



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**June 18, 2019**

Council Meeting #10  
**June 18, 2019**  
25 Court Street  
7:00 PM

Present: Aldermen Kat McCarthy, Katy Silliman, Carlos Ferrer, Gary Thomas, Alderman 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, Superintendent WWJP Bruce Adams

**Public Hearing:**

Required second public hearing for review and comment on City's Community Development Program and Contento Recycling project.

Linda Armstrong was present for the meeting to answer any questions. No one wished to speak or had questions.

**Regular Session:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments:**

Donald Chu - spoke in favor of the City taking over Parker School as long as it going to take on school type responsibilities. Pre-School is identified as an urgent need in the schools for the City, as it is providing child care and early education. There are about 400 3 & 4 year olds in the district, Parker School would be a good place for Teaching them.

Sheila Cohen - spoke on behalf of the Arts & Wine committee asking for approval of help with covering the insurance cost for the Arts & Wine Festival.

Abby Cleary – she is very impressed with the presentation that was done at Parker School & the work done by the Task Force. She was struck by its innovation, forward thinking and ability to address some very serious needs in the community. Nobody wants to see an empty building in their neighborhood. Daycare is a real issue for a lot of parents. This project is a good use of City funds. The forward thinking nature of this plan is

what is going to attract families to this community.

Mr. Hoose (Superintendent of Cortland City School District) - Mr. Chu is on the School Board and doesn't speak for the School Board. The dollars amounts Mr. Chu mentions are incorrect.

**Ward reports:**

Ward 1 – Construction continues, please drive slower through those areas and take caution.

Ward 2 – Quiet.

Ward 3 – People are happy with the recent paving in the City. Concerns of a lady riding a horse in the City without a saddle and the horse seems to be scaring young children.

Ward 4 – Was asked last Friday by American Legion to speak at Flag Day event, it was a wonderful presentation. They had a young Cub Scout and young female Boy Scout who presented the flags, one at a time. Went through how to dispose of the flag properly.

Ward 5 – Owego St has been paved and looks great.

Ward 6 – Got an email from business owner with concerns about pot holes on Clinton Ave. These will be taken care of with through the Gateway project. Thank you Deputy Chief Sandy and Officer Abbott for the Stone Soup event. There were over 500 attendees.

Ward 7 – Quiet.

**Mayor's report:**

Thank you to Amanda Barber with Soil & Water Department at the County. Had a day at Beaudry Park where she handed out free tomato plants and seeds.

There have been several complaints about break-ins. Please lock doors & windows. If something doesn't look right, please call 9-1-1.

**Resolution #136 of 2019** – Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 21, 2019 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #137 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other necessary applications for SUNY Cortland Sesquicentennial Closing on July 11-14, 2019.

Mary Kate Morris is the Co-Chair for the colleges Sesquicentennial and they are celebrating 150 years. In the process of working with the Fire Department to find a location for fireworks. There is a schedule on the Alumni Engagement Website. Fire Jugglers will be performing again this year.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #138 of 2019** – Resolution to waive the fees associated with the special event application for SUNY Cortland Sesquicentennial Closing on July 11-14, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #139 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other necessary applications for Youth Concert Series on August 10, 2019 and September 21, 2019 from 4pm-7pm in Courthouse Park.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #140 of 2019** – Resolution to waive the fees associated with the special event application for Youth Concert Series on August 10, 2019 and September 21, 2019 from 4pm-7pm in Courthouse Park.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #141 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit for chickens located 6B Medes Place, Cortland.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 2 (Alderman Thomas, Ferrer)

**Resolution #142 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit for chickens located at 172 Madison St, Cortland.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 4  
                   Nays – 2 (Alderman Thomas, Ferrer)  
                   Abstention – 1 (Alderman McCarthy)

**Resolution #143 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit for chickens located at 22 Hyatt St, Cortland.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
 Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5  
                   Nays – 2 (Alderman Thomas, Ferrer)

**Resolution #144 of 2019** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Event/Project</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
Patrick Snyder	\$100.00	Porch Fest	A-7550.5405
Cortland County Board of Realtors	\$250.00	John Tobin Hero Award	Jim Partigianoni Trust Fund
Greg Mason	\$150.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Virginia Clavarella	\$25.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Eleanor Clavarella	\$30.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Richard Tierney	\$50.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Randall O'Connor	\$75.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
John Schaefer	\$300.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Mount St. Mary College	\$50.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Jane Beck	\$150.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Michael Powers	\$100.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Timothy Walsh	\$100.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Judith Scardillo	\$25.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Kenneth Mazzone	\$50.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
M. Jacqueline Kuhns	\$100.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund

Maureen Godwin	\$100.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Scott Eisenbacher	\$70.00	In Memory of Theresa Walsh	Jerry Walsh Trust Fund
Total	\$1725.00		

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Item #9** – Presentation of a plan for the future of the Parker School.

Krissy Gambetta Chair for the Task Force thanked the Council members for letting her speak tonight. The Task Force was appointed to engage the community to find options for the use of the school and make recommendations on the best future use for the school. They approached this by asking the community what they think the need was and what they wanted to see. They didn't want to see the building used for housing and wanted the building to remain in use for children and youth, preferably for some educational purpose. The general consensus from the public was for the building to stay youth service oriented. They went out and spoke with the agencies in the area and approached all the child care agencies asking if there was a need for more space and if there is a need for more child care. It was then discovered there was a huge need for child care in the area. Child care brings economic development and impact on workforce. The YWCA & CAPCO/Early Head Start will pay a share based on the occupied space. Currently CAPCO & YWCA are financially able to fund 50% of the total annual operating budget for a temporary basis to keep the project going. They are looking for a governing body that could go for the available grants. If the City has ownership of the building they will have more access to grants.

Mike May & Bob Haight were present to represent the Business in the Community initiative. They support the City and child care. The lack of childcare causes tardiness and lack of production, this really affects the economic growth of the community. Early education will engage our in cognitive growth during critical formative years. Cortland can be a leader in this process.

Jennifer Soprano spoke stating that her son has been a student at Learning Adventure since 6 months old. The YWCA is always open, has great care and is convenient. She is in full support.

Jo Ann Wickman lives on Madison Street, her kids went to Parker School and worked about 20 years for City schools. She stated that early education is very important for children's growth.

Alderman Bennett had questions regarding the different bonds and the regulations associated with them.

**Resolution #145 of 2019** – Resolution to direct the Parker School Task Force to submit formal proposal for the re-purposing of the Alton B. Parker School.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**Resolution #146 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the City Police Department to conduct the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Bicycle Sale on Saturday July 6, 2019 from 8AM-11AM.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #147 of 2019** – Resolution to appropriate proceeds from the auction of 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe declared Surplus property to purchase a new 2020 Police Vehicle. The amount of \$5,500.00 to account A3120.206.00.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #148 of 2019** – Resolution to recognize and accept a donation to the City Police Department from Lowes of an 8’x8’ shed valued at \$850.00 to store Police Bicycles and make readily available for use on patrol.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #149 of 2019** – Resolution to authorize the City PD to enter into a 5 year lease with Enterprise Fleet for a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox to be used as an unmarked Police vehicle.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Item #15** – Consideration of a Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill an anticipated vacancy in the Fire Department.

Motion to table this item until July 2, 2019

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Item #16** – Consideration of a Resolution to commence with the hiring process to fill an anticipated firefighter vacancy subsequent to the promotional process for the position of Assistant Fire Chief II/Director of Code Enforcement.

Motion to table this item until July 2, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #150 of 2019** – Resolution to purchase an endorsement to the City’s General Liability policy for the following civic event at the appropriate list premium:

Arts & Wine Festival            \$585.65

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 4  
Nays – 2 (Alderman Thomas, Ferrer)  
Abstention – 1 (Alderman McCarthy)

**Resolution #151 of 2019** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Fisher and Associates for consulting services for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative’s public projects.

***Whereas:** the City and the New York State Department of State prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services to assist the City in the design, implementation and construction of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative’s Public Project Components, and*

***Whereas:** the RFP was advertised in the New York Contract System, and*

***Whereas:** the RFP and supporting information was distributed to twenty-eight (28) firms, and*

***Whereas:** the City solicited proposals from Minority and Women Owned Businesses that were certified and registered as MWBE’s by the State of New York, and*

***Whereas:** the City solicited proposals in accordance with the City’s Procurement Policy and the applicable provisions of the State of New York General Municipal Law, and*

***Whereas:** the RFP solicited for services as specified in the DRI Public Project Contract between the State and the City and the Scope of Work incorporated therein, and*

***Whereas:** the City received and accepted nine (9) submissions to the RFP, and*

***Whereas:** all submissions were reviewed by the DRI Selection Committee, and*

***Whereas:** the Selection Committee invited four (4) firms to appear before them with presentations.*

***Therefore Be It Resolved,** that upon the recommendation of the DRI Selection Committee the Mayor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the firm of Fisher Associates of Rochester, New York for consulting services, as detailed in the RFP, for the Downtown Revitalization Initiatives Public Projects.*

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**Resolution #152 of 2019** – Resolution concurring the CDBG #285178-18, providing funds for a Microenterprise Assistance Program in the City of Cortland, is a Type II action pursuant to SEQRA regulations and that the Microenterprise Assistance Program WILL NOT result in any significant adverse environmental impact based on the TYPE II designation and, thus, no further SEQR review is required.

Resolution to declare the City as lead agency relative to this particular project.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

It was determined that there is negative environmental assessment.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Item #20** – DRI update

**Item #21** – Monthly City Budget Review

Mayor stated that an application for unemployment was received from a former elected official. The State Law says that elected officials may not collect unemployment once they are no longer elected.

**Motion to adjourn:**

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
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 18 DAY IN JUNE 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