



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
April 16, 2019

Council Meeting #7
April 16, 2019
25 Court Street
7:00 PM

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

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the seventh Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

Connie Sorrells- Connie spoke as a tax payer, on behalf of the loss of health insurance for the Aldermen. She suggests that there should be a single-plan of health insurance only provided for the person serving, as opposed to an entire family. This way, it is still fair to Council Members, and it would be saving the City and its tax payers a lot of money.

Mayor's report: The Mayor shined light on the event that took place last weekend, where over 600 college students worked on job sites to beautify Cortland. The Mayor also congratulated William Wood for 30 years of employment by presenting him with an award, along with a certificate from NYCOM. Bill is an employee at the water department, but has helped the City in numerous ways, and serves as a volunteer fire fighter. The Mayor then requested Chief Glover to introduce Cortland's new firefighter, Tyler Zelsnak.

Resolution #89 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

Proclamations:

Arbor Day- The Mayor gave facts and explained history regarding Arbor Day.

Mental Health Awareness Month- The Mayor explained the importance and key concepts regarding mental health and the available sources.

Paint the Town Purple- The Mayor talked about Paint the Town Purple, and urged residences to participate in the Cancer Awareness events that will be coming up.

Resolution #90 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other required applications for St. Anthony’s Day Festival on Saturday June 8-9, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #91 of 2019 – Resolution to waive the fees for the special event application for St. Anthony’s day Festival on Saturday June 8-9, 2019. A chairperson was present to speak. She thanked Council for all the support over the years.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #92 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other required applications for the Mental Health Awareness Walk on May 16, 2019 from 12PM-1PM. Every year, this walk takes place to raise awareness and inform about mental health issues. Patty Chapman was present to speak on the walk’s behalf. It will be located at the Presbyterian Church, from Court St, to Main St, then down Port Watson St, and back to Court St. The idea is to stress that mental health affects physical health as well.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #93 of 2019 – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other required applications for the Main Street Music Series to be held the 4 Fridays in July.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #94 of 2019 – Resolution to waive the open container ordinance for the Main Street Music Series events.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #95 of 2019 – Resolution to waive the fees for the special event application for Main Street Music Series in July.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #96 of 2019 – Resolution to appoint Dr. Jeremy Jimenez to the Environmental Advisory Committee for a 3 year term. Alderwoman Kat McCarthy met with him and she said he seems very engaged and that he would be a great fit.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #97 of 2019 – Resolution authorizing disbursing the \$5000.00 as budgeted in the 2019 General Fund Adopted Budget to the Main Street Music Series.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #98 of 2019 – Resolution to abolish medical and prescription drugs insurance for members of the City of Cortland Common Council.

WHEREAS, the City of Cortland Common Council members have been eligible for and receive if desired Medical and Prescription Drug Insurance through the City of Cortland Health Insurance Benefit Plans, and

WHEREAS, this Common Council does not wish to take medical and prescription drug insurance benefits away from Alderpersons who are currently enrolled or eligible to enroll in the plans, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that 2020 Common Council members will not be eligible to receive medical and prescription drugs insurance benefits through the City of Cortland Health Insurance Benefit Plans, excepting those members who currently receive such benefits or are eligible to receive such benefits are reelected in 2019, and continue to be reelected, **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that any current members of Common Council wishing to enroll must enroll during open enrollment in November 2019 or enroll as a result of a qualifying event must do so on or before December 31, 2019.

Kat McCarthy requested that this item be tabled until the rules and procedures are discussed. She believes Council is getting ahead of themselves in terms of compensation and to look into the code of ethics and talk about it further.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Katy Silliman withdrew her second and Gary Thomas Seconded in her place.

Alderman McCarthy explained that she finds it premature to vote on something that will only go into effect in 2020 without looking at the expectations for Council. She thinks it makes sense to look at it holistically and talk about it before voting. The County Legislature had the same implementation and this resolution mimics it. This would eliminate insurance for new comers onto council, but would retain it for current members, regardless of how many terms they serve. The City covers \$40,000 a year per alderperson for their insurance. Ray Parker spoke as someone who was part of the legislature who voted for the County to discontinue the insurance as well. He explained that when implemented, some elected individuals were in question of it. The point of this is so that people do not run for office for the health benefits. Some members told their experience and stories with the insurance.

Gary Thomas withdrew his second.

Motion to table this item:

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 4

Nays – 3 (Aldermen Thomas, Carpenter, Beckwith)

This item will be tabled for the May 21st meeting.

Resolution #99 of 2019 – Resolution to review 83-85 Main St project pursuant to SEQR. Ric gave the Councilmembers the new SEQR form. The important part is to collectively answer questions regarding the environmental impact. For this particular item, it is in regard to the grant money to repair and replace the façade. The council members voted no for every question, implying that there are no negative impacts whatsoever. Council found that there was no negative impact.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Item #11 – Review of City Budget

There was no discussion regarding the budget.

Item #12 – DRI update

Council has copies of RFP's. This is not just a two-way Main St, there are 4 main components consisting of an infrastructure project, to service project to a re-routing of traffic lights infrastructure. The storm water, water, and sanitary sewers are all involved in this project. There will be a streetscaping of modernizing the existing street into a new design for what the public chooses. The second component is the pocket park being put on the downtown Court, the third is a parks project in the downtown Court. The fourth component is wifi. The RFP is calling for one firm to design, engineer, construction management, and reporting. It is a \$5.9 Million project. The rest of the money is for private projects.

Item #13 – Task Force update

The entities are working closely together and everything is being taken care of. There will be a city-wide community meeting at Parker to remind the public of the process that the task force has been through, and that it was the community itself that wanted the school to be occupied by children. The entities will soon be presenting to council. The school district is having a celebration of the school on April 25th 6:30-8pm, open to the community.

Item #14 – Discussion on Rules and Procedures for Common Council.

In Council’s packet there was a copy of the City Charter where on page C-10, there is a section regarding rules and procedures. The Mayor read section C and D regulations. The mayor urges council to consider and establish its policies and procedures. Alderman Silliman added that she thinks it is important to make the expectations clear for future possible members to see what the obligations entail. Alderman Bennett said that it is important to stress Council’s inability to receive specific gifts, and to define what Council members must recuse themselves on. Katy suggested to make a committee of members to put this together. Alderman Bennett and McCarthy decided to join.

The executive session is in regards to personel issues.

Motion to enter into executive session:

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Motion to exit out of executive session:

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Motion to adjourn:

Motioned by: Alderman Ferrer
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.

RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN