



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**September 4, 2018**

Council Meeting #16  
**September 4, 2018**  
25 Court Street  
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Katy Silliman, William Carpenter, and Gary Thomas,  
Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michaels

Excused: Alderman John C. Bennett, Michelle Mastropolo, Carlos Ferrer

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 the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM to hear comments on local law 300-11 on R1 residential neighborhoods.

Jo Schaffer- Jo brought attention to part C of the law; allowed by special use permit. She mentioned that a single family residence has been in the code all along, and that it is not a hill issue, it is an R-1 issue across the city. Jo said that it has not been enforced.

Daniel Blood- Daniel quickly pointed out that this law is an improvement from the last one, but believes that the “traditional family” term is not appropriate.

Bruce Tytler – Bruce believes that it needs more. He agrees that it is not a hill issue, rather an R-1 issue. Bruce expressed that he believes it is a fair attempt to get a handle on the problem.

Steve Muca- Steve started off by saying that this is a step in the right direction, but has potential struggles. Currently, in leases, landlords are required to put a couple sentences about the rental permit, so believes there should be more rental permit wording in the leases. This would not only cover R-1, but rather everyone in the city. This would put everyone on the same page in terms of not violating the law. Steve mentioned several times that with this law, there are many things to think about, including property taxes.

Mike Dexter- Mike is a resident of Cedar Street. He noticed there was a large banner in front of a home advertising student housing. His main concern with this is the distance from student housing to the college. He agrees with Jo and Bruce that it is not a hill issue, but an R-1 issue.

Mayor Tobin closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 PM

**Public Comments:**

- Tom Gobel started with welcoming back the SUNY Cortland students. He also spoke about R-3 and statute of limitations.
- Dan Blood mentioned that the previous minutes were not posted, therefore he could not read them, and thus there will not be a vote tonight.
- Mike Dexter spoke regarding tree planting in Cortland, where there are 50-60 trees planted every year. He made it clear that anyone who destroys or hurts the trees will be prosecuted, as proved by previous incidents.
- Officer Abbott spoke about the event he is hosting, which is the emergency services appreciation day on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 11am-3pm. September is first responder's month, which is the reason the event is taking place. There is a 5k, and a main event. The main event is to get the community to interact with first responders. There will be raffles and donations, where all the proceeds will be going to two charities. One of this year's chosen charities is an association to help officers who have been injured and are in need of work, and the other charity is the National Fire Fighter's Cancer Foundation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ward-** There was a tragic loss of life on Main Street. Police acted quickly with the help of the main street cameras. In addition, we welcome all the SUNY Cortland students back to another school year. Due to classes starting again, things have been pretty noisy, so it is greatly appreciated that the police and fire departments were going door to door handing pamphlets about being a neighbor and how to be respectful to those living around them. On top of all this, there have recently been some complaints about air quality, which could be caused by the heat.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward-** Two years ago there were signs put up by the waterworks about being careful with the ducks crossing the street. To the best of their knowledge, no ducks or animals have been harmed since, so thank you to DPW for putting the signs up. There was also a comment on 14 Forrest St. and how there was a reporter there, and hopefully there will soon be a reliable buyer to fix it up and keep the children on that street out of danger. There was also a comment about Porchfest and its major success and fun event.

**5<sup>th</sup> Ward-** There is a water project on Fox Hollow that is going well, there have been some issues with the water, as the pipes are going down 9 feet, and the ground water is seeping in so there is some trouble building that wall and getting it down to Pendleton St. Other than that, everything is running smoothly. Thank you to CPD for investigating the murder. When it is time for budget meetings, there will probably be more talk about getting some more cameras and such, since technology is huge when it comes to solving crimes.

**7<sup>th</sup> Ward-** The rodent situation is under control, there is another meeting next Tuesday, 9/11/18. Things are progressing very well, as there has been a lot of support from the community.

**8<sup>th</sup> Ward-** There were some cleanup issues on the property that have been taken care of, so thank you to everyone who was a part of helping out. There were mentions of odor in the city. There were calls made to the wastewater and there were indications of some problems with a sticky valve of the methane, but there were complaints even after the problem was thought to be resolved, so the issue must be from something else.

Mayor: *John McNerney* was recognized for serving the city and residents beyond the city for over 30 years. SUNY Cortland move-in weekend was a success. Everyone in Cortland will have some adjusting to do now that school is back in session. The mayor said a few kind words and led a moment of silence for *Mike Magee*, a city constable who died of liver cancer. Recently there has been some issues within some neighborhoods, which the code department is involved in to find solutions. It is a community responsibility to take care of a

community we are all proud of. There will be another public hearing and vote on the law in two weeks, on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**Resolution #209 of 2018** – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the Special Event Application including all permits for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SUNY Cortland, held on October 5, 2018 from 5PM – 8:30PM at Moffett Lawn and Brockway Hall. Street closure will be on Graham Ave between West Court and Prospect.

The event is open to the public. There will be a “ground display” of fireworks.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #210 of 2018** – Consideration of a Resolution to appoint Duane Andrus to the Cable Commission for a three year term.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith  
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #211 of 2018** – Consideration of a 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>
Donald & Diane Chu	\$200.00	Rocket Ship Slide Repairs	A-7140.5405
Terry Mingle	\$50.00	Rocket Ship Slide Repairs	A-7140.5405
Michael Sills Insurance	\$50.00	Rocket Ship Slide Repairs	A-7140.5405
Joseph Cortese	\$150.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Kristen McEvoy	\$100.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Janine Franco	\$50.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Cortland Co. District Att.	\$50.00	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Cash Donation (Molly)	\$973.87	Porchfest	A-7140.5405
Total	\$1623.87		

Thank you.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
 Seconded by: Alderman Michaels

Approved: Ayes – 5  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #212 of 2018** – Consideration of a Resolution to appropriate \$500.00 from the sale of a Police Bicycle by Cortland City Police to budget line Motor Equipment Repair (A3120-402.00) to be used towards the purchase of a replacement Bicycle.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #213 of 2018** – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the Exotic Pet Permit Application for a Rabbit for Addison Skinner.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #214 of 2018**- Consideration of a Resolution to accept the amount of \$151,855.77 from the Estate of Donald Sharpe to be put into a Trust Account for the Youth Bureau, and to use said funds to establish a trust account for the benefit of the Youth Bureau.

The money is a great opportunity for the Youth Bureau to do great things within the program. The money is not for the use of offsetting regular budget items, rather for extra or special things for children.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #215 of 2018** – Consideration of a Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for a pending vacancy date of September 28, 2018.

The Sergeant is Elizabeth Starr, as her retirement is effective September 28<sup>th</sup> after giving her services to our police department for 24 years. She was always very dedicated and hardworking, and it is unfortunate to see her go. She was in charge of the youth division office, which is an extremely difficult and busy position, therefore it is requested to lift the hiring freeze for the ability of someone to be able to work with her before she leaves.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #216 of 2018** – Consideration of a Resolution to promote a Patrol Officer to the rank of Sergeant to fill the vacancy, effective October 1, 2018.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded by: Alderman Michaels

Approved: Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

**Resolution #217 of 2018-** Consideration of a Resolution to appoint a new Police Officer to fill the vacancy left from the promotion of a Patrol Officer to Sergeant.

Filling the vacancy will take place no sooner than October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Update: DRI** – There are still discussions taking place. There will be an announcement next week about the \$600,000 Business and Building Improvements Fund. There was a meeting with a few people locally about how that will be structured. Public projects are coming together in terms of a timeline, and private projects are moving along on their own timeline as well.

**Update: Parker School Task Force-** Members of the task force have been busy collecting information. There are approximately 22 different potential community partners in terms of who may be able to occupy in a productive manner, with the goal of keeping the structure oriented towards youth services. There is another meeting scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith  
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5  
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<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER OF 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.**

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**RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**