



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**January 16, 2018**

Council Meeting #2  
**January 16, 2018**  
25 Court Street  
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Michelle Mastropolo, Katy Silliman, Gary Thomas, John Bennett, Carlos Ferrer, and Troy Beckwith

Excused: Aldermen Bill Carpenter, Thomas Michales

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, City Police Chief Catalano, Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, City Fire Chief Charles Glover and Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow

**REGULAR SESSION:**

Mayor Brian Tobin called the second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Public Comments:**

No one was signed up to speak

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Tobin and Police Chief Catalano introduced 4 new Police Officers that have just finished their training. Welcome to Trevor Wenz, Tyler Williams, Clint Morris, and Matthew Federation.

**Request to add a discussion at the beginning of the Council agenda regarding Visitability.**

**Resolution #17 of 2018** - Resolution to approve the January 2, 2018 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Beckwith  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #1** – Discussion on a Visitability Resolution.

Alderman Silliman and Aaron Baier explained that there was a study done for in home and business accommodations. The Housing Committee reviewed the study and could not recommend the building guidelines be required. Aaron came to the Housing Committee and asked that we recommend the guidelines rather than require them. The Housing Committee agreed to recommend the guidelines. The point is to raise awareness that, with a few changes, dwellings can be made accommodating to people with disabilities, whether you have a disability or suddenly sustain an injury that temporarily is disabling or have friends/family members with a disability. It is less expensive to do with new construction rather than retrofit older homes and it can make your home more marketable. This would be a recommendation and not a requirement that new construction built with government money be built according to the listed visitability guidelines. There are currently 150 people in Cortland on a waiting list for home modifications.

**Resolution #18 of 2018** – Resolution to approve re-appointments (list attached) of various City Commissions.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #19 of 2018** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Budget Line</b>
Todd & Michelle Funk	\$500.00	Youth Center Kitchen	A-7330.5400
Cortland Community Foundation	\$300.00	Celebrations	A-7550.5405
Beverly B. Ellefson	\$200.00	Celebrations	A-7550.5405
SUNY Cortland Students	\$100.00	Youth Center Kitchen	A-7330.5400
Diane Chu	\$200.00		A-7180.5405
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>		

Thank you!

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
 Seconded By: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #20 of 2018** – Resolution approving the Cortland Fire Department participating in the Cortland County Fire Mutual Aid Plan.

Motioned By: Alderman Beckwith

Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #21 of 2018** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill the firefighter vacancy resulting from a promotion to start January 26, 2018.

Interviews have been conducted and a decision will not be made until January 26, 2018.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #22 of 2018** – Resolution authorizing the issuance of \$4,100,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of the reconstruction of the City’s Wastewater treatment plant.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #23 of 2018** – Resolution authorizing the publication of an Estoppel Notice pertaining the issuance of \$4,100,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of the reconstruction of the City’s Wastewater treatment plant.

Motion By: Alderman Thomas  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #7** – Set a date for a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 20 of the City’s Code “Energize NY Benefit Financing Program”.

A date was set for February 20, 2018 at 7PM in Council Chambers.

**Resolution #24 of 2018** – Resolution to schedule a time and location for a public hearing on a proposed local law enacting a local law authorizing the creation of a Community Choice Aggregation Program, and adopting certain provisions to facilitate Program implementation.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for February 20, 2018 at 7:02PM in Council Chambers.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman

Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #10** – Discussion of the City's Tax Equalization Rate and property reevaluation. Mack Cook explained that the last time the City did this was in 2008. When municipalities keep assessments up – to – date each year, they will be adjusting assessed values to reflect market changes, resulting in a consistent equalization rate from year to year. There are 3 options to do the process: 1 – do nothing, 2 – do City wide all at once, 3 – do subdivisions of the City at various times. Taxes most likely will not be affected until 2020. There will be a few meetings to discuss this further and Council members should be involved.

**Item #11** – Update on DRI

The Committee continues to have weekly conference calls and has been working in small groups on the projects that have been presented. There is a Local Planning Committee meeting this Thursday January 18 at 7PM at TC3 Extension Center. The next public meeting will be February 1 at 7Pm at CRT. The plan is to submit 12.6 million dollars' worth of projects to the State and let them make adjustments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned By: Alderman Thomas  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6  
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 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2018. 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.**

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**RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**