if we just have even just a piece of the puzzle, where we'll... we don't always have to say, we're unsure, we have to get the information and take time away from you and your schedule. So it's...

James Farr: Well, what I told the project manager today, and we've been asking for this since we had the pre-construction meeting a month ago is we'll be setting a time up for a conference call. It might start out to be once a week, and then it might be once every other week so that everybody knows what the schedule is going to be.

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Maria Mann: Okay.

James Farr: And I will invite you, Chandler and whoever else wants to be on that call so that we know what we call the lookout is going to be, what's the schedule going to be for the next week and what the next two weeks are going to be. So that I know, Jack knows, the chief knows, the fire department knows, here's what's going to be going on in the next week or two weeks. And obviously there's daily conversations that go on, but we'll know what the big picture is going to be. And once they set that up and we set a time up, there will be a calling number and you and Chandler and everybody else who wants to join in to listen in to say, "Okay, here's what our two-week lookout period is. Here's what the issues are." Some of the technical issues, you may or may not care about, but "Here's where we're going to be in the next two weeks, and here's what's going to happen. Here's where the streets are going to be impacted, et cetera."

Maria Mann: Sounds good.

Kelly Decker: Anything else?

Stanley Siegel: Yes. Jim I would like to have the contact information of the project manager if I could.

James Farr: I can get that to you, Stan.

Stanley Siegel: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Kelly Decker: Okay, any other business?

Lisa Randazzo: Mayor, I just have a quick question and I realize we're on a special council meeting. This wasn't a topic that was listed, nor is it necessary to discuss it in detail. My question being, if... Are we setting this precedent for all construction that's going on in town? Cause then it seems like we're going to be invited to everything from the Cornerstone project to Bon Secours to... I'm just concerned that, where does that fine line lie of what we're to be doing versus... I understand, my thought is that we're going to get this information that's going to come from the building official's office, if we should have concerns and or special notifications. Just putting that out there that those would be my concerns as a council person. I'd appreciate it, Jim, if you keep us informed, but it's not my job to do your job. Thanks.

Maria Mann: I agree with you Lisa, I'm not asking to sit in on any conferences, just like I said, a Nixle or some type of alert or notification-

Lisa Randazzo: Yeah, no I agree with that Maria, I just-

Maria Mann: Lisa, just because that we get people contact us with questions and concerns, even when the power's out, or the internet's out. So just as simple alert, a Nixle alert, a notification to some of the residents that live downtown, some of the businesses, okay. Some were contacted, maybe some more should have been contacted. I am no way...

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Maria Mann: The department heads need to do their job. They're doing it well; I'm not questioning that. I don't need to sit in on a conference. If I am invited, I attend. I attend as many meetings as possible, so I'm good with just the alerts.

Lisa Randazzo: Okay.

Kelly Decker: Well, I think we can end it there, we understand, and I think Mr. Farr understands.

Maria Mann: Thank you.

Kelly Decker: Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Regis Foster: So, moved.

Kristin Trovei: Motion to adjourn.

Kelly Decker: Motion by Mr. Foster, second by Ms. Trovei. Discussion? All in favor?

Audience: Aye.

Kelly Decker: Opposed?

Kelly Decker: So, carried, thank you everybody.

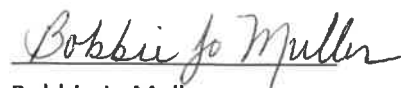
Maria Mann: Goodnight everyone.

James Farr: Goodnight.

Stanley Siegel: Goodnight.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on June 28th, 2021, in-person in Council Chambers City Hall 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York.



Bobbie Jo Muller
City Clerk Treasurer