

MINUTES
CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 7:30 P.M., City Hall

1. **ROLL CALL-** A duly convened meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Paul Neumyer. Mayor Becker was absent and excused. Members present were Alderpersons Deborah Postl, Michael Gasper, Dan Benning, Jonathan Pleitner, Patrick Tearney and John Sigwart. Also present: City Engineer Rob Vanden Noven, City Planner Bob Harris, City Attorney Eric Eberhardt and City Administrator Mark Grams.

2. **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG-** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting- MOTION MADE BY ALD. PLEITNER, SECONDED BY ALD. BENNING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **MAYOR'S BUSINESS-** None.

5. **OFFICERS'/STAFF REPORT**

A. Update on Municipal Candidacy Nomination Papers and Spring Election Dates- The City Administrator reported that only the incumbent candidates filed candidacy paperwork by the deadline with the City Clerk today. Aldermanic District 2- Paul Neumyer, District 4- Daniel Benning and District 6- Patrick Tearney. It also appears there will be a Spring Primary on February 18th for the Justice of the Supreme Court race.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES**

Your comments are welcome. Please limit your discussion to 3 minutes. If you need more time, please contact the City Administrator and request that your topic be placed on the City Council Agenda.- Bret Hoffmann- Informed Council that he is against sidewalks in the bluff area of the City and would like to work with the City to find another solution.

7. **COMMITTEES**

A. FINANCE AND LICENSE COMMITTEE

1. Resolution 2020-1 (Authorizing Loan Application to The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands for Port Townhomes LLC) (Lakepoint Development)- The City Administrator reported that this loan application was approved at the previous meeting, and this resolution is required to process the application. MOTION MADE BY ALD. BENNING, SECONDED BY ALD. PLEITNER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-1 AUTHORIZING LOAN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR PORT TOWNHOMES LLC, FOR \$47,425.80 AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve Wastewater Utility Rates For 2020- Wastewater Superintendent Dan Buehler was present and reviewed the rate increase. Major capital projects being proposed as the reason for the rate increase, including a new generator and UV Disinfection system which is needed. MOTION MADE BY ALD. BENNING, SECONDED BY ALD. PLEITNER TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE OF \$31.90 CHARGE FOR FIXED RATE AND \$3.20 CHARG / 100 CU. FEET FOR THE VARIABLE RATE, 4.7%AND 8.8% INCREASES RESPECTIVELY FOR AN APPROXIMATE AVERAGE INCREASE OF 6.8% AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1. Approve Authorizing City Engineering and City Clerk as Interim City Administrators If Necessary- The City Administrator reviewed the discussion held at the Personnel Committee to have existing staff serve as interim City Administrator if I am not available. City Engineer Rob Vanden Noven would serve as Administrator dealing with Public Works and Park issues. City Clerk Susan Westerbeke

would oversee other administrative issues at City Hall and other Departments. The Police and Fire Chiefs would handle their departments and the Library Director handle the Library. The City Attorney suggested the Council's approval be adopted by motion this evening and ratified by written resolution at the next (January 21, 2020) Council meeting. MOTION MADE BY ALD. PLEITNER, SECONDED BY ALD. BENNING TO APPROVE APPOINTMENTS OF THE CITY ENGINEER AND CITY CLERK AS INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATORS IN THE CURRENT CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S ABSENCE, AND TO HAVE A RESOLUTION DRAFTED FOR ADOPTION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **BOARDS/COMMISSIONS-** None.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** None.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ordinance 2020-1 (Amendment To City Municipal Code Chapter 16, Electrical Code) 1st

Reading- The City Attorney reviewed the current and proposed City Electrical Code ordinances, and the state statutes and administrative code requirements relating to the City's power to license and/or issue permits to electricians, electrical inspectors, electrical contractors, and homeowners who install, repair, maintain or inspect electrical work within the City. The City Attorney explained that the state Dept. of Safety and Professional Services has notified the City that its current Electrical Code does not comply with state law, and that unless such Code is revised, the state may withdraw the City's authority to perform electrical inspections of certain premises. With respect to requiring owners of single-family homes to be licensed or obtain a permit to perform certain electrical work, Aids. Benning and Gasper indicated that only allowing licensed electricians (and not such homeowners) to perform electrical work would encourage residents to not pull a permit, and just do the work themselves; they also stated that they would rather have City ordinances encourage permits and inspections, rather than make the process cumbersome to the extent that people don't bother with it. The City Building Inspector explained his support for the current requirement that homeowners obtain a license to perform electrical work themselves and demonstrate minimal competency to do so, in the interest of public safety. Further discussion followed and several alderpersons indicated that the new Electrical Code should not require only licensed electricians to perform all residential electrical work. The City Attorney stated that he and the Building Inspector would provide the Council with examples of the "homeowner's privilege" to perform residential electrical work, as reflected in the electrical codes of other municipalities. This ordinance will be on the next agenda for further discussion and action. By that time, the state DSPS should have reviewed and commented on any further changes to the proposed new Electrical Code.

11. **FORTHCOMING EVENTS-** Various events were mentioned.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES-** None.

13. **ADJOURNMENT-** MOTION MADE BY ALD. PLEITNER, SECONDED BY ALD. TEARNEY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:14 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.