

July 27, 2020

**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 July 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Present were All members of the Common Council except Council members Chandler Campbell and Dominick Santini.

**Pledge of Allegiance-**

The Mayor Kelly Decker opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance

**Executive Session** – A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Gerald Oney to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of discussion on:

- 30 East Main Street (Operations) – Section 105 f
- 148-150 Hammond (Easement)– 105f
- 3 White Street (Fee Reduction Request) – 105f
- 181 Pike Street (Fee Reduction Request) – 105f
- Contractual Buy-Back – 105f
- 100 Pike St Solar Permit Fees Waiver – 105f
- 9 Cross Street (Fee Reduction Request) – 105f
- Salary Agreement CSEA

plus, other items as necessary for review and legal advice from corporation counsel. An invitation was extended to City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger to also attend.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 2(Campbell, Santini) NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

Adjourned to Executive session at 6:47pm

**Attendance** Councilman Dominick Santini arrived during executive session.

Reconvened from Executive session at 7:09pm by motion of Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Timothy Simmons

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

The Mayor noted that they reconvened a bit early so they will take care of some minor business and begin the public hearing at 7:15 per the original schedule.

The Mayor invited the City Clerk Treasurer to address the tax lien sale. She indicated that the notices dated July 1<sup>st</sup> were mailed by first class and certified mail. Any property where we did not get confirmation of delivery by certified mail to the property owners who have delinquent 2019 property taxes we have physically posted the property. She did an overview of the full 2-year tax lien sale process and offered written description of same to the public. She noted that this meeting is the opportunity for any property owner who has additional questions to ask the Council or air any concerns.

**Minutes Approved** - A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Dominick Santini to approve the minutes of the July 13th, 2020 regular meeting.

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

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Regis Foster to approve the minutes of the July 18th, 2020 special meeting.

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

**Executive Session Material** – It was noted by Mayor Decker that the Council will not consider the requests regarding fee waivers for 3 White Street, 181 Pike Street and 9 Cross Street.

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo to approve an easement request at 148-150 Hammond Street for the Cornerstone Healthcare offices for their entry way, seconded by Stanley Siegel.

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

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The City attorney stated that he will verify the particulars of the easement requirements.

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve a buy back agreement for the police department as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Port Jervis Common Council on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at their regular Council Meeting considered the fact that during the pandemic and in light of a recent incident that has required several officers to be placed on 207-c leave for an undetermined amount of time, there might be insufficient coverage within the Police Dept. to adequately staff in the event of absences. The Council gave the Police Chief the option to explore with his staff the possibility of re-scheduling vacation time that is scheduled and/or consider the possibility of buying back the time if it cannot be re-scheduled at a later date and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief of Police has worked with his police officers regarding the rescheduling of time off and is presenting to the Council a list of time that has not been rescheduled for authority to make payment to said officers to “buy-back” that time as follows:

Chief Worden	2 weeks vacation	04/6/20, 5/11/20		
LT Fitzpatrick	3 weeks vacation	05/04/20	06/01/20	06/08/20
Det Sgt Myers	1 week vacation	05/11/20		
Sgt Moscatiello	1 week vacation	04/06/20		
Sgt Worden	1 week vacation	04/13/20		
Det Mioglionico	1 -week Holiday at 40 hours	04/06/20		
Sgt Reilly	32 hours vacation	05/04/20		
Officer Dooley	1 -week Holiday at 40 hours	04/20/20		
Officer Mehedin	2 Paid Hoildays (16 Hours)	03/30/20		

**And WHEREAS**, all officers to be included in this “buy-back” arrangement have been informed that this is an action that cannot be used as setting any precedent in any future negotiations and does not establish a past practice for any future contractual negotiations or obligations.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Port Jervis approves the one-time buy back of benefit time that could not be rescheduled due to the needs and demands placed on the department related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

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

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Stanley Siegel to allow additional sick time donations for a DPW Employee #423 as an extension for another round of donations.

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

**Public Hearing - Local Law # 3 – Tax Cap Waiver**

A motion was made to re-open the public hearing for Local Law #3 by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo.

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

Kristin Trovei invited any member of the public to speak on this topic.

Mr. Jack Farr, DPW Director expressed his grave concern should the Council not approve the waiver as it will endanger our compliance with the DEC Consent order for sewer work, force layoffs and service cuts. He stated that not approving the waiver is to handcuff the City and he would prefer that the Council make the decisions in the budget process without this restriction.

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Mrs. Trovei noted that the passage of this Law does not prevent the Council from passing a budget within the cap limits, it rather is a safety measure to prevent punitive measures should we not be able to develop a budget within the cap limits. She informed the public that the 2% limit is not truly a 2% limit, but this year was dictated by the state to be 1.56%. She noted that current contractual obligations and vehicle financing, which all council members approved, will exceed that amount before we start planning.

Mrs. Trovei indicated that the city has suffered with decreased revenues due to the shutdown of the economy due to COVID 19. She provided to the public recent information about the revenue that Governor Cuomo will be reducing to the City for this year from sales tax to fund AIM which primarily benefits Towns and villages and reductions in Sales Tax to fund Aid to distressed hospitals which are all in the Metro New York city area. Again, she emphasized we cannot predict what additional cuts or unfunded mandates will come down from Albany to put our budget in further peril.

The City has facilities and building maintenance to continue. The City also has to be ready to respond to emergencies through the use of contingency funds and our fund balance but if we drive ourselves back into fiscal distress this will not be possible. The City previously was categorized in fiscal stress which we have worked our way out of over the past few years and she does not want to see us go backwards. She gave examples such as one unplanned demolition, increase in tipping fees or work for emergency storm repair that can send the budget plans into turmoil.

She expressed her opinion that the City has not in the past years been irresponsible in its budgeting practices. Mrs. Trovei stated that she feels the City is not overstaffed and that the staff are doing way more than they ever have before as well as doing their best to reduce costs to keep our finances stable. She also noted that the City is facing the rebuilding of our sewer system and needs to continue that effort.

Mayor Decker thanked Mrs. Trovei for her remarks. He stated that he believes that the further financial reductions threatened by NYS could bankrupt cities around New York State. He feels that the City of Port Jervis has been working hard to establish our financial solvency and he would like to see that continue without any additional impacts from the restrictions of the tax cap. He encouraged taxpayers to contact their legislatures to lobby for assistance to local municipalities by not compromising our revenues further. He also clarified that the passage of the waiver does not mean that we will go over a 2% increase to taxes, but it does put that control in our hands instead of the state and potential penalties.

Mr. Gerald Oney stated that this is a hot issue and also an unpopular option to increase taxes, but we need to approve the waiver for us to have control in our hands over our destiny and our budgets. He expressed that that is why he will be voting for this local law.

A motion was made to continue to close the public hearing by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Dominic Santini.

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

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Regis Foster to adopt Local Law #3.

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

Mrs. Trovei asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Siegel indicated that he feels that he cannot vote for the override due to the economic conditions of unemployment, potential evictions and hardships his constituents are experiencing and that they cannot afford any increases. He also indicated that he is not prepared to wait on this issue. He states that the vast majority of people who contact him are against the waiver so he must vote that way.

Mrs. Trovei questioned Mr. Siegel if he is ready with answers on how the City should close the gap between expenses and the reducing of revenues we are experiencing and that are yet to come to stay below 1.56%.

Mr. Siegel stated that it is tough and not easy so no, he does not have the answers other than with his experience in private industry to do more with less.

Mrs. Trovei indicated that it would be irresponsible to vote no without having some solutions as to how to be under the cap. She questioned him as to what services he would cut.

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Mr. Siegel answered by saying the vast majority of people that contacted him are against it. He stated that they will have to discuss all of this with the department heads to come up with ideas. He stated that he wanted hires that the City made previously to be part-time instead of full-time.

Mayor Decker asked him if he realizes that they would have to cut services.

Mr. Siegel said yes but that he wanted hires that the City made previously to be part-time instead of full-time. He also feels that maybe the State and Federal government will recognize the needs of small cities and change some of the cuts and actually print more money to provide to us.

Mrs. Trovei asked what services his constituents want cut, since he consistently refers to them.

Mr. Siegel stated that he will ask them.

Mrs. Randazzo stated that what a lot of the constituents are not aware of is the information discussed at the committee levels. She noted that at the last finance meeting Mrs. Waizenegger prepared materials on this subject and did a lengthy overview of the consequences of the tax cap over and above the actual percentage of tax increase. She also emphasized that the waiver does not mean that the Council will have huge tax increases as we have proven in the last few years by keeping the tax increase as close to 2% as possible.

A roll call vote was called:

Siegel – no	Simmons – no	Oney - yes	Randazzo – yes	Mann – no	Santini – yes
Foster – yes	Trovei – yes	Campbell – Absent			

AYE: 5 ABSENT: 1 (Campbell) NAYS: 3 ABSTAIN: 0 FAILED

Motion failed as a 60% majority of the Council is required for passage which would be 6 positive votes.

It was noted by legal counsel that should the Council so desire that the Law can be re-proposed at a later date prior to the adoption of the budget as the public hearing has already taken place that would not be necessary again.

#### **Public Hearing - Trenchless Sewer Project**

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Gerald Oney to open the public hearing on the trenchless sewer program.

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

Mrs. Valerie Maginsky, PJCD Director, indicated that this project was formerly known as the 2018 CDBG wastewater improvement project. She noted that this trenchless sewer re-lining program was proposed by the City engineer and the DPW director and is a great example of how the consultants and the staff for the City work together. This is the first time in NYS that this type of project is being done and has been funded. This sewer re-lining project is a substitute for the replacement of hard piping which was estimated to cost the City 110 million dollars to do. This relining project is now estimated to cost in totality approximately 3.3 million dollars for the 33 miles of sewer to be replaced utilizing city labor to do the work which also has never been done before and is another major cost savings to the overall project.

She detailed the future responsibilities from a financial perspective to obtain additional grants through increases in the water and sewer rates to meet minimum requirements for future funding. Mrs. Maginsky also emphasized the need to continue the work to satisfy our legal requirements.

She introduced DPW director Jack Farr who detailed the process and provided visual aids by displaying the liner material which gets heated inverted and inserted into the sewer then it is expanded with compressed air then cooled to form a completed hard liner which he also displayed. He indicated that by the end of this year the City expects to have 8000 feet, or 1.5 miles completed with a 6 to 8 man crew working full time. He indicated that we are one of only two cities that are doing the work ourselves as opposed to subcontracting it out which is a major cost savings in the millions of dollars. He indicated that due to the training required only a full-time crew is capable. While part-timers can provide minor assistance, they cannot on a regular and consistent basis do this type of work. To continue this project a cut in personnel would be detrimental to continuing the project.

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City Engineer James Farr commended the process and gave accolades to the DPW staff that are doing this project effectively and efficiently as well as dealing with complications that arise as on any construction process.

A motion was made to close the public hearing by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Kristin Trovei.

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

**For the Good of the City (Public Comment) –**

**Mr. Kurt Johnson** – Mr. Johnson as representative for Elske Enterprises noted the two-year lien process and wished to plead his case for a fee waiver for 9 Cross Street. He feels that anyone who buys a tax lien property should get leniency with respect to the vacant building fees.

Mayor Decker indicated that the Council did receive and review his written request and are of the position that they are not agreeable to entertaining such a waiver.

**Alphonse LeGree** - He stated that he was in receipt of a tax delinquency notice and with the information supplied earlier in the meeting now understands that as he does have some additional time, he feels he will be able to make payment before the sale. Mr. LeGree indicated that this was the first time that he has attended a Council meeting and is impressed with the work that this Council is doing.

**Cory Puopolo** – Mr. Puopolo stated that as the developer of a proposed hotel on Front Street he was here to propose that the City lease him part of the Promenade property temporarily during construction at the rate of \$400 per month. He proposes to use the property for the placement of a large dumpster during construction and is doing so to remove risk of putting dumpsters on the street. He stated that he will completely restore the property to its original state after construction. He noted that he is re-submitting his plans for final review next week.

**Bill Fiorvanti** – He stated that he is the Director of Economic Development for Orange County and wanted to be here in support of the development of the Front Street Hotel. He stated that Port Jervis needs this type of development to support the downtown redevelopment and the recreational offerings in our area to prevent economic leakage into Pennsylvania when tourists come to this area. He stated that he is here to support Mr. Puopolo's request and he hopes the City can work with him.

**Ms. Barbara Marsalek** – She detailed her work with the local charities, specifically Port Jervis Community Garden which makes produce available at 67 Ball Street every Wednesday and Thursday from 12-4pm based on availability. She also noted her work in the field of mental health with victims of addiction and trauma and wants to be a resource to our citizens to connect them to services and resources.

**Business:**

**Mr. Foster** – Mr. Foster reviewed the minutes of the last police committee meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Foster noted that the department issued its annual award and commendations.

Regis Foster made a motion to approve the minutes of that meeting, seconded by Kristin Trovei.

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

He then reviewed other statistics from the minutes and the June monthly Police report. He also noted the cancellation of many events including National Night Out.

The next Police committee meeting will be 8/20/2020 at 6pm.

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to approve the June monthly Police Report.

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

The ADA has not met since the last Council meeting and their next meeting is 8/3/2020 at 7pm.

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He also noted that during the pandemic while City hall was closed, the new handicapped ramp for front door access has been completed.

**Mr. Santini** – Mr. Santini noted that the Code Committee has not met since the last Council Meeting and the next Code committee meeting will be 8/5/2020 at 6pm.

**Ms. Campbell** - In Ms. Campbell's absence the Mayor gave the recreation update as follows:

1. The Youth Center and Church St. Playground Summer Program continues until Friday August 7, 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic this summer we are holding AM and PM sessions. Kids must be registered to attend the sessions.
2. The West End Beach schedule runs through August 16, 2020. Beach schedule is Monday-Thursday-Friday 12 pm- 6 pm and Weekends 11 am- 6 pm. There is a \$5 parking fee for non-residents on weekends. The beach is CLOSED on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The beach is also open at only a 50% capacity level this summer- due to the COVID pandemic. The beach will be closed beginning August 17.
3. This Wednesday July 29 PJ Rec and First Assembly of God Church will be holding a FREE Outdoor movie at Riverside Park. Movie is FROZEN 2 and will start at dusk- approximately 8 pm. All movie goers are expected to follow social distancing guidelines and have face masks on if social distancing is not possible. There are social distancing circles on the ground to sit in. Bathrooms will not be open. Bring a blanket or chairs, snacks and drinks and enjoy!
4. Rich Wilson will be performing live at Riverside Park on Thursday August 6, 2020. Concert will start at 7 pm. This is a free concert. All concert goers are expected to follow social distancing guidelines and have face masks on if social distancing is not possible. There are social distancing circles on the ground to sit in. Bathrooms will not be open.
5. Fireworks from Point Peter will be held on Labor Day weekend- Friday September 4, 2020! Show will start approximately 7:30- 7:45 pm. The band Side F/X will be playing live from Riverside Park at 6 pm prior to the fireworks. All attending will be expected to follow social distancing guidelines and have face masks on if social distancing is not possible. There are social distancing circles on the ground to sit in. Bathrooms will not be open.
6. The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 26, 2020 at 4:30 pm at the Youth Center.

**Ms. Mann**- She noted that Tourism committee met on July 14<sup>th</sup> and has made the decision to cancel the Fall Foliage event due to concerns regarding social distancing and the pandemic. They are still trying to consider holding the City-Wide Yard Sale in October. The next meeting of the Tourism Board will be 8/12/2020 at 6pm.

Ms. Mann noted that the IDA met on 7/20/2020 and that the board is looking for a candidate to fill a vacant seat on the board. The IDA is looking at the possibility of conducting its meetings on Zoom moving forward as opposed to television coverage. The Board also expressed concern about the lack of follow-up by the Orange County IDA regarding the proposals they brought to us last fall.

The next meeting of the IDA will be 8/17/2020 at 6pm

**Mr. Oney** –

Mr. Oney gave the DPW update as follows:

1. Garbage and Recycling will be on its normal schedule for the next two weeks.
2. Please be advised that O&R will be repaving the streets in the area of the substation work.
3. The City's bulk waste truck is available on Saturday mornings from 7:15am until 11:30 am. Dump passes must be purchased at the City Clerk's office located at 20 Hammond St. in Port Jervis from 8am to 5pm M-F.
4. Yard debris is being picked up on Monday, with overflow on Tuesday.
5. The DPW is currently doing paving preparation on East main Street from Kingston Avenue to the Middle School. Please be cautious driving through these areas.
6. The sewer relining project is on-going, and you will be notified as they come into your neighborhood. This week they will be doing relining on Hammond Street.
7. The next DPW meeting will take place on Monday August 3rd @ 6pm in the Council Chambers.

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A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Lisa Randazzo to classify the CDBG Sidewalk Project for the replacement of Pike street sidewalks as a type 2 action under SEQR.

The City attorney clarified that the council has the right to classify the project as a type 2 action under section 617.5 sections C1&2 and there will be no further action required.

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

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve a change order to the contract with Pantel for the traffic light at Hamilton and Kingston for \$6,800. It was noted that this was emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

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

A motion was made by Gerald Oney and seconded by Regis Foster to approve the purchase of an air compressor/trailer for \$49,500 based on the bids received for the sewer re-lining project.

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

**Mrs. Trovei** – She noted that the CDA met and reviewed Section 8 reports, finances and grants. It was noted that grants are slowing and will likely be limited for the remainder of 2021 & 2022. It has already been decided that there will be no CFA and no DRI awards next year.

The next meeting of the CDA will be 7/26/2020 and may be remote instead of in-person.

Mrs. Trovei noted that the finance committee met on 7/15/2020 where Mrs. Waizenegger did a detailed review of the tax cap but as the council voted it down this evening she will be looking forward to receiving all of the ideas for revenue production and cost cutting from those council members. She then reviewed the balance of the finance minutes which were sent to members via email prior to the meeting.

The next meeting will be August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

A motion was made to approve the July finance minutes by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Lisa Randazzo.

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

A motion was made by Kristin Trovei and seconded by Gerald Oney to pay the bills totaling \$724,844.92.

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

Mrs. Trovei gave an update from Operation PJ Pride on their Hits Our Community Campaign promoting positive places and persons in the Community that you love. Attach a photo and positive description to [Substancetaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:Substancetaskforce@gmail.com) or through their social media platforms by 8/3/2020. On August 4<sup>th</sup> a submission will be chosen from a hat and awarded a gift certificate.

**Mr. Simmons** - Mr. Simmons indicated that the Zoning board met on 7/7/2020. There were several public hearings with an approval of an area variance at 10 Culvert for a garage, an approval of a change in setback at 102 North Orange for a pool installation and a deferred decision on 31 Fowler street for use as a residential property and to have Mr. Fink do a review of the configuration of the CDBG boundary lines.

The next meeting of the Zoning Board will be 8/3/2020 at 7pm

Mr. Simmons indicated that the Planning Board met on 7/21/2020 where they reviewed plans for a mixed use as B&B, retail and café at 191-192 Jersey Avenue, the old TSE building. A public hearing was set for this proposal for 8/18/2020 at 7pm.

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be 8/18/2020 at 7pm

Mr. Simmons expressed his condolences to the family of Kevin Cooper.

**Mr. Siegel** – He expressed thanks for the placement of the 3 stop signs in the fourth ward. He noted that Fire and Emergency Management met on 7/20/2020 and their next meeting is 8/17/2020 at 6:30.

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A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Dominick Santini as follows:

Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4 requests the following be approved for transfer from Tri States Hose Company No. 6 for member **Daryl F. Piatt**

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

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Dominick Santini as follows:

Howard Wheat Engine Company No. 4 requests the following be approved for transfer from Delaware Engine Company No. 2 member **Jennifer L. Snyder**

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

A motion was made by Stanley Siegel and seconded by Dominick Santini as follows:

Neversink Engine Company No. 1 requests the following member be removed from the rolls for the reason stated: **Travis A. Conklin - voluntary resignation**

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

Mr. Siegel reminded everyone to stay socially distant.

**Ms. Randazzo** – She reported that Farmer’s market coupons are available at Water’s Edge for Seniors age 60+ with income requirements of 1 person having income under \$1,900 per month for a \$20 coupon book. The individual \$4 coupons may only be used for fruits and vegetables.

Ms. Randazzo noted that the Council should review Mr. Puopolo’s request in the interest of public safety.

A motion was made by Lisa Randazzo and seconded by Kristin Trovei to allow Corporation Counsel to go forward regarding a potential lease for the purpose of a staging area for construction.

Mrs. Trovei thinks it is an interesting proposal but there has to be enough protection for the City.

As discussion, Mr. Seigel questioned how this will impact the sale of the Promenade property to Mr. McKeeby which was prior to this proposal?

Corporation Counsel indicated that since his last discussion with that gentleman, he has not had any response for items requested.

Mr. Siegel said he met with Mr. McKeeby this morning and was under the impression that he was waiting for the City.

It was noted that the last correspondence was copied to all Council members and it was clear that a response was required.

Mr. Siegel indicated that we have a problem then and Mr. Santini indicated that clearly it is not the City’s problem from the correspondence.

Mr. Siegel stated that he thinks we cannot address Mr. Puopolo until we address Mr. McKeeby.

Several members indicated that is not so.

Mrs. Trovei inquired as to the original source of the property on which the Promenade resides.

Mayor Decker said a piece of it was acquired by Urban Renewal but not all.

Mrs. Trovei indicated that any sale of City property with the exception of property acquired through the Urban Renewal Program must be approved by 7 members of the Council and no sale has been approved. She stated that this may fall to additional review by the city attorney.

Mayor Decker asked Corporation Counsel if Council members should personally be discussing issues before the City separate from discussions at the City Council table.



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The City Attorney said that there is nothing that specifically prevents members from having casual discussions.

Mr. Siegel stated that he will have conversations with anyone he pleases and that he knows many people. He has been friends with Mr. McKeeby for years.

The Mayor accused Mr. Siegel of possible collusion.

Mrs. Trovei suggested that the correspondence be re-sent and that the attorney be able to research the terms surrounding Mr. Puopolo's proposal.

Mr. Simmons questioned how the last sale happened if 7 votes were needed.

Mrs. Trovei indicated that it had seven votes but that she would verify that before the next meeting.

Maria Mann questioned the City Attorney if a motion was needed to allow the Corporation Counsel to explore the proposal by Mr. Puopolo.

Mr. Frank indicated that a motion for him to conduct exploration would be appropriate.

Mayor Decker called a vote on the resolution.

AYE: 7 ABSENT: 1 (Campbell) NAYS: 1(Simmons) ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED

**For the Good of the City ( Public Comment) –**

**Laura Myers** – She questioned if there was still money to do more sidewalk work on Front Street and when the work will be done.

The Mayor indicated that there are some remainder grant monies available, but we are still waiting for approval on the balance and that the work has not been re-started due to COVID 19.

**Mayor Kelly Decker** – He stated that everyone was sent the contract for the Orange County BOCES contract and wanted to know their pleasure.

A motion was made by Regis Foster and seconded by Stanley Siegel to approve the contract.

As discussion Mr. Siegel questioned where the volunteers would be working this year. He also wondered if they could do cleanup on the railroad turntable.

It was noted that they will be working on the trail system, Riverside Park and the campground but they will consider the railroad property if they have time as the program was cut down to 4 weeks this year.

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

The Mayor reminded everyone to reach out to have people complete their Census online as the Deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup> and this can hurt us financially if we are not counted accurately.

**Meeting Adjourned** – A motion was made by Dominick Santini and seconded by Kristin Trovei to adjourn.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm executive session and 7:15 pm general business session on Monday August 10, 2020.

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Robin Waizenegger  
City Clerk Treasurer