



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
February 19, 2019

Council Meeting #3
February 19, 2019
25 Court Street
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Katy Silliman, Kat McCarthy, Thomas Michales, William Carpenter, Gary Thomas, and Carlos Ferrer

Absent: Alderman Troy Beckwith, John C. Bennett

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

Regular Session:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

Ann Doyle- Ann spoke on behalf of several people with issues. One of them is the number of vacant buildings on Main Street and so on. She requested that Tom Gallagher come to try to get these places filled up. She also said that Cortland lacks business. Ann questioned who takes care of Main St, specifically the sidewalk of the Post Office, because it lacks shoveling and it is unsafe. The Mayor said we will be in contact with the Post Office to find a solution.

The Mayor requested to enter into executive session regarding contract negotiations and contractual matters.

Resolution #34 of 2019 – Resolution to approve and accept the minutes from the February 5, 2019 Common Council meeting.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #35 of 2019 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement for the City of Cortland to apply for Municipal Food Scraps Reduction, Food Donation, and Food Scraps Recycling Programs grant through NYSDEC as authored and submitted by Seven Valleys Health Coalition (SVHC), and should the grant be awarded, to subcontract with SVHC for execution and reporting. Alderman McCarthy explained that the grant is to promote food recovery, to get it used before it goes to waste. This grant is an excellent opportunity for a solution. This has been discussed with many people. They want a municipality to apply, so Seven Valleys is subcontracting with the City to execute this.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy

Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #36 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the street closure of Court Street on June 2, 2019 from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the “Stone Soup” picnic. Officer Abbott and Tammy Timmerman explained the event. He referred to the Ithaca Police Department’s community picnic a few years ago, which allowed the officers to become much closer with the community members, and strengthen the relationships. He specified a relationship built with the police Department and a young boy with cancer, who passed away a few years ago. The “Stone Soup” is an old folklore of a gentleman walking through the town with water in a kettle, while looking to make soup, so each person he came across added something to the pot until the end result was soup. It was explained that the downtown restaurants will be participating in this event. The cost will be minimum for all people involved. The date was chosen because it is when restaurants will be most available. They are in contact with the Cortland Health Department to see what the regulations will be. The Bar and Restaurant Association is willing to split the application fees with the participating restaurants. Officer Abbott also explained that after the picnic, they would like to play a movie in Courthouse Park. The event will be paid for by many different groups. Melissa Kaiser also spoke, explaining that Cortland seems segregated and divided, which is not a place people want to raise their children in.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy

Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #37 of 2019 – Resolution to approve a sound permit for the “Stone Soup” picnic on June 2, 2019. The sound permit is for potential live music at the Cortland Beer Company.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas

Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #38 of 2019 – Resolution to waive the fees associated with the “Stone Soup” picnic on June 2, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman

Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #39 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the Fire Service Mutual Aid plan for 1 year. Next year it will be for 2 years, as it stays in the same cycle as the City elections.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #40 of 2019 – Resolution to declare a portion of the Police Department firearm training equipment as surplus. Ric VanDonsel brought examples of the equipment to show the council members. The equipment will go to the Village of Homer.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #41 of 2019 – Resolution to recognize, approve, and appropriate proceeds from the sale of surplus firearm training equipment. The price is \$500, and if approved, the funds will be allocated to the firearms training budget for the purchase of needed equipment for continued training.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Item #8 – Consideration of a Resolution declaring as surplus property and having no municipal purpose, real property located at 16 Harmon Avenue in the City of Cortland, State of New York.

This is property we acquired due to tax foreclosure. There were photos provided. This once went through the regular foreclosure. There is going to be marketing for this, and then an auction. A council member believed that the building needs to be torn down, but it was explained that it is not in the budget. It was of concern that the building is in too bad of shape for anyone to be able to maintain it. This item will be tabled for the March 5th meeting.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

A motion to table this item for March 5th was made.

Motioned by: Alderman Ferrer

Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Item #9 – Consideration of a Resolution establishing a date March 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM for a public auction for the sale and/or disposition of the properties located at 16 Harmon Avenue in the City of Cortland, State of New York. **This item was pulled from the agenda.**

Resolution #42 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the Local Law for removal of language in the City Code Section 102-16 I.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #43 of 2019 – Resolution declaring as surplus property, and having no municipal purpose, real property located at 111-113 Pendleton Ave, in the City of Cortland, State of New York.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #12 – Discussion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a six (6) month Multiple Listing Agreement (MLS) with Richard J. (RJ) Calale Jr of the Howard Hanna Real Estate Agency, 2333 N Triphammer Rd, Ithaca, NY to market and sell City owned property at 111-113 Pendleton Street, tax map no. 86.76-01-25.000.

The City would agree as part of the MLS Agreement to pay a market rate commission on the sales price upon the conveyance of the property. Conveyance would be contingent upon any prospective purchaser obtaining all required planning and zoning permits. Common Council will retain all authority to approve or deny conveyance at the purchase price tendered. An Alderman explained that there is an individual interested in this property, so he suggests they listen to him before deciding whether to put it on the market or not. Mack Cook explained that the City is working with a broker.

Resolution #44 of 2019 – Resolution to seek the appraisal price for property located at 111-113 Pendleton St.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #13 – Consideration of a Resolution to appropriate the proceeds for any sale of City property, net of commission and transaction expenditures, to the renovation of Randall Park, located at 111-113 Pendleton St. The idea is that anything from the sale of this property would go to Randall Park.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Resolution #45 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the appointment of Cathy Bischoff to the County Legislative District 3 to finish out the term of the current vacancy.

Mr. Hartnet was a Legislator and a business man. He treated his employees like they were family, and his community as it was his home. The Mayor gave a moment of silence for Mr. Hartnet. Council chose Cathy Bishoff for the position. Council believes she is a great fit.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Cathy thanked council for considering her application, and promised to work hard to earn their trust and confidence.

Item #15 – Update on DRI. There are a few different things happening, the Mayor will share a proposal for one of the programs with Council shortly.

Item #16 – Update on Parker School Task Force. There is a potential meeting next week along with the child care providers, who are drafting a proposal which will soon be given to council. The Mayor wanted to thank Thomas Hanger for volunteering his time to give his expertise. There will be a meeting scheduled which will go public for anyone to attend.

Motion to adjourn into executive session:

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of executive session:

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #46 of 2019 – Resolution to approve a contract between the City of Cortland and the Police Benevolent Association for a labor agreement to cover January 1, 2018 through December 31, of 2020.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Motion to adjourn:

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
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 19TH DAY IN FEBRUARY 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