



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**April 2, 2019**

Council Meeting #6  
**April 2, 2019**  
25 Court Street  
7:00 PM

Present: Aldermen Kat McCarthy, Katy Silliman, Gary Thomas, Carlos Ferrer, William Carpenter, Troy Beckwith, and John Bennett

Excused: Alderman Thomas Michales

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.

**Public Hearing:** Mayor Tobin opened a public hearing regarding 2019 Community Development Block Grant Application pursuant to CBDG Citizen participation requirements to include applications for housing and economic development.

No one was present to speak. Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:04 PM.

**Regular Session:**

Mayor Tobin called the sixth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:04 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments:**

*Thomas Keegan-* Mr. Keegan reiterated his comments from the last meeting, explaining that he was grateful about changing the rideshare laws. He explained that many of the negative comments about this are coming from people who are not familiar with or use rideshare companies.

*Morgan LaClaire-* Ms. LaClaire is the president of the club “Actively Involved in the Community”. She came to promote their Big Event, which promotes campus and community unity. It is not based on any socio-economic status, it is solely about the community and to give back to those who help each other. It is April 14<sup>th</sup>. She explained that so many students are signed up to volunteer, but they are lacking job sites.

*Jean Rightmire-* Habitat for Humanity. Jean came in regards to the event that is coming up, and spoke to answer any questions council had, but there were none.

*Bill Fisk-* Bill came in regards to agenda items 9 and 12. He expressed his concerns with the properties.

**Ward Reports:**

*Ward 1:* Kat wanted to thank the department heads for meeting with her the last couple weeks. There has

been some talk about street issues, which have been forwarded to the DPW.

*Ward 2:* Some people are concerned with loudness, so this is a reminder to be respectful to the neighbors. There were also some complaints of trash not getting picked up.

*Ward 3:* Many residents are requesting dog poo stations.

*Ward 4:* A mailer from DPW went out to home owners. There will be leaves and branch pickup soon.

*Ward 5:* There have been complaints about the leaves, DPW is aware. He wanted to thank CPD for being so responsive when a child was bitten by a loose dog, and getting in contact with the owner of the dog.

*Ward 6:* There were some plowing complaints about lawn damage. DPW has a list and will be making repairs.

*Ward 7:* There are traffic concerns on Salisbury St. and Cleveland St. SNAP moved on Salisbury St. and there is an increase in traffic flow. Alderman Beckwith will be working with DPW for the possibility of a stop sign.

**Mayor's report:** The Mayor presented a certificate of longevity for Police Chief Frank Catalano. Chief Catalano has been in service for 35 years.

**Resolution #73 of 2019** – Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 25, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Item #1** – Presentation on the Opioid use in Cortland. Matt Whitman, the director of Cortland Area Communities that Care, explained the survey was given to 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Overall, the usage is low and stable. He explained that for the first time, the most widely-used substance is not alcohol, but vaping. He explained that the overdose issue is less in the youth, as the average age for overdose is 40. For the kiosks that allow people to dispose of their prescription meds, they found that 11% of the 3,000 pounds brought in was controlled substances. And of that 11%, 73% were opioids like oxycodone. They are also working with the hospital to reduce prescribing, as there has been a 53% decrease.

**Resolution #74 of 2019** – Resolution to authorize the City to submit an application to New York State for CDBG economic development funds of up to \$750,000 for the purpose of facilitating the expansion of New York Hemp Oil; and further authorizing the Mayor to sign said application and enter into a grant agreement with the State if the funds are awarded.

Alderman McCarthy wanted to ensure that there was no conflict of interest with this agenda item because her partner is business partners with Allan in terms of Main Street Farms, but has no ownership in New York Hemp Oil, or the Head and Heal brand. This would also provide more jobs for citizens.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**Resolution #75 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the Special event application for the Arts and Wine Festival on Saturday August 3, 2019 from 10AM – 5PM.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith  
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0  
 Abstention – 1 (Alderman McCarthy)

**Resolution #76 of 2019** – Resolution to waive the fees for the special event application for the Arts and Wine Festival on Saturday August 3, 2019 from 10AM – 5PM.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0  
 Abstention – 1 (Alderman McCarthy)

**Resolution #77 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the Abolishment of City Code Chapter 258 regarding Taxi regulations.

Once this is abolished, there will not be any inspections on the cabs made by the CPD. Ric VanDonsel explained that regulations are maintained for rideshare through their companies. The owner of College Town Cabs came and is in support of this resolution and appreciates it.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #78 of 2019** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Budget Line</b>
Todd & Michelle Funk	\$500.00	Youth Center	A-7330.5400
Total	\$500.00		

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
 Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #79 of 2019** – Resolution to amend Resolution #284 of 2018 to read: Resolution authorizing the encumbrance within the capital fund 100% of the Federal and State eligible costs for a transportation federal Aid Project PIN3756.13, contract # D035285, in the amount of \$717,358.00 for construction and

construction inspection for the replacement of Madison St Bridge over Dry Creek (BIN 22007800). This is a language refinement. This resolution was already passed by Council, but the state would like changed language.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #80 of 2019** – Resolution to amend Resolution #103 of 2017 to read: *Resolution authorizing the encumbrance within the Capital Fund 100% of the Federal and State eligible costs for a transportation Federal Aid Project PIN 3756.13, contract #D035285, in the amount of \$717,358.00 to fund construction and inspection for the replacement of Madison St Bridge over Dry Creek (BIN2207800).*

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #81 of 2019** – Resolution to waive the \$10,000 in accrued Code Enforcement receivable's and interest thereon for vacant building penalties on property owned by NYC REO LLC, at 26 Cleveland St, (Tax ID 087-37-01-19.00000) to sell said property to a responsible owner to facilitate the process of returning the property to productive use.

This building has been vacant for almost 10 years. It has been cleaned up, and will be sold within 60 days. The property will be brought up to current code.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #82 of 2019** – Resolution to encumber \$220,000 in the General Fund Contingency Account (A1990) for the following purposes and amounts:

- Snow and Ice Removal in Fall/Winter 2019 \$ 60,000
- Police Department Personnel 2018-19 Retro Pay per Contract settlement \$ 50,000
- Retirement settlements Police and Fire Departments \$ 110,000
- Remaining un-encumbered balance in the Contingencies Account \$ 46,612

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #83 of 2019** – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute 1 year extension of contract with Manasse Auctions for the upcoming 2019 Tax Sale Auction, date to be determined.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #84 of 2019** – Resolution amending City of Cortland electrical code to update and comply with NYS Electric Code guidelines.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
 Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #85 of 2019** – Resolution to authorize Director of Administration and Finance to charge and collect from the County of Cortland a fee in an amount equal to 1.5% of the gross amount of property taxes collected for the County district during the calendar year ending December 31, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #86 of 2019** – Resolution to authorize Director of Administration and Finance to charge from the City of Cortland Enlarged School District a fee in an amount equal to 1.5% of the gross amount of property taxes collected for the school District during the calendar year ending December 31, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #87 of 2019** – Resolution to encumber the following amounts from the 2018 General Fund and Water Budgets to the 2019 General Fund and Water Budgets:

Department	Account Title	Account Number	Amount
Police Department	Operational Equipment	A3120-520600	\$ 7,000.00
Police Department	Uniform, Safety Equip	A3120-540800	\$ 5,000.00
Police Department	Training	A3120-541601	\$ 6,000.00
Youth Bureau/Parks	Operating Equipment	A7140-540500	\$ 23,480.00
Fire Department	Haz-Mat operations	A3410-542002	\$ 8,419.48
<b>Total – General Fund</b>			\$ 41,480.00
Water	Deer Fund Donations	FX-42706	\$ 903.71

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
 Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**Item #16** – DRI update- We are moving along and having productive conversations with the state. Mack Cook has been putting the RFP for the Main Street portion, which is over \$5 Million of the costs. Paperwork is being worked on, and more progress will be coming up.

**Alderman Bennett asked to add an agenda item.**

**Resolution #88 of 2019** – Resolution to appoint Wendy Horner as registrar in the City Clerk’s Office.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**Item #17** – Task Force update: The group met last week and will meet this coming Thursday at 6.

Alderman Beckwith started discussion regarding the interest and possibility of taking away the option of City health insurance being offered to City Aldermen. Council advised Mack Cook to look into the laws of this and possibly drafting up a resolution for Council. It was also asked what the status of the Downtown Partnership was. It was explained that the Board members are volunteers who have been working very hard to get things moving again.

**Motion to adjourn:**

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas

Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

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 2 DAY IN APRIL 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.**

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**RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**