



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
January 19, 2021

Council Meeting #2
January 19, 2021
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Councilperson Kat McCarthy, Bruce Tytler, John Bennett (out at 8:04PM), Jackie Chapman, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales

Excused: Councilperson Katy Silliman, William Carpenter

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

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilperson Kat McCarthy wanted to let everyone know that Cortland Forward is doing another Community Read with the Library. It will be on February 8 and 22 at 7Pm. The book that has been selected is, How Long 'till Black Future Month?

Public Comments:

No one was signed up to speak.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor spoke regarding the events that took place at the Capitol on January 6, 2020. This is unacceptable and the Mayor along with Council have drafted a statement in regards to the event. Currently there are no threats or concerns of this happening in our community.

Resolution #8 of 2021 – Resolution to approve minutes from January 5, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #1– Presentation from SUNY Cortland.

Fred Pierce was present to speak about the SUNY students coming back. The students will be back on February 1st. Each student is required to submit a negative test result before coming back to campus and will be tested again upon arrival. Move-ins will be taking place January 25-30. Students are required to do weekly surveillance testing. If this is not done, students are not allowed on campus for any reason. The SUNY reopening plan is available on their website. There are less students that are returning this semester for various reasons. 120 of those students are not allowed back do to actions in the fall. There will be no long breaks or weekends for students this semester. If you see a student misbehaving or not following CIVID guidelines, please call and report them. The SUNY is taking actions.

Resolution #9 of 2021 – Resolution to accept a \$15,000.00 donation from the Jim & Julie Boeheim Foundation “Courts for Kids” and appropriate into the T65 Trust & Agency account.

John McNerney, Andrea Piedigrossi, and Jesse Abbott gave a presentation on the plans to refurbish the basketball courts at Suggett Park. Basketball is the most popular recreational sport in the United States across all ages and genders. The balance of individual practice and potential group play makes the game equally shareable with friends, family, neighbors and strangers. Improving public courts facilities invites people to both work on their skills and play games together, increase park usage and bolster community pride. The project proposal was awarded a \$15,000.00 grant from the Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation that focuses on “Courts for Kids”. The grand opening of the courts will be a 3 on 3 tournament in honor of Erik Prior.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
 Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #10 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize submission of an application to the New York Main Street program for assistance to renovate 107-111 Main Street, including structural stabilization and renovation of six housing units.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
 Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #11 of 2021 – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

Donation	Amount	Event/Project	Budget Line
Beverly Ellefson	\$150.00	Park Improvements	A-7140.5405
Dorothy Sarvay	\$100.00	In Memory of Robert San Jule	A-7140.5405
Total	\$250.00		

Thank you!

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett

Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #12 of 2021 – Resolution approve the Exotic Pet permit for a Guinea Pig for a SUNY Cortland student.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #13 of 2021 – Resolution to Related to continue our current practices for Employee’s compensation and accrued time due to COVID-19 Implications.

Whereas, the C.A.R.E.S. Act required the employer to compensate employees unable to perform their assigned responsibilities due to COVID-19 related illnesses or compliance with recognized COVID-19 protocols , and

Whereas, the C.A.R.E.S Act prevented the employer from reducing any accrued time due to COVID-19 related illnesses or compliance with recognized COVID-19 protocols, and

Whereas, the above provisions in the C.A.R.E.S act expired on December 31, 2020 and were not extended in the 2021 Appropriations and COVID-19 Stimulus Act, and

Whereas, City Administration is of the opinion that continuing the practice wherein an employee’s compensation and accrued time is unaffected by COVID-19 related illnesses or compliance with recognized COVID-19 protocols is in the best interest of the City, its employees, the public and the affected employee.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that an employee’s compensation and time accruals will not be effected due to COVID-19 related illnesses or compliance with recognized COVID-19 protocols.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #14 of 2021 – Resolution to Recognize and Appropriate funds received from a FEMA grant for reimbursement for Personal Protective Equipment related to the COVID – 19 pandemic in the amount of \$48,084.15. This is to be appropriated to the Fire Department FY2020 budget line A3410-540000 COVFD from Federal Revenue Code A3410-44839.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #15 of 2021 – Resolution to Recognize and Appropriate funds received from a FEMA Grant for reimbursement for purchase of Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detectors in the amount of \$30,232. This is to be appropriated to the Fire Department FY2020 budget line A3410-541900 CONTR Public Information from Federal Revenue Code A3410-44389.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #16 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Fire Department to apply for a FEMA AFG grant as the host agency collaborating with the Marathon Joint Fire District for the regional purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) in the amount of \$511,000 and authorize the Mayor to execute an MOU with the Marathon Joint Fire District and approve Grant if awarded.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #17 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Fire Department to apply for a FEMA AFG grant for the purchase of a High Pressure Breathing Air Compressor to replace a current unit that is over 20 years old in the amount of \$50,000 and if awarded permits the Mayor to sign the contract for acquisition.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #18 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Fire Department to apply for a FEMA AFG grant for the purchase of a replacement Fire Apparatus that would serve the function as a fire engine and aerial, replacing two 20 plus year old pieces, in the amount of \$675,000.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #19 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with The Window Specialists in the amount of \$589,800 for Fire Station Window repair/replacement.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #20 of 2021 – Resolution acknowledging receipt of the Retirement/transfer payouts including, retirement incentive, for the following employees: William Bernheim (retirement) Diane Fieri (retirement) Bradley Becker (retirement) and Trevor Wenz (transfer)

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #21 of 2021 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze in the Police Department.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #22 of 2021 – Resolution to allow for the hiring of 3 police officers to replace two retiring officers and one transferred officer.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #23 of 2021 – Resolution to modify the 2021 budget by recognizing \$810,000 in anticipated CDBG State Aid in Revenue Account A5010-43597 Transportation Capital Projects (Sewer laterals and N. Greenbush and Washington Streets), and removing the (\$810,000) Transfer to Capital from appropriation line A9950-590000.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Item #17 – Consideration of a Resolution to establish standard work days for certain employees of the Police Department and Youth Bureau. (The resolution with exhibits is attached)

This item was pulled until the February 2, 2021 meeting.

Resolution #24 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Boreland Construction for remediation services at Noss Park.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #25 of 2021 – Resolution to amend Resolution #264 of 2020 to read the following:
Authorizing the implementation and funding of a transportation federal-aid project, to fully fund the local share of federal- and state-aid eligible and ineligible project costs and appropriating funds therefore.

WHEREAS, a Project for the City of Cortland Multiple Pedestrian Signal Upgrade Local PSAP Project, P.I.N. 360310 (the "Project") is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs such program to be borne at the ratio of 100% Federal funds and 0% non-federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cortland desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the non-federal share of the costs of Engineering, ROW and Construction work for the Project or portions thereof, with the federal share of such costs to be applied directly by the New York State Department of Transportation ("NYSDOT") pursuant to Agreement; and it is further

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Cortland Common Council, duly convened does hereby

RESOLVE, that the City Board hereby approves the Project; and it is hereby further

RESOLVED, that the City Board hereby authorizes the Mayor of Cortland to pay in the first instance the full non-federal share of the cost of Engineering, ROW and Construction work for the Project or portions thereof; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$250,000 is hereby appropriated from The City of Cortland Capital Fund and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that in the event the non-federal share of the costs of the project exceed the amount appropriated above, the City of Cortland Common Council shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the sponsor/municipality thereof, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Cortland be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the City of Cortland with NYSDOT in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the municipality's first instance funding of the non-federal share of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible, and it is further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Item #20 – Discussion of modifying sign ordinance to eliminate numbers of signs a property owner can have and to eliminate political signs as a separate and distinct category.

Corporation Counsel asked for a small committee to help review and work on amendments to the Local Law. Councilpersons Jackie Chapman, Bruce Tytler, and City Clerk Raymond A. Parker have offered to help.

Item #21 – Covid-19 update

Vaccinations have started in our community. Please contact the Health Department for assistance with getting on a list for the vaccination. Testing sites are expanding throughout our community. We need to stay strong and continue to practice social distancing and wearing our mask.

Enter into Executive Session:

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Exit out of Executive Session:

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

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 19TH DAY IN JANUARY 2021. 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