

November 16, 2015

City Council

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York
City of Jamestown ss:
City Council Chambers

A public hearing of the City Council of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Council Members, Brent Sheldon, Tony Dolce, Marie Carrubba, Maria Jones, Tom Nelson, Kim Ecklund, George Spitale

Members Absent:

Others Present: Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Lehman, Director of Public Works Jeff Lehman, Director of Development Vince DeJoy, City Comptroller Joe Bellitto

City Council President Gregory Rabb called the Public Hearing to order and asked Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson to read the public notice.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section C-39.E. of the Charter of the City of Jamestown, New York the City Council's Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2016 is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, 200 E. 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (legal holidays excepted) and at the Prendergast Library, 509 Cherry Street, Jamestown, New York. A summary of the City Council's Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2016 is as follows:

City of Jamestown
2016 General Fund Budget

Expenditures

Salaries	\$16,258,762.00
Benefits	10,892,000.00
Contractual	4,652,640.00
Debt Service	1,978,230.00
Agencies	375,500.00
Capital	895,630.00
Equipment	<u>67,650.00</u>
Total	\$35,120,412.00

November 16, 2015

Revenues

Property Taxes	\$15,923,550.00
Misc. Revenues	18,787,109.00
Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>409,753.00</u>
Total	\$35,120,412.00

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 200 E. 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York on the City Council's Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2016.

Gregory Rabb
City Council President

Publication Date: November 6, 2015

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Doug Champ 225 Bowen Street: For the record, for 35 years I have worked between the Board of Public Utilities and the City of Jamestown. In terms of various capacities in city planning, development, grant writing and with the Board of Public Utilities as developing the District Heating System. I don't speak from naiveté here. What I'm concerned about in the city is a real serious situation facing all of us in this community. Having to deal with taxation and how close we are to the constitutional debt limit. Now I assume that none of you want a control board, and you've not worked in a city with a control board, but that's what you're going to get. It's just a matter of time the way it's going to happen. If you're at 99.9%, you might as well be at 100%. It's just a matter of time for that to happen. Why are we there? We're there because the development and the full assessment of this city has not kept up with rising cost of public services. We do not know how to attract private investment. I travel around the country and I get involved in different things and we are missing out on great opportunities. We have a public utility; one of only a few like this. Only one other in the state of New York if you want to consider the Long Island, LIPA, Power Authority. Messina still has one. We generate, we buy. It's a very unique system. We have a district heating system; very unique in this country. When I put it together, I got people from all over the world that came here. I had 500 engineers show up for a conference, wanting to know how to do it. And we sit here with these assets, not understanding how we can attract research and development opportunities from outside the area.

Have any of you travelled out west and seen what's going to happen with the water supply out there? We have the opportunity to find out who's doing this, recruit them to the City of Jamestown and find out what we need to do about it. The Mayor should be travelling to Economic Development Conferences around the country and have a bill of knowledge to provide to these people who are interested in doing things. There are battery makers around this country;

November 16, 2015

titanium and a variety of other sources which I won't get into, that are interested in finding places where both cooling and heating and applications of electricity are available. Why are we not getting them here?

We also have problems, I asked about this some time ago, dealing with vacant property. That we tear down. Parcel acquisition, foreclosures; what is a plan for these parcels? What are we going to do with them? Other communities are assembling into larger parcels and putting in smaller footprints. Call them tiny houses; call them small homes, whatever. Why can't that be done here? We're not doing anything about this at all.

We have a nuisance ordinance that has been on the table for a little while. I presented that idea to one of your housing committees and it still sits there in limbo, wanting to know why the public, who pay their taxes over and over again, are continuously paying out for police and fire departments to constantly go back and re-service a complaint. Other areas have impact fees. Impact fees are for development, but impact fees for this kind of stuff. So after three times in one week or three times in one month, the cost of delivering those services is paid by the person who owns the property. It goes on as a cost, just like a tax.

So I guess the question I'm asking you, is where do we go from here? What are we going to do in 2017? Will we see a control board? I think we probably will and you know what? Maybe that's a good thing. Maybe that's what has to be done. Because all I hear about now is the fact that public services are so high that we cannot find another way to deliver them. What about a regional approach to fleet management? What about a regional approach to leaf pick up? What about capital investments in municipal areas that join us so we can share in some of those cost savings? We've had a police study that's been how long now? Can anyone tell me how long we've been studying that? If economics can be gained and proper safety can be done through that, it should be done. It's all based on economics now folks. You can talk about how quality services are, what we should do, what we should save. You want to take \$5,000.00 away from the Senior Center? Give me a break. These people aren't even getting a social security increase. They've probably paid taxes most of their lives and you're not going to fund a senior center? Go talk to your mother and father about that one. I guess what I'm saying is that there are a lot of things that can be done and I don't want the City Council to be a place where ideas go to die. Thank you.

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Bill Locke: My name is Bill Locke. My wife Pat and I live at 5 Eastwind Drive in Dewittville. We are here this evening to encourage City Council to continue their support of the James Prendergast Library. We also want to make you fully aware of the recent offers presented to the library board at their October meeting by Jesse and Kathy Marion concerning the 50 plus pieces of original art donated to the library by the Prendergast and the Packard families. The Marions offered to fully fund the restoration of this art, assist with the upgrading, security and the climate controlled environment needed for such art work, be it at the library or at an offsite location and to help organize a capital campaign to assist the library's future financial needs. They also offered to chair this campaign if requested. Mrs. Marion grew up in Jamestown and is a 1979 Fredonia graduate. They sponsor the Jesse and Kathy Marion gallery at Fredonia, SUNY Fredonia, and support several other local projects. They currently live in Houston, Texas where they recently chaired a \$54 million campaign to restore the historic Ally Theater. Mrs. Marion is a board member of the Fredonia college foundation. The Prendergast art collection is currently

November 16, 2015

valued at over \$3 million. Many of the paintings reflect Jamestown's history and collectively represent a cultural opportunity found only in much larger cities than Jamestown. The Prendergast and Packard artwork is truly a local treasure and needs to be saved, restored and preserved for future generations, not sold at an auction. Thank you very much.

City Council President Rabb asked three times if anyone wished to speak for or against the proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2016.

There being no one, the public hearing was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk