

March 22, 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 March 22nd, 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 Chandler Campbell. Also present were City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger, Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Bobbie Jo Muller and Deputy City Counsel Stephanie Tunic. Meeting opened at 6:30 pm by Mayor Kelly Decker.

Executive Session –

There was no Executive Session.

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law #2 – Amendment to the Dangerous Dog Law Chapter 215 Sub section 1 section E

A motion was made to open the public hearing by Dominick Santini and seconded by Gerald Oney.

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

Mr. Santini reviewed the law. There was no public comment. Mr. Simmons stated that he thought this was a good step based on an incident that he witnessed. Mr. Siegel concurred.

A motion was made to close the public hearing by Dominick Santini and seconded by Lisa Randazzo.

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

For the Good of the City (Public Comment) –

Frank Stefan, 4th Ward, he indicated the hard work and compromise on the budget this year was appreciated. He now encouraged a sense of urgency in dealing with the annexation as the City needs expansion and better paying jobs. He also expensed concerns regarding infrastructure repair and the condition of the underpass. He also expressed his concern that the annexation should help with regard to having to raise taxes by having economic growth.

The Mayor indicated that it has been unfortunate that the process was slowed by the pandemic and he is working to get that back on track. Mayor Decker also noted that DOT has inspected the underpass and we are awaiting their report as well as a report on exactly what entity is responsible for repair and whether that would be the railroad, City or DOT. Additionally, the Mayor stated that as the federal relief funds are beginning to come that there will be a second round for infrastructure and that we are awaiting details on those funds. He indicated that the City is looking at various projects for those funds.

Ms. Barbara Marselak – She stated that she is advocating again for taxpayers who cannot afford the taxes increasing \$100-\$200 per month. She is asking for the City to provide relief funds to citizens that have to pay 75 million dollars in taxes. The City Clerk Treasurer immediately corrected her indicating that the taxes total approximately 7 million which includes re-levied items for other city delinquent charges. Again, she advocated for programs, funds and grants to help citizens in financial duress and advocated that the City use their crisis fund to do so.

Ms. Marselak then noted that the police recently made a large drug bust which she believes that something simple like increased lighting in the fourth ward would help.

The Mayor indicated that if anyone is paying \$100-\$200 per month more in City taxes there is something seriously wrong with their tax bill and he advised that they bring their bill into the Assessor or City Clerk for review and correction.

The Mayor also indicated that there is no such thing as a crisis fund and that she may be confusing that with the fund balance account which is not for use in that manner. He also indicated that grant funds are for very specific purposes and are mostly

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related to equipment and property. There are no generalized grants for the City to hand out. Most of those types of funds are in the hands of NYS and they actually take monies from us to fund those. The City did have to use monies from its fund balance related to the pandemic for City operations which he believes she is calling the crisis funds but those are for City operations.

The Mayor referenced the drug bust and that with respect to lighting the process of replacing streetlights with brighter LED bulbs it is in ongoing by Orange & Rockland, but they also got delayed by the pandemic. Orange & Rockland is supposed to replace 20 fixtures per year and they are about a full year behind in this process.

Mr. Ed DeGroat – He stated that at the last meeting Mr. Frank stated that he would get back to him regarding the excavator he complained out. As Mr. Frank was not present Deputy Counsel Stephanie Tunic said she would follow-up with him on behalf of Mr. DeGroat.

Minutes Approved - A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the March 8th, 2021 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the minutes of the March 11th, 2021 special meeting.

AYE: 6 ABSENT: 1 (Campbell) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 2 (Oney, Santini)

A motion was made by Dominick Santini and seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the March 15th, 2021 special meeting.

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 1 (Campbell) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 3 (Siegel, Simmons, Trovei)

The Mayor did a presentation of a City Sun Catcher to Trevor Vicchiariello, a city resident, who at the age of 11 has written and published his first cookbook. Trevor participated in the summer Little Chefs program through our recreation department and by participating in cooking classes at a local eatery, Foundry 42. Trevor indicated that he was inspired by his grandparents and family who has many good chefs. Trevor also indicated that he will be having a book signing on 4/24 at Foundry 42 from 1pm until done and that his book is now available on Amazon and it is called Trevor's Tasty Triumphs.

Business:

Mr. Foster – A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded Dominick Santini to approve the DWI program as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Port Jervis Common Council is desirous of participating in an annual STOP DWI enforcement wave and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange makes available funding for same

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis hereby authorizes and delegates the authority to Chief of Police William J. Worden to sign and execute contracts with the County of Orange to accept grant funding and participate in STOP DWI Enforcement deployments through the STOP DWI Program and Expanded Waves administered in 2021.

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

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Gerald Oney to approve the February Police Committee Minutes.

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

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the March Police Committee Minutes.

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

Mr. Foster then reviewed the highlights of the March minutes.

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

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He read the Division of Criminal Justice Services certification that that City Police Department is eligible to receive Federal Grants for the next 3 years.

Mr. Foster indicated that our police department will be doing the U Drive U Text U Pay enforcement wave from 4/8-4/12.

He also indicated that the police department is co-sponsoring a drive-thru pop-up food pantry from 11am -2pm @ Riverside Park.

The next ADA meeting will be 4/5/21 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Foster expressed wishes to all for a good Passover and happy Easter.

Mr. Santini – Mr. Santini reported that the Code Committee has not met since our last council meeting and their next meeting is April 7th at 6pm.

A motion was made by Dominick Santini and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve Local Law #2 of 2021 amending the dangerous dog law.

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

Ms. Campbell – absent – The Mayor read the recreation update on behalf of Ms. Campbell as follows:

1. The Easter Candy Dash at Church St. Park will be held on Saturday April 3 at 11 am and 12 pm. The Easter Candy Dash is for kids ages 9 and under. Kids will "DASH" for candy. We will hold an event at 11 am and then another one at 12 pm. You register for one OR the other- not both. We are doing 2 separate events to keep our congregation numbers low and follow COVID restrictions. This schedule is subject to change based on any modified restrictions. Contact the Recreation office at 845-858-4045 or recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov to sign up.
2. SPRING CLEAN-UP will be held on Saturday April 10, 2021 at 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed to help us clean up the parks from the winter and help prepare them for the spring and summer months. We are planning to clean Church St. Park, Farnum Park and Veteran's Park. Help is needed. This is a great community service event! Contact the Recreation office at 845-858-4045 or recreationdirector@portjervisny.gov to sign up.
3. The Delaware River 5K Run/Walk is back! This year's race will be held on Sunday May 2, 2021 at 9:00 am at Riverside Park. You can register on-line at www.delawareriver5krun.com. SORRY- there will no paper registration and no race day registration this year.
 - due to COVID restrictions the event is limited to 150 athletes. This number may increase if COVID restrictions are lessened. But register early to secure you spot!
 - walkers will start at 0845
 - runners will start at 0900
 - masks are required to be worn at all times when on the event site. You may take off your mask after you start. You must put your mask back on as soon as you finish.

REMEMBER- there will not be any race day registration this year. You can register on-line at www.delawareriver5krun.com or at raceroster.com just search Delaware River 5K Run and you will be directed to our registration page.

4. **Spring is here and parks are reopened for the season. PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE THE TRASH CANS FOR ALL GARBAGE AND WHERE PETS ARE ALLOWED- THE DOG YARD, THE MIKE MCCARTHY WALKWAY, THE D & H TRAIL AND THE WATERSHED TRAILS- PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER THEM. We have already had a mess to clean up at the Church St. Park basketball courts this morning and we have been cleaning up dog waste along our trails as well. There is NO EXCUSE for litter or dog waste on the ground! Thank you.**

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5. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday March 24 at 6 pm at the Youth Center.

Ms. Mann- She noted that the IDA has not met, and currently have no meetings scheduled due to lack of business.

The Tourism Committee will meet next on 4/14 at 7pm. She noted that at their meeting on March 10th the date for next year's St. Patrick's Day Parade was set as 3/6/2022. She announced that the City-Wide Yard Sale is planned for May 1st with advertising deadline of 4/2 and for location listings on the map deadline is 4/9. For more information, please contact via email bob.bloomer@outlook.com.

Mr. Oney – He noted that garbage pickup is on its normal schedule for the next two weeks, the leaf and brush pile will open beginning on 4/3 on Saturdays from 7:15-11:30 and yard debris pickup will begin on 4/5. Mr. Oney noted that the DPW has begun using the street sweeper to clean up the debris left from the winter season.

The next DPW meeting will be 4/5/2021 at 6pm in Council Chambers.

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Regis Foster to decline a waiver of turn on/turn off fees for a water customer who submitted a request for same.

Mr. Siegel questioned if the owner knew of the fees. The Mayor indicated that the letter indicated that he claimed not to know of the fees. Mrs. Waizenegger indicated that all staff are very well versed in informing residents of the fees when services are ordered. Mr. Siegel thanked her for the information and Mr. Oney indicated that the water on the property has been shut off and on previously and was charged the fees then as well.

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

Mrs. Trovei – She noted that the CDA and Finance have not met since the last Council meeting.

The next CDA meeting will be 3/24 and they will still be meeting remotely by Zoom at 7pm.

The finance committee's next meeting is 3/24/2021 6pm.

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to pay the bills totaling \$495,076.84.

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

Mrs. Trovei indicated that the tax bills have been mailed out, but that while City Hall is open to accept payment the use of the mailing payments or using the drop box is still encouraged due to social distancing and covid protocols.

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

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.

Mr. Siegel reminded firefighters that annual physicals will be given at Hose #4 on 3/29 and 3/31 for internal firefighters, scuba divers and drivers from 5:30 to 7:00pm each evening. He also asked that everyone download and fill out their forms before they come to save time.

He thanked Jamie Rohner for conducting the CPR Classes for the Fire Department and thanked everyone who participated in the Sausage & Pepper take-out event.

Mr. Siegel reminded all veterans of the medical services available at Castle Point, Montrose and locally to them and noted that the overnight warming station will be shutting down on 3/31/2021. He wished all a happy Passover and Easter season.

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Ms. Randazzo – A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Maria Mann to allow the finance committee to advertise the position of City Clerk Treasurer.

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

Ms. Mann inquired how it was to be advertised. Mrs. Waizenegger indicated that as the newspaper is no longer circulating widely, they have an internet-based job platform available and use of other postings will be used. She also indicated that the best recruitment usually is done personally by people telling those who they know are qualified about the position.

For the Good of the City (Public Comment) – Mr. Patrick Murray gave an impassioned speech about rising taxes, drug crimes and problematic absentee landlords in the City of Port Jervis combined with his personal experiences. He also expressed that he considers it his role to speak up for those who will not do it themselves and give back to the community.

Mayor Kelly Decker – The Mayor requested motions for several City documents requiring adoption that have been developed internally and through committees along with legal guidance.

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Regis Foster to adopt the City Public Health Emergency Operations Plan.

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

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Regis Foster to adopt the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan which is the final version after revisions from public comment at the special Council meeting that was held on March 15th, 2021.

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

The Mayor thanked all of the citizens that participated on the committee and Valerie Maginsky for all of the work in compiling the plan.

Mayor Decker wished all a happy Passover and Easter.

Meeting Adjourned – A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Regis Foster to adjourn.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on April 12th, 2021 in-person at Council Chambers City Hall 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York.

Robin Waizenegger
City Clerk Treasurer