



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
January 15, 2019

Council Meeting #1
January 15, 2019
25 Court Street
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Katy Silliman (out at 8:06 pm), Kat McCarthy (in at 8:06 pm), John C. Bennett, Thomas Michales, Troy Beckwith, and William Carpenter

Absent: Alderman Gary Thomas, and Carlos Ferrer

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Glover, City Clerk Raymond A. Parker, and Confidential Secretary Devon Rainbow.

Public hearing:

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing for the proposed zoning changes at 7:00 PM.

Tom Larson-Tom wanted to shine light on the Groton Ave section. He brought up previous public hearings for this proposal, and explained that up zoning one area and down zoning the other will not help the City.

Jim Reeners- Jim spoke on behalf of the Housing Committee, and he came prepared with a list of changes. Jim's disagreement with the student housing density overlay district is that there was far too little local input. The entrance is the narrowest one in the City. To put a higher density student population in that area, in Jim's thoughts, would be a large setback. He stressed that he is not saying that we do not need a higher student living density area, he just suggested that it not be in this particular location. Just because it is good access to downtown, does not mean that it is efficient in other means.

Abby Cleary- Abby is a Ward 2 resident. She also mentioned how the high density overlay is not good in terms of location. She said the idea is not bad itself, but the location and logistics are not good. She suggested looking into new areas for new options. She explained her understanding in terms of economics. She brought up many issues that would go along with it, including business and parking. Abby also brought up how this would affect the future two-way main street.

Jo Shaffer- Jo Spoke about implementing this in the proper location and environment. She also brought attention to potential future parking issues.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:18 PM.

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:18 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comments:

Ann Doyle- Ann started off by saying that Lincoln Ave is becoming a slum. She is getting very concerned because of the 4 burglaries on Lincoln, and 3 or 4 on Maple and Groton. There are currently less than 10 families living on Lincoln. She said she told the police that she wanted to tell the families, so that they're on

the lookout, but the officer advised her not to. She said sometimes the police do not come when she calls. She spoke with Chief Catalano about this. She said that she has lived on Lincoln for 60 years and it is not at all how it used to be.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor invited Chief Catalano to introduce the newest CPD Officer, Bradley Laman. He had just graduated and he is beginning his field training. He will be working with Ben Lock, and they look forward to him learning and joining the force. Chief gave a certificate of being appointed, and the other is the law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

-The mayor also invited Chief Glover, for the swearing in of a new fire fighter, Pavil Androshchuk. Pavil joined CFD several years ago as a volunteer, within the first 2-3 of his joining, he received numerous awards. He then joined the Bunker program, where he thrived. There was a time where he moved, and then joined the Homer fire department, and pursued his 15 months of paramedic education, and he put himself through the fire academy. The Cortland Fire Department is lucky to have Pavil.

-The Mayor also swore in the Fire Police. The Fire Police are peace officers under the New York Constitution.

-The Mayor then swore in the volunteer chiefs for the Fire Department.

Resolution #1 of 2019 – Accept and approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Proclamations: Mentoring Month

Mayor Tobin read about mentoring, giving facts and statistics regarding mentoring.

Item #1– Presentation for mentoring month.

Mindy presented for a new mentoring program. She explained that the name has changed, but the goal has remained the same. She stressed a lot about children involved with violence, drugs, and abuse. There are many statistics about children who were once mentored, being admitted to colleges and being successful, thanks to their mentor's motivating help. Mindy explained different things that mentoring has, including different field trips, like Greek Peak and the zoo, and art displays for children, etc. She explained that mentoring is not a difficult task for the adults, but it makes a huge difference for the children. Any adult over the age of 18 can spare 2 hours a week for either sharing a meal, shooting a basketball, or coloring, can drastically change someone's life.

Resolution #2 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the new proposed Local Law on the Zoning changes.

There are many people who spoke out tonight during the Public Hearing. Council could either take out the piece about high density student housing or they could amend the law. It should be considered in depth before any decisions are made. The mayor expressed that he disagrees with the Housing Committee in terms of this specific topic, because if you go back and look into the City's Comprehensive Plan from 2014, it does designate areas for potential growth and development of higher density. Part of the rationale for that, was that we never said this is where we think higher density can and should be. For the safety issue, he agrees that there are properties that should not be rented for students. There were some mentions of concern about parties, and students occupying homes that aren't fit for them. Council decided to make an amendment to take out the student housing overlay district.

Motion to remove the student housing overlay district on Groton Ave:

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Motion to accept the local law with the amendment:

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #3 of 2019 – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

Thank you!

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Event/Project</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
Beverly B. Ellefson	\$200.00	Parks	A-7140.5405
Total	\$200.00		

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #4 of 2019 – Resolution to authorize the City of Cortland to participate in a 2019 Shared Services Grant with the County of Cortland and the Town of Cortlandville through the NYS Archives local Government Records Management Improvement Fund for the amount \$150,000.00. (50,000.00 will be to pay for storage of the digital records and the remaining funds will be divided three ways and used to scan records).

This is a much needed grant. The grant will be managed by the records management officer.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #5 of 2019 – Resolution to approve re-appointments (List attached) of various City Commissions.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolution #6 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the appointment of Brian Dean and Joshua Ligas to the Examining Board of Plumbers for a 3 year term.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #7 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the appointment of Richard Stock to the County Legislative District 6 to finish out the term of Mary Ann Discensa.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #8 of 2019 – Resolution to approve an appointment to fill the vacant First Ward Alderman Position.

Council members wanted to thank Michelle for her time as Alderwoman. Council introduced Kat McCarthy as the new representative for Ward 1. The Mayor had Kat take the Oath of Office to be officially sworn in. Alderman Silliman had to leave, so Alderman McCarthy joined the meeting immediately.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #9 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the annual stipend of \$3,000.00 to Connie Sorrells for telephone system responsibility for the City of Cortland.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #10 of 2019 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement Contract with the NYS Office of Community Renewal (CFA Award 81942), providing \$500,000, no public sector match, in funding for the private sector redevelopment of 83-85 Main Street.

This is a grant that comes through the Office of Community Renewal. This is going towards a Main Street project for a building that has been vacant for the past 60 or so years. Money will be received through the DRI as well.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #11 of 2019 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement Contract with the NYS Office of Community Renewal (CFA Award 82313), providing \$750,000, no public sector match, in funding for the replacement of the Clinton Avenue water main between Pomeroy Street and Pendleton Street.

This is part of the gateway project. This was originally a loan, but became a grant.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #12 of 2019 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement Contract with the NYS Office of Community Renewal (CFA Award 80295) providing \$200,000, no public sector match, in funding to continue the City’s Microenterprise Assistance program.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #13 of 2019 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the Grant Agreement Contract with the NYS Department of State (CFA Award 82003), providing \$48,750, 25 percent public sector match, in funding to update and adopt the Tioughnioga River Waterfront Revitalization Program which will guide multi-community land use along the waterfront and focus on increasing public access to the waterfront, strengthen downtowns, establish a pedestrian/bikeway trail and protect natural resources.

This requires a 25% match, and with approval, we will be working with other communities that lie along the Tioughnioga. This will potentially open up future grants and funding opportunities. There will be planning meeting and council will be informed as progress is made.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy

Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #14 of 2019 – Resolution to designate the ‘Cortland Standard’, the ‘Shopper’, and the ‘Cortland Area Tribune’ as official newspapers for the City of Cortland.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Resolution #15 of 2019 – Resolution to designate the following bank depositories for City funds.

- o NBT Bank
- o J. P. Morgan Chase Bank N.A.
- o M&T Bank
- o Tompkins Trust Company

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #16 of 2019 – Resolution to designate Lori Crompton and Tracy Hatfield as the signatories on all accounts.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #17 of 2019 – Resolution to authorize the City to submit a US EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Letter of Interest; Project plan (Section B); Project operations and maintenance plan (Section C); Financing Plan (Section D); Selection Criteria (Section E); Contact Information (Section F); Certifications (Section G); and Notification of State infrastructure financing authority (Section H), with a \$25,000 application fee, to secure \$9,158,100 in credit assistance to provide funding for the replacement of water, sewer and storm water infrastructure beneath Main Street and Clinton Avenue.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Item #18 – Set a date for a Public Hearing on a local law for removal of language in the City Code Section 102.

The date will be February 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Item #19 – Discussion on City Code Office Fees.

Over the last 2 years, we have suspended the fees for the code office. This has been done with the intention of encouraging people to do projects on their house, and getting correct permits. There will be a look into roofing fees to see if they can be lowered at all. For now, the fee is dependent upon the estimated cost of the work.

Item #20 – Discussion regarding City staff review of the Zoning Code, and potential changes.

There are 3 pages worth of potential changes. Council will review these changes and there will be a public hearing next meeting.

Item #21 – DRI update

The City is in the midst of working through compiling an RFP for the work on Main Street. The plan is to have this completed shortly. In another couple of months there will be design work. The plan is to start construction in 2020-2021. One of the things being brought back is monthly review of reports. This gives City Council close information with how things are moving along. The Homer Board of Trustees has gone from 2 year terms to 4 year terms and the mayor asked City Council to consider doing the same.

Mayor Tobin had discussed upcoming things for Council to discuss:

Mayor Tobin wants to review budget finances once a month in meetings with council. The Homer Board of Trustees is going from a two year to a four year term.

Mayor Tobin asked for an executive session for contractual matter.

Motion to adjourn into an executive session:

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of an executive session:

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Adjournment:

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

I, RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 15 DAY IN JANUARY 2019. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED FOR HIS CONCURRENCE IN ADOPTION OR REJECTION BY VETO POWER.

RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN