



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**February 2, 2021**

Council Meeting #3  
**February 2, 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, 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

**Public Hearing:** Public Hearing on the City's community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2020 program year.

Opened at 7:03 PM, no one was present to speak.

Closed at 7:07 PM

**Regular Session:**

Mayor Tobin called the third Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:07 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments:**

No one was signed up to speak.

**Ward Reports:**

Ward 1 – Reminders about shoveling sidewalks. A concern regarding trash pick-up on Martin Luther King Day.

Ward 2 – Reminders about shoveling sidewalks. Students have returned.

Ward 3 – Reminders about shoveling sidewalks. Meeting regarding political yard signs.

Ward 4 – Reminders about shoveling sidewalks.

Ward 5 – quiet

Ward 6 – Reminders about shoveling sidewalks.

Ward 7 – quiet

Ward 8 – Reminders about shoveling sidewalks. Still issues with sewer lines.

**Mayor's Report:**

MOS for FBI agents that were killed. Proclamation for Black History month.

**Resolution #26 of 2021** – Resolution to approve minutes from January 19, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #27 of 2021** – Resolution to approve the special event application for the Corn Ducky Derby on Saturday May 1, 2021 from 10AM – 2PM.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Item #2** – Presentation of the preliminary recommendations of the EO203 collaborative to the City Council. Based upon discussions between the EO 203 collaborative, feedback from the general public, and research into what is current in law enforcement regarding best practices, it is recommended that we make the following changes to the policies and procedures for the City of Cortland police department.

Proposed changes:

- I. Police commission
- II. Community Oriented Policing
- III. Review of officer performance
- IV. Hiring/promotional process
- V. Procedures

**Resolution #28 of 2021** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Event/Project</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
Thomas J. Michales	\$500.00	Suggett Park Basketball/Eric Prior Scholarship Event	T-65 Trust & Agency
Total	\$500.00		

Thank you!

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #29 of 2021** – Resolution to approve the Red Jug Pub use of the Alley way for outdoor seating.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #30 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Thoma Development for DRI/DOS grant administration at a cost not to exceed \$19,000 annually.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler  
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #31 of 2021** – Resolution to designate Nicole Bennett as a Registrar of Vital Statistics for the City Clerk’s Office for a two year term commencing January 1, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter  
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #32 of 2021** – Resolution to approve the re-appointments to various Boards and Commissions listed on the attached list.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #33 of 2021** – Resolution to award Phase I of the Northeast Gateway and Clinton Avenue Corridor Enhancement Initiative Project Pin #395052, Contract # DO34816 to Lancaster Development & Tully Construction Company in the amount of \$851,420.27.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Item #9** – Consideration of a Resolution authorize the Mayor to enter into an one-year Option to Lease agreement with Davis Hill Development, LLCF for the lease of City property located in the Rosen and Noss Park parcels for purpose of a feasibility assessment of constructing a solar array on said properties.

This agreement can be split into 2 separate agreements, one for each property if desired. Council would like to have more say over ownership. There was a motion made to table this item until February 16, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #34 of 2021** – Resolution to oppose the Proposed Reduction in AIM funding in the Governor’s 2021-22 Executive Budget.

**WHEREAS;** AIM funding received from the State is the third largest source of revenue in the City’s General Fund, and  
**WHEREAS;** the first and second sources, Property Taxes and Sale Taxes, are severely limited by property owners’ ability to pay and COVID-19’s adverse effect upon consumer spending, and  
**WHEREAS;** Revenue from the AIM program is irreplaceably vital to the rendering of essential services to City residents, and  
**WHEREAS;** the 2021-22 Executive Budget proposes a \$302,749 (15%) reduction in the City’s AIM revenue, and  
**WHEREAS;** the City has few options. If any, other than the reduction of vital services to compensate for the loss of AIM revenue, and  
**WHEREAS;** the reduction of such vital services will have profound and lasting negative effects upon the quality of life of City residents.  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the proposed reduction in AIM funding in the Governor’s Executive 2021-22 not be incorporated within the State’s Adopted 2021-22 Budget.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #35 of 2021** – Resolution establish standard work days for certain employees of the Police Department and Youth Bureau. (The resolution with exhibits is attached)

This is hours per day for the retirement system to update the books.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Item #12** – Discussion of a community read, in partnership with the Cortland Free Library (Councilperson Kat McCarthy)

Cortland Forward is partnering with the Cortland Free Library once again for a community read. The book is, *How Long Till Black Future Month*. The sessions/discussions will be at 7PM on Monday, February 8 and Monday, February 22. The library has some copies still available.

**Item #13** – Discussion regarding plans/projects DPW is scheduled to do this season.

Concerns regarding the amount of work that needs to be done in the City on top of the regular general maintenance things that come up and need to be done. Nic is going to go through the list and prioritize items and come up with a realistic schedule of things that can be done this year.

**Item #14** – Covid-19 update

Students have returned to the City. The college is testing students weekly.

**Adjournment**

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy

Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY IN FEBRUARY 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.**

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**RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**