

January 22, 2018

City Council

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York

City of Jamestown

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City Council Chambers

A public hearing of the City Council of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Council Members Brent Sheldon, Anthony Dolce, Vickye James, Maria Jones, Tom Nelson, Kim Ecklund, Vanessa Weinert

Members Absent: Council President Marie Carrubba, Andrew Liuzzo

Others Present:

Director of Administrative Services/ City Clerk Todd M. Thomas called the public hearing to order and asked for a nomination for a President Pro Tem.

Councilwoman Ecklund nominated Councilman Dolce. Seconded by Councilwoman James.

Carried: 7 – 0

Councilman Dolce asked the City Clerk to read the public notice.

201801B00.01

Notice is hereby given that the Jamestown City Council will hold a Public Hearing regarding the intended sale of a portion of the West Second Street right of way abutting parcel 387.40-3-1 that is located on the corner of West Second Street and Lafayette Street, being 10 feet wide, 90 feet on the northerly bounds of West Second Street and 80 feet parallel thereto, to the Jamestown City Center Development Corporation in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), being a fair market value adopted by resolution of the City Council, for the proposed expansion of the ice arena;

The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2018, in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Municipal Building, 200 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York.

All persons wishing to comment on this matter are invited to speak at this time.

Comments may also be submitted in writing to: Jamestown City Council, Municipal Building, 200 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York 14701. All written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., January 22, 2018.

Marie Carrubba
City Council President

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Councilman Dolce: Thank you Mr. Thomas. At this time, if there is anyone here that would like to speak in regards to the public hearing, please step up to the mic. Limit your comments to five minutes and please state your name and address. Is there anyone that would like to speak on behalf of the public hearing?

201801B00.02

Ms. Magnuson: Good evening. I'm Andrea Magnuson and I just have a short thing I wrote up. I don't know if all of you know that I work at the Gebbie Foundation in Jamestown and you might know that the strategic focus of the Gebbie Foundation is to make investments that will further the revitalization of downtown Jamestown. I'm here today to say that the Gebbie Foundation is completely behind the sale of the property we are discussing tonight for the arena expansion project. The city is on the cusp of a true transformation. City leadership should be commended for the successful partnerships between the city, New York State and the private sector that have resulted in a number of projects that have been already accomplished, or on the near horizon. Our city has an arena that other cities envy. We revitalized our deteriorating historic train station and repurposed it into the National Comedy Center; allowing it to be preserved for years to come. Jamestown secured a \$10 million New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative award; in the first round, I might add. And projects are now underway. Jamestown Brewing Company is slated to open this summer in a soon to be renovated, Dr. Lillian Vitanza Ney Renaissance Center or former Grant's Building as some of us might remember.

We are becoming a more walkable city. Where residents and visitors can enjoy the Riverwalk, cross over the Chadakoin River because of the two new pedestrian bridges that the city secured. Be part of nature at Panzarella Park, or Comedy Park. Walk through the National Comedy Center plaza, up to the soon to be constructed, Second Street piazza. The piazza will be constructed this summer on Second Street between Washington Street and Jefferson Street and it will feature cobblestone pavers and a canopy of lights over the street. From there, people can enjoy the comedy center, the arena, or continue to explore all the restaurants, attractions and businesses Jamestown has to offer.

With all of this development, there is a glaring deficiency. And that is a lack of a place that is specifically designed with children in mind. The arena expansion project will make the development of Kidzone possible; a place that will be designed to incorporate STEM principals and serve youth of toddler age to age 13. The sale of land, by the city to the arena, will help move this project forward. Thank you.

Councilman Dolce: Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to speak on behalf of the project?

201801B00.03

Dr. Ney: Thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Lillian Ney. I live at 88 Gordon Street in Jamestown, New York. I wanted to speak in regards to the sale of the property. Some years ago, I was president of the Gebbie Foundation when the decision was made to build the ice arena. Presently, I am one of the arena board; JCCDC. And through the years, as

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everybody knows I think, it was really meant to be one of the first economic development pieces to downtown Jamestown revitalization. It's taken some time, I think, to come to its own and I think many of us who have been working on it from the gestation of it feel that the potential really has not been reached. And although there were many domino effects and many additional downtown economic development projects that happened because of it, but still the arena itself, we always thought we could do more and it had more potential than we had reached yet. I think this particular project which you well know about already and as described also by Andrea who spoke before me. The sale of this property that the city has, really allows us to make the project possible. And we certainly hope the project will have an easy passage through the systems that it has to go through here in the city, but it gives us the possibility of moving forward in a really, really positive way in terms of bringing the potential of the arena to the fore. At this point in time, as you know, the Kidzone is one of the things that I like about this. Not only for folks whose parents are there at the arena because their kids are doing figure skating, hockey tournament or children of people going to the comedy center. The fact of the matter is, our own city, our children, need a place like that which is supervised and safe and secure. And I think the school system, the educational system in Jamestown, are going to be really, really happy to know about this. And we've actually met with them from the Promise Fund side, which is a fund that tries to raise money for filling the gaps that the school budgets can no longer do with the state aid. All in all, it seems like it's a win-win. For economic development, for kids and for bringing the arena to it's potential. And also, being a partner to the comedy center which is going to be a huge thing coming to Jamestown. I hope I didn't exceed my time. Thank you very much.

Councilman Dolce: Thank you Dr. Ney.

Councilman Dolce asked three times if there was anyone else who wished to speak on the sale of the property.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Todd M. Thomas
Director of Administrative Services/City Clerk