



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
August 21, 2018

Council Meeting #15
August 21, 2018
25 Court Street
7:03 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Katy Silliman, John C. Bennett, Carlos Ferrer, Troy Beckwith, William Carpenter, Michelle Mastropolo and Gary Thomas

Excused: Alderman Thomas Michales

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

Public Comments:

- *Tom Gobel mentioned a piece of property on Port Watson near the AJ's diner. He also mentioned the rat problem, and addressed his appreciation for the new 9/11 park.*

Mayor: *Tom Tobin* was recognized for twenty-five years of employment and service.
Norm Stitzle, a volunteer for Toys-4-Tots for the last 50 years was recognized for exceptional service towards the betterment of the community.
Traffic Route Public Hearing Date on the Agenda for August 21, 2018.
Removed Item #12 from Agenda, as it was not ready to be discussed.
Executive Session on Contract Negotiations with No Action to follow was added to agenda.
Music Series, Taste of Cortland, Arts and Wine, Brockway Truck Show events advertised.

Item #1 – Presentation of the Zombie and Vacant Initiative. “We Create Possibilities” is a company that works on grant writing administration, and community and business development. Cortland obtained a grant from the state for this project. The overall goal is to create and implement an outreach program to connect homeowners at risk foreclosure and to become more Intune with properties that could potentially become vacant, along with solutions, by making people more aware of opportunities to help prevent zombie properties, and providing them with ways to seek assistance. There were concerns from neighboring areas that the money would be used to buy new properties, however that is not one of the objectives of the grant application, but could become an objective for the future. There is a number of concerns relating to zombie properties, some of which are crime, a decrease in the value of neighboring properties, and identifying opportunities for reinvestment. These concerns can be mitigated by encouraging reinvestment in local stocks. Ways to identify pre-vacancy and homeowners at risk from the city’s perspective has two points: delayed water bills, and delayed tax bills. Mentioned a free seminar providing information for help, video tape it and put it on the website for anyone seeking assistance. Also mentioned providing information about scans to residents, for explanation behind the needed information.

Item #2 – Presentation on Opioid Prevention. CACTC presentation on drug prevention especially for youth. One thing that the company always does is create the survey for students in grades 7-12 every year to assess drug use and habits. There are a few main strategies when it comes to preventing drug use. The first is to provide information and education. The second is reducing access, as many cases of opioid use comes from teens getting the pills from home. By disposing of any extra pills, the opioids would be more difficult to access. On September 29th, there will be a “takeback” event where there will be 4 different locations around Cortland where people can go and dispose of their extra or old prescriptions. The third focus for reducing opioid use is prescriber education. The CACTC has partnered with Cortland Regional Medical Center to speak with prescribers about their habits. The next focus is working with law enforcement to do more patrols. The last strategy is enhancing access to Narcan, the drug that can reduce an overdose.

Resolution #199 of 2018 –Resolution to approve the Street Closing Application to close Church St from Port Watson to Central Ave for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on September 11, 2018 from 8:30 AM – 10 AM.

There was a comment made about donations for the memorial, explaining that people can purchase a brick that will be used as part of the memorial.

Motioned by: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
 Nays – 0

Resolution #200 of 2018 – 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>
Johanne Holcomb	\$50.00	Rocket Ship Slide Repairs	A-7140.5405
Geraldine Zattosky	\$25.00	Rocket Ship Slide Repairs	A-7140.5405
CNY Community Foundation	\$12,000.00	Rocket Ship Slide Repairs	A-7140.5405
Coffee Depot	\$500.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Elizabeth Cole	\$50.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Taitem Engineering	\$50.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Total	\$12,675.00		

Thank you.

Resolution #201 of 2018 – Resolution to increase the fee for receiving and treatment of landfill leachate to \$0.035 per gallon.

Council members commented on the 3.5 cents saying that it should be more, to prevent potential bigger costs for the future.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
 Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
 Nays – 0

Resolution #202 of 2018 – Resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of National Grid street lighting purchase and street lighting infrastructure upgrade and a tax free equipment lease purchase agreement and related documents and measurement and verification services agreement.

This has been an ongoing project for many years. Cortland has chosen National Grid and negotiated a smaller price. In terms of the light's brightness, there were calculations and measurements made from the street lights to determine the kind of light to use. Benefits of the new lights are saving energy, and being adequate and more efficient.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #203 of 2018 – Resolution to sell 16 Bicycles in disrepair left from the Cortland Police Department Bicycle sale to Kasim Kone to send to Africa for use by locals for \$100.00.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #204 of 2018 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Holmes, King, Kallquist & Associates, Architects for administration and design professional services for the Fire Station Window Restoration-Project #174462, partially funded through a grant with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, for a base proposal cost of \$31,328 according to attached contract and schedule of fees.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #205 of 2018 – Resolution to provide financial assistance to Cortland Rural Cemetery.

Whereas, the Cortland Rural Cemetery is of historic and cultural value to the community, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Cortland Rural Cemetery has informed the City that the Cemetery is experiencing structural financial stress that puts in jeopardy its short and long term ability to continue to maintain the Cemetery's grounds and facilities, and

Whereas, pursuant to Section 1, paragraph 165-a of the NYS General Municipal Law "any municipal corporation may appropriate and provide funding to a public cemetery", and

Whereas, the Cemetery Association has requested \$16,000 in financial assistance, and

Whereas, the Cemetery must create a new revenue stream to replace that revenue historically derived from burials and plot sales, and

Therefore be it Resolved, the City shall advance in two installments of \$8,000 each the first year of the financial assistance requested. The first installment shall be paid on August 1, 2018 and the second on January 1, 2019, and

Be it Further Resolved, that these funds are advanced pursuant to a 10 year non-interest bearing note, and

Be it Further Resolved, that during the duration that the note is outstanding the City shall have the option to retain a voting seat of the Cemetery Association Board of Directors.

There are 44 acres in the cemetery, and over time, there are fewer people being buried there, as cremation is becoming used more. The cemetery is decreasing in terms of interment. The cemetery is now asking for \$16,000 for now until January, when their revenue source does come back annually. They are asking for two installments at \$8,000. Once this month (August) and once again in January.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 4
Nays – 3 (Aldermen Ferrer, Beckwith, Mastropolo)

Resolution #206 of 2018 – Resolution to Offset Accounts Owed to the City by the Downtown Partnership with Accounts Owed to the Downtown Partnership by the City.

Whereas; the Downtown Partnership is indebted to the City in the amount of \$19,708 for creative and advertising services rendered to the Partnership by Adworks of Lake Placid during year 2 of the Ski Cortland marketing campaign, and

Whereas; the Downtown Partnership is indebted to the City in the amount of \$25,353 for interest paid by the City on the \$750,000 Revenue Anticipation Note which funded the Ski Cortland Marketing Campaign, and

Whereas; the City is indebted to the Downtown Partnership in the amount of \$345 for reimbursement for visual clues paid by the Partnership received by the City from the State of New York in Disbursement Number 2, and

Whereas; the City is indebted to the Downtown Partnership in the amount of \$500 for reimbursement of Administrative Fees due the Partnership received by the City from the State of New York in Disbursement Number 2, and

Whereas; the Downtown Partnership has invoiced the City \$2,500 for Grant Administration, MWBE Compliance and Process and Civic Engagement Logistics involved in the Downtown Market Study Grant (CFA # 39724), and

Whereas; the Downtown Partnership has invoiced the City \$6,300 for Grant Administration, Funding Requests, MWBE Compliance and Process and Civic Engagement Logistics involved in the Two-Way Analysis Grant (CFA # 53073).

Therefore Be It Resolved; that the ‘Due From’s’ and “Due To’s” by and between the City and the Downtown Partnership are to be offset and that the City will accept a net of \$35,416 in settlement.

The reasoning for this resolution is because there have been three or four grants that have taken place over the last four years. There are two that the city owes, and two that the partnership owes. Grants take a long time to finalize, therefore this resolution is to put the numbers together to find a balance, so that everyone can move forward in terms of reimbursement.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Alderman Ferrer)

Item #11 – Discussion regarding Truck Route to KIK. Some tractor-trailers are taking residential streets, which do not have the required measurements for the large vehicles to be able to make turns. As a result of this, many residents’ lawns are being torn up. This has been an issue for a long time, and there are actions being taken to try to come up with a solution. KIK will have to make the requests about route signs. We have appealed to them to make the requests in the past, but it is difficult because of the inability to talk to the same person about the situation every time. KIK needs to ask the state, and the state will ask them for a petition and plan. All actions taken need to be done through the state, because legally the trucks can take the residential roads, therefore legal action needs to be taken in order to make change.

Update: DRI – There is an administrative organizational meeting on Friday August 24th.

Update: Parker School Task Force- The task force looked at all the different ideas and are pursuing approximately twenty-two organizations or concepts that could be viable to the structure and the property. People from the task force are reaching out to other potential community partners to gauge interest and feasibility with the understanding that any proposal needs to be feasible and sustainable.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

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 21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 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