

CITY OF PORT JERVIS

P.O. BOX 1002
20 HAMMOND STREET
PORT JERVIS, NEW YORK 12771



Code Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 7th, 2023 at 6:30PM

Members: Mr. Simmons (Chairman) Mrs. Mann, Ms. Miller

Also Present – Mayor Decker, Mr. Foster, Mr. Livingston, Ms. Newhauser, Mr. Steele (P/T Building Dept employee)

Mr. Rivera – Not Present
Mr. Siegel arrived at 6:35PM

Public Comment:

Jean Moore, Matamoras resident, spoke in favor of the CBD store, shared her experiences, and stated the business is an asset to the city.

Brett, Port Jervis resident, also spoke in favor of the CBD store.

Mr. Simmons dispelled some of the rumors regarding the council's intentions. He stated that the council's intention was to get a better idea of how the businesses are being ran and his major concern is the known gifting of cannabis otherwise known as dispensing. Mr. Simmons also voiced concerns regarding the unknown source of the cannabis product.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion by Mrs. Mann, seconded by Mr. Siegel to approve the June 7th, 2023, Code Committee meeting minutes.

AYE: 4 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Public Hearing: None

Executive Session: None

New Business:

Cannabis Moratorium – Mayor Decker explained the moratorium process and ensured the public that the city was not looking to shut any businesses down. He stated the city had received multiple complaints and a discussion needed to be had.

Katrina, Port Jervis CBD owner, explained the license process and discussed her consulting practices.

Committee and members of the community had a lengthy conversation. They discussed stigma, public perception, nuisance fire alarms, the gifting of marijuana and rezoning conditions.

Katrina stated she feels she has been harassed by Mr. Rivera, Building Official, for an unknown reason. She explained her end goal is to follow all procedures and laws to ensure she can obtain a dispensary license when eligible.

Devin York stated that he has attempted to make 4 formal complaints against Mr. Rivera directly to the mayor's office with no success. He claimed Mr. Rivera whipped out his wallet and stated that we can take care of this right now.

Mr. Steele said that the allegations were not true, while Mr. York said he had the incident on camera. Mr. Siegel stated he would like to see the footage of said event.

Another mentioned Mr. Rivera's wife had visited the store to spy on operations. They feel harassed, as Mr. Rivera drives by multiple times a day starring.

Mr. Siegel stated he voted for the sale of CBD not for the dispensing of marijuana.

Mrs. Newhauser suggested more outreach to educate the public on CBD and the possible benefits.

PJ CBD owner stated that High Falls Hemp, out of New Paltz, NY, is the source of their products.

Ms. Miller added that not having the proper license is making the council uneasy as they have not received guidance on the state or federal level.

Old Business:

Zone changes for mountain and water district-

Mr. Simmons will follow up with corporation counsel.

Accident Policy-

Mr. Simmons will follow up with the Labor Attorney. Policy needs to flow through both unions.

Hotel, Motel, Bed & Breakfast, Airbnb -

Proposed law would allow a 29-night stay maximum. No return for 15 days after a 29-night stay. Violation fine of \$5,000.00 per day.

Green Space -

Mr. Simmons will have corporation counsel write a resolution to present to the counsel.

Elimination of electrical reciprocity -

Mr. Simmons will follow up with Mr. Rivera.

Mr. Siegel would like the committee to consider moving Mr. Rivera back into the Building Department office.

Mayor replied that they are waiting on court transcripts.

Mr. Siegel stated the building office is out of control, he doesn't want to attend daily morning meetings anymore, the union president didn't have an issue from the union side & without supervision he doesn't feel the job is getting done.

Mr. Siegel would like Mr. Rivera to inspect the collapsed garage on Barcelow St/Seward Ave.

Building Official Report: Mr. Steele provided updates.

Mr. Steele addressed the allegation regarding Mr. Rivera asking for a bribe. He feels the individual that made the claim should provide proof or publicly retract the statement.

Mr. Siegel agreed.

Mr. Simmons replied that the accusation will be addressed at the August Code meeting with Mr. Rivera present.

Fire Inspector Report: No report given.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Motion by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Siegel to adjourn the meeting at 7:58PM.

AYE: 4 ABSENT: 0 NAY: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Next scheduled meeting will be held August 2nd, 2023, at 6:30PM