



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**July 16, 2019**

Council Meeting #11  
**July 16, 2019**  
25 Court Street  
7:00 PM

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

Excused: Aldermen Gary Thomas & William Carpenter

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 WWTP Bruce Adams

**Regular Session:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Smith spoke on his concerns that there is no weekend transportation for the handicap people in the City. Those that live in the High-rise buildings on Church St and Port Watson are limited to the City during the weekends because there is no transportation to travel outside the City. He suggest a possible bus to do day trips to fairs and other parks. The bus fare is \$.75 during the week.

Mr. Fisk talked about item #11 which is extending term length for Council and the Mayor to 4 years and it really needs public input. He hopes people get involved with the vote.

**Mayor's report:**

Alderman Bennett would like add an item to the Agenda to approve submission to the Environmental Protection Fund for Fire Department windows.

Mayor Tobin would like to ask for an executive session at the end for contractual negotiations for Labor Unions with no potential action after.

**Resolution #167 of 2019** – Motion to approve the minutes from of July 2, 2019 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman

Seconded by: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #168 of 2019** – Resolution approving and endorsing the City of Cortland in its application to NYS Homes and Community Renewal for funding under the 2019 NYMS Grant Program.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #169 of 2019** – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other necessary applications for the Shakespeare in the Park on August 9-10, August 16-17 2019 from 6pm-10pm at Suggett Park.

Mr. Corey was present to speak on behalf of Shakespeare in the Park. It is a yearly event and has different plays each year.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #170 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>
Black Mt. Landscape	\$100.00	Porch Fest Sponsor	A-7550.5405
Hearing Aid Consultants	\$500.00	Porch Fest Sponsor	A-7550.5405
The Walsh Law Firm	\$250.00	Porch Fest Sponsor	A-7550.5405
Total	\$850.00		

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #171 of 2019** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate sale proceeds from the Police Department’s annual bicycle sale that was held on July 6, 2019. The funds will be split between the Water Works Deer Fund, receiving \$601.00, and the Cortland COPS program, receiving \$606.00.

Motioned by: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #172 of 2019** – Resolution to donate unsold bicycles from the Police Department’s bicycle sale to Royal Family Kids, which is a national organization helping youth.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #173 of 2019** – Resolution to declare miscellaneous property (used tires, old light bars, siren boxes, plastic storage totes, and old Digital Ally Mobile Video Recorders) in possession of the City Police Department as surplus and allow it to be sold through Auction International.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #174 of 2019** – Resolution to declare a 2010 Grey Chevrolet Impala as surplus property from the City Police Department, so it may be sold on Auction International.

Motioned by: Alderman Michales  
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #8** – Review Air Stripper Projects and its Loan and Bond process pursuant to SEQR.

It was determined that there is negative environmental impact.

**Resolution #175 of 2019** – Resolution to Amend Resolution number 83 of 2016 to authorize the Issuance of \$4,280,000 in Bonds for Renovation. Upgrade and Facility Expansion of the City Water Plant.

*Whereas: the City is about to engage in a major renovation, upgrade and facility expansion of the Water Treatment Plant (Project), and*

*Whereas: the revised scope of the planned project exceeds to the original plan to replace only the Air Strippers and direct connecting lines to the well heads, and*

*Whereas: the City has found it necessary, prudent, and cost effective to expand the scope of the original project at this time, and*

*Whereas: the total projected cost of the revised project is currently \$4,287,000 as outline in Appendix A to this Resolution, and*

*Whereas: Common Council has in Resolution Number 83 of 2016 authorized the City to Bond for the then estimated cost of the project in the amount of \$2,300,000, and*

**Whereas:** the City was awarded a NYS Environment Facility (EFC) Grant/Loan in the total amount of \$2,300,000 in the form of a grant of \$1,380,000 and a loan of \$920,000, and

**Whereas:** the City intends to file a second grant application with EFC requesting an additional \$1,900,000 to fund the additional project scope, and

**Whereas:** EFC requires as a component of the grant application a bond resolution in the full amount of the project's estimated cost.

**Therefore Be It Resolved;** that be it resolved that Resolution Number 83 of 2016 is amended to authorize the issuance of \$4,280,000 in bonds to fund the renovation, upgrade, and facility expansion to the City's Water Plant.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman

Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #176 of 2019** – Resolution to authorize the publication in the City's official Newspapers the Estoppel Notice pertaining to the issuance of \$4,280,000 in bonds to fund the renovation, upgrade, and facility expansion to the City's Water Plant.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #177 of 2019** – Resolution to approve submission of an Environmental Protection Fund (EFP) application in the amount not to exceed \$750,000.00 to undertake renovation/repair of windows at the Court Street Fire Station and, upon approval of said request, to enter into a project agreement with the State and a conservation easement/preservation covenant to the deed of the property if required by the State.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #11**– Discussion by Council on extending term lengths for Council and the Mayor to 4 years; and if desired, to set a date for public hearing.

Council suggested that these items be looked at and voted on as two separate resolutions. The terms should be up to the voters. Council discussed how it can be difficult to make a difference and get to know constituents in just 2 short years.

Public Hearings to be set for August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM to first hear thoughts on the term length for the Mayor and then thoughts on the term length for Council members.

**Item #12**– Discussion regarding the City's involvement in the County's Worker's Compensation plan with potential for a resolution to withdraw from the plan for 2020.

The City is looking into 2 other companies, Comp Alliance and Perma. With other companies, there may be more initial money up front but then a decrease in over time. These Companies come with great reviews. There is a deadline that the City has to make a decision to withdraw by July 31, 2019. If the City later decides to join back in, that may be an option.

**Resolution #178 of 2019** – Resolution for the City of Cortland to end its participation in the Cortland County Worker’s Compensation plan effective December 31, 2019.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

City Council asks the Cortland County Legislature to consider a resolution supporting an endorsement of the City’s pursuit of alternatives to the current County plan, consider designating funds to the Worker’s Compensation Reserve and consideration of changing how the assessments are done instead of using full value to using taxable value.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #13**– Discussion regarding the potential implementation of a Stormwater and/or sidewalk replacement fee(s).

Council discussed that streets and sidewalks impact the look of community and we are trying to attract more people to our community. To do that, we need to make the streets and sidewalks look nice. Currently City sidewalks are up to the homeowner to replace. A suggestion was made to set money aside specific for infrastructure needs (i.e. paving, sidewalks and Stormwater). An idea was to enforce the sidewalk ordinances so people have to fix their sidewalks. There were concerns on who would do the work, how home owners that have recently replaced their sidewalks would be charged or compensated if there are added fees put on tax payers for sidewalk replacement as well as the people who don’t have sidewalks.

**Item #14** – DRI update  
There was no update.

**Item #15** – City Budget Review

**Enter into Executive Session** – To discuss a contract matter with Labor Union

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

**Exit out of Executive Session:**

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Motion to adjourn:**

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

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 16th DAY IN JULY 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**