



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
February 18, 2020

Council Meeting #4
February 18, 2020
25 Court Street
7:00 PM

Present: Aldermen Kat McCarthy, Bruce Tytler, William Carpenter (7:30), Jacki Chapman, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales
Excused: Alderman John Bennett, Katy Silliman
Staff Present: Director of Administration & Finance Mack Cook, Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, City Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Friedman, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow, Superintendent WWJP Bruce Adams

Regular Session:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

Tom Gobel congratulated the three new businesses that came to Cortland. He also suggested County and City getting a group together to try to bring more businesses into the City. Two way Main Street possibly shut down section of the street to make it Pedestrian only.

Gerry Ruggiero spoke about Zoning meeting and he finds it remarkable that it took years to get new code and changing it. A lot like 2003 code. There is enforcement in three unrelated laws in the last 4 or 5 years. The issue that ultimately it is going to come to is Uniformity and Selective enforcement of Zoning Laws. It has never been ok for 3 or more people.

Tim Bennett, owner of Cortland Voice, is putting on the Chil-A-Bration event. He spoke with Officer Abbott and it was agreed up on that 40% of the profits for Chil-A-Bration and Taste of Downtown will go back to Officer Abbott's community programs.

Steve Muka spoke about changing the parking law and wanted to say thank you. He also stated that maybe it not be just R1 districts.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tobin recognized Tom Casterline for his 25 years of service with the City.

Council agreed to move the discussion on Recycling to agenda item #4.

Council agreed to add an agenda item at the end for approval of Sylvia Kadas to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Resolution #55 of 2020 - Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 4, 2020 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Chapman
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Item #1 – Presentation on Votingest City.

Andrea Rankin spoke stating that 30 years ago she served on Council. It is the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Jeff Furman spoke stating they are trying to get people excited/motivated to register to vote. They are working in schools to engage younger people. This is a joyful opportunity to have a contest and the Mayor of Ithaca has signed on for the Challenge. Will compare 2016 numbers to 2020.

Resolution #56 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the City’s participation in the Votingest City Competition.

Motioned by: Alderman Tytler
Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #2 – Presentation on the “BIG Event”.

Jessica Hawley is the president of club called Actively Involved with the Communities. The Big Event is Sunday, April 19th from 10am – 1pm. There are about 600-700 students who participate.

Item #3 – Presentation on Youth Vaping.

Jennifer Hamilton & Margaret Tone were present to speak on this item. Youth vaping is a serious and complex topic. Margaret Tone spoke stating that in 2017 only 1 in 10 7-12 grader in Cortland County reported vaping one time in 30 days. In 2019 that number has risen to 1 in 5 vaping in 30 days. Usage is higher in older grades. In 11th and 12th graders the usage is at 30% reported vaping once in 30 days. An alarming statistic was that 18% of eight graders in 2019 reported vaping in the past 30 days. Vaping has tripled in the last year. The brain is not fully developed until 25 years of age. Vaping companies spend most of their money on marketing that drives use and pay for exposure. The City has 20 shops that sell tobacco, vape or smoking paraphernalia. The City can control this and regulate sales.

Item #4 – Update on the Recycling concerns

Bert Adams & Charles Sudbrink were present.

There are many concerns. The City made 1st week glass only. The other weeks would be commingled items that are recyclable. Flyers, social media and discussions are continuing. Shredded paper can be in plastic bags and brought to the Recycling Center. Per Bert Adams they will pick up shredded paper in paper bags only. Plastic bags are not recyclable in the curbside bins, however most grocery stores will take them back. Frozen food boxes are trash. Cereal boxes are recyclable if the plastic bag inside has been removed and discarded. Changes are hard and people will get there. All lids go in the trash. If it's a flexible plastic tub, jug, or bottle, it can be recycled. The recycling center hours are M-F 7am-3pm and Saturdays 8am-12pm. The County will educate on what is and isn't accepted.

Alderman Michales did a presentation on items that are acceptable and items that are not along with showing the calendar for the next 3 months of glass pick up.

Item #5 – Discussion on amendments to Zoning section 300 and set a date for a Public Hearing. Bob Rhea stated that education is really important with the Zoning regulations. The new zoning book has a lot of tables so you can just look at a table to see if something is allowed or not and you don't have to flip through pages. This is cleaning up some of those changes. He wants to make it more consistent and less confusing. The current tables leave things out.

Two Public Hearings in March on the 3rd & 17th.

Resolution #57 of 2020 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to hire in the Police Department.

Chief Catalano stated they are anticipating an Officer transferring to Onondaga Police Department. Next Police Academy in Broome County starts March 30th.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #58 of 2020 – Resolution to Close Court Street from Main Street to Church Street on May 31, 2020 from 4:00 Pm to 9:00 Pm for the Second Annual Stone Soup community gathering on behalf of the Stone Soup Committee.

Officer Abbott stated the idea of this event is to build relationships & strengthen existing relationships between the community and the Police Department. Also make awareness to the community that the Police Department supports inclusiveness.

Tammy Zimmerman stated there were about 11 restaurants participating and 500 participants. The motto is come as strangers, leave as friends.

Motioned by: Alderman Michales
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #59 of 2020 – Resolution to approve Amplified Sound Permit for May 31, 2020, from 4:00 Pm to 9:00 pm, in conjunction with the Second Annual Stone Soup community gathering on Court Street, to allow bands to perform for the attendees, on behalf of the Stone Soup Committee.

Motioned by: Alderman Michales
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #60 of 2020 – Resolution to waive all permit fees associated with Street Closure Request and Amplified Sound Permit associated with the Second Annual Stone Soup community gathering on behalf of the Stone Soup Committee.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #61 of 2020 – Resolution to initiate the process with the New York State Local Retirement System to correct the retirement system status for Firefighter Travis Marshall from a 25 year “384” plan to the appropriate 20 year “384D” plan. This will require a commitment by the City of a potential difference in contribution from the incorrect plan to the corrected plan that will be determined by State Retirement.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #62 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the Mayor to sign an agreement for the City to participate in the 5 year County-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #63 of 2020 – Resolution to appoint Noah Beck to the Environmental Advisory Board for a 3 year term.

Motioned by: Alderman Chapman
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #64 of 2020 – Resolution to appoint Bruce Tytler to the PSTF.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0
Abstention – 1 (Tytler)

Resolution #65 of 2020 – Resolution to approve putting a Yield sign where Yong St. meets Cowance.

Public Works Board is short on members. There have been several near misses at this intersection and a Yield sign could help make the intersection safer.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #15 – Update on Parker School

City School Board approved sale of the Parker School building and to moving forward with potential for the sale to go to the City with the long term plan of the facility becoming a home for Head Start, Early Head start and Daycare run by the YWCA. There is a 45 day period before there will be a public referenda on the subject meaning all City School District voters have an opportunity to weigh in on the topic.

Had a grant that was written and received that is going to go towards looking at Phase 1 analyzing properties. So Phase 1 can take place on the Parker School Building which is covered by the grant. Are in discussions with Empire State Development which there was a \$500,000.00 award to the City in terms of what the criteria will be because it does require a local match and there is also a time line where typically ESD dollars are last dollars in. There are discussions about establishing benchmarks in terms of progress and in particular the big question is this first year being able to make the adjustments for the facility to be occupied. Also having some benchmarks that can be utilized for some of the funding because ESD funds are meant to be 20% of the total cost. There is a task force meeting this Thursday at 6pm.

Item #16 – Update on the DRI

Had a meeting with the Architect Tim Falkner from Fisher and Associates. Having discussions on the direction and width of Main St. Promoting a Walkable and Bikeable community.

Resolution #66 of 2020 – Resolution to appoint Sylvia Kadas to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

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 18TH DAY IN FEBRUARY 2020. 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