



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
March 6, 2018

Council Meeting #5

March 6, 2018

25 Court Street

7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Katy Silliman, Gary Thomas, John Bennett, Bill Carpenter, Carlos Ferrer, Troy Beckwith, and Thomas Michales

Excused: Alderman Michelle Mastropolo

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

Public Hearing:

Mayor Tobin opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM on adding 2 more stop signs at the intersection of Central Ave and Pomeroy St, making it a 4 way stop with flashing LED stop signs at.

Linda Grisel – Has worked at the Child Care Center for 20 years. Her class window faces the intersection on Central and Pomeroy. She is in favor of making the intersection a 4-way stop. There are a lot of businesses in the area and 508 cars exiting and entering a day at the Child Care Center alone. She would also like to see crosswalks painted on the road as there are 82 children that cross at that intersection when going on walks from the Center.

Mayor Tobin closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 PM.

Mayor Tobin opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 PM on removing the traffic light at the intersection of Elm St and Pomeroy to be replaced with a 4 way stop with flashing LED stop signs at.

Karen O'Connor – Owns a house on the corner of Pomeroy and Elm. It is not safe for children due to the high traffic speed. Many of the businesses will be affected by the light going to a 4-way stop due to the congestion that will be created especially with the traffic that will be rerouted with the gateway project. A lot of cars park on the side of the road making visibility hard. She questioned ADA compliance with sidewalk crossings.

Linda Grisel – Believes that a 4-way stop will slow the traffic down and there needs to be painted crosswalks put in for the safety of children and other residents that walk and cross at that intersection.

Tim Armstrong – Owns the bakery on Elm St. He reviewed the traffic report and it states that the light could be considered for removal, not “should be removed”. The study was done at a bad time of year when there is not as much traffic on that end of town. There is no mention or consideration of the many businesses or the park in the area. He does not feel that removing the traffic light will cut down on speeding or accidents.

Scott Sherman – Lives on Pomeroy and is concerned with the safety issue. He thinks the City should look into possibly delaying the light change time. If the light is removed there will be a concern regarding the larger trucks trying to turn corners with more traffic congestion.

Mayor Tobin closed the Public Hearing at 7:29 PM.

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Brian Tobin called the fifth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:29 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Tom Gobel – Has concerns regarding the local cable company. He is getting less channels and his bill keeps going up.

Bill Fiske – Thinks the 9/11 monument is a great idea. He has concerns that the County is left out of the decisions that are made in the Courthouse Park. There should be better communication and involvement.

Ward Reports:

Ward 2 – Attended the meeting regarding the possibility of closing an Elementary School. She feels this is poor timing with the DRI and the idea that this will bring more people into our Community. The Police believe they have captured the guy that was going around and taking packages off people’s porches. If this is still an issue please let the Police and Katy know. A reminder to be respectful to homes when you are out late at night or early am. It has been very loud up on the hill in the later hours of the night. Thank you to the City Police and Sheriff’s Office for your fast response to the recent threat on Social Media to the High School. As a Community we need to do something to prevent these things from happening.

Ward 3 – Thank you to all the public speakers that took the time tonight to come out and voice your concerns. There is a vacant house still on Forrest Ave. that something needs to be done with. There have been a number of calls regarding pot holes. DPW does a cold patch to temporarily repair the holes, once the weather permits they will be out fixing the holes.

Ward 4 – Please continue to report any pot holes as the DPW keeps a list and will repair them in the spring.

Ward 5 – Thank you City Police and Sheriff on the response to the threat to the High School. Public Safety is very important to the Council and they take it into serious consideration. He is in agreement with keeping the light at the intersection of Pomeroy and Elm St.

Ward 6 – Agrees with what Alderman Carpenter stated.

Ward 7 – Many constituents have voiced their concerns regarding the traffic light on Pomeroy and Elm St. He will take these into consideration once a decision is to be made.

Ward 8 – There have been a lot of calls regarding the snow plows and throwing snow upon the sidewalks. This has been an ongoing issue and Council should try to discuss what we can do to help with this issue. The snow becomes very heavy and hard to remove. He would like to have a Monument Committee for future projects.

Mayor’s Report:

The visit from the Lt. Governor scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed due to the snow storm that is coming through. As soon as we have a date and time, we will let everyone know.

Eamon O’Shea from the Cable Commission was present to discuss the recent concerns regarding Spectrum Cable. He explained that there is a disagreement between Northwestern Broadcasting (Fox) and Spectrum regarding their contract. There is nothing we as the City can do in regards to that. The Commission tries to encourage a resolution between them. In 2015 the Commission’s rights to have any control over the rate of basic cable was removed. The only way to get your bill lowered is by calling the company and trying to negotiate a better rate. There is the option of going to satellite. If there is an outage or disruption in service, you are encouraged to call Spectrum and ask for a compensation. There has been talk of removing the Public Access (WSKG/WSCNY) channels. The Commission has encouraged them not to and to keep them going because people rely on those Channels.

Resolution #41 of 2018 - Resolution to approve the February 20, 2018 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Thomas
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Proclamation:

Mayor Tobin read the Proclamation for St. Baldrick’s Day. DC Paul Sandy spoke about the event that will be happening on Saturday March 10, 2018 at the Red Jug. He will be participating and shaving his mustache.

Item #1 – Presentation and Discussion of city-wide real property re-assessment.

Brian Fitts, the City Assessor was present for the meeting. He explained that the City is going to do a City wide reassessment. The last one was done in 2008. There are a couple of ways the City can do this. If an in-house reassessment is done, it will be cheaper than if we hire for an out of house assessment. The City can send out a data mailer to everyone asking the public to verify information about their homes and property. The assessor can do a walk-through of the property as well. The hope is to have this done by the 2021 assessment role. There is some State Aid that can be reimbursed per parcel payable to the City. There is a Sickle reassessment that can be done where the amount fluctuates from year to year. The assessment is based on the sales in the neighborhood from year to year. Regular maintenance and updating to a person’s property will not majorly affect a person’s assessment. The assessments typically go off of square footage of a property. If someone does not agree with their assessment, they are encouraged to sit with the assessor to discuss the issue. There is a Board of Assessment that meets yearly that people may go and express their concern to the Board.

Resolution #42 of 2018 – Resolution to appoint Abigail Cleary to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #43 of 2018 – Resolution to appoint Tom Larson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman

Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #44 of 2018 – Resolution to appropriate \$343.70 in proceeds from the sale of scrap metal to A3120-416.03.

Motioned By: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #45 of 2018 – Resolution to approve the use of City owned land in the Courthouse park for use as a memorial to 9/11 victims and first responders. The property is located at the south western portion of the park adjacent to the east by the existing Veterans Memorial and to the west by Church Street.

A new drawing of the plans have been submitted to the Council members. A 501C-3 has been filed for the project. Lights will be donated from a company in Syracuse to light up the memorial and park. A special 9/11 flag is going to be ordered and placed in the memorial along with some security cameras. The County Legislators will review and vote on the project on March 22, 2018.

Motioned By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #46 of 2018 – Resolution requesting New York State Legislature to amend Section 1202 Tax Law to permit the City of Cortland to implement a 3% Occupancy Tax.

Motion By: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #47 of 2018 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor, with the concurrence of a majority of the Members of Common Council, to request the New York State Senate enact Senate Bill 5861 amending the State Tax Law in relation to the imposition of an occupancy tax in the City of Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #48 of 2018 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor, with the concurrence of a majority of the Members of Common Council, to request the New York State Assembly enact Assembly Bill 7852 amending the State Tax Law in relation to the imposition of an occupancy tax in the City of Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #49 of 2018 – Resolution to reinstate the suspension of building permit fees through December 31, 2018 for residential maintenance and improvements of projects of \$20,000 or less.

Motion By: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #50 of 2018 – Resolution Re-authorizing the City of Cortland’s Purchase Policy in accord with the requirements of the City of Cortland Charter/Code and General Municipal Law section 104-b.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #11 – Set a date for a Public Hearing on the proposed City of Cortland Zoning Code Update, version February 7, 2018.

A date was set for April 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The new update is posted on the website.

Mayor Tobin – There was discussion on the possibility of a second Public Hearing regarding the Intersections on Pomeroy St. It was decided that no further Public Hearings are needed and the public has spoken regarding their concerns. There will be no changes made to the intersection of Pomeroy and Elm St.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned By: Alderman Thomas
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
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 6th DAY OF MARCH, 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.

RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN