



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
September 18, 2018

Council Meeting #17
September 18, 2018
25 Court Street
7:00 PM

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

Excused: Alderman 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 regarding R1 residential neighborhoods.

Jim Reeners – Jim is a strong supporter of this, as he says that it is about supporting families within the community, and this is the first step.

Abi Cleary – Abi is a resident on Stevenson St. Within the last 7-8 years, Abi has noticed that there has been at least 9 families leave the street. She said that when someone loses a neighbor, there is a potential loss of caretakers, eyes and ears, kids in schools, board members, and more. She said that losing homes to student housing deeply hurts the community as a whole. Lastly, she said that no matter what, Cortland needs to protect the R-1 district.

Bruce Tytler – Bruce Tytler applauded all the members for improving the neighborhoods and trying to appeal to everyone. Bruce liked the overlay and believes it to be stronger, but understands that there are many different opinions, that the Board has to listen to a lot of people, and everyone is trying to be fair. Also, in terms of zoning, there are some things that cannot be controlled, which is unfair, but there is nothing that can be done about it. Lastly, Bruce requested that everyone support and amend the 300-11 R-1 residential District Law.

Carol Tytler-Carol came in support of the 300-11 law and requested that her fellow peers do the same. She expressed that it is not a hill issue, it is a neighborhood issue that affects the community as a whole. Although she values diversity in the neighborhood, she believes that there needs to be controlled and responsible actions. Not only does she suggest passing of this amendment, but she asks that it be enforced and taken seriously.

Mayor Tobin closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM

Public Comments:

- *Connie Sorrells* wanted to bring attention to the 9/11 memorial and congratulate Paul Sandy and Jessie Abbott for their magnificent work building the memorial, and during the ceremony. She also thanked the Mayor for his work.
- *Gary Smith* also shared his appreciation for the memorial. He also asked if there was a Code Enforcer, and that there needs to be more consideration for the handicapped in the city.

Mayor's report:

The Mayor stated that it was both a privilege and an honor to be present and a part of the 9/11 memorial. He thanked Paul Sandy, Jessie Abbott, Wayne Friedman, and Norm Stitzle. The mayor also took the time to recognize Kim Hubbard for 30 years of service to the city as a crossing guard.

Proclamation:

October is National Disability Employment Awareness month.

October is Anti - Bullying Awareness month.

National Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Resolution #218 of 2018 – Resolution to approve the Common Council minutes of August 21st 2018 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Thomas

Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Resolution #219 of 2018 – Resolution to approve the Common Council minutes of September 4th as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Item #1 – Presentation of the draft 2017 audited financial statements.

Mr. Randy Shepard was present for the meeting. He gave the council members packets of information. Randy went over the receipt audit and the financials of the city. There were some questions regarding our comparison to other cities our size, and the answer was that it is difficult to know because different cities do different things. Some organizations will require contributions for retiree and some will not, so the main idea is to be constantly looking for opportunities to modify plans and to stay updated.

Item #2 – Presentation and discussion by the Board of Directors of the Cortland Downtown Partnership.

There were several members present for the meeting. Evan Geibel is the publisher of the Cortland Standard. Adam McGivern is the Executive Director of Cortland Downtown Partnership, which has been operating since 2001. Partnership downtown consists of many businesses and organizations. It began because someone needed to take roll to help it be successful and thrive. The Partnership helps bring things the residents enjoy, and make downtown flow smoothly. It is an economic engine, with the largest amount of County sales tax, and it is the County's largest employer. The Partnership also focuses on design, art, landscaping, and bettering downtown both economically and physically. Before the partnership it was all

volunteer. The partnership addressed parking, and even helped the DRI. Downtown has the largest reason for upper floor development. Previously, if you lived downtown, you needed to move your car every night. Now there is long term planning, where things are being done sensibly. The Partnership is helping update 100+ year old buildings to serve a 21st century purpose. The calendar is currently full of things going on downtown. Promotions are through social media presence, where there are multiple accounts advertising events, cleanups, and things that are going on. Through the Partnership, there have been many new events and traditions. Two examples are “Taste of Downtown” and the ball drop from the clock tower on New Year’s Eve. It is important to know there is not one demographic, it is the people who shop, who put money into it, tourists, students, residents, guests that allows downtown to thrive as much as it does. There was a question regarding how many businesses there are downtown and Evan responded by saying that the traditional retail is 160 businesses. They were then asked how many were partnerships, and Evan explained that the total amount of partners is around 80. There was also some concern in terms of the harsh budget cuts and sustaining the Downtown Partnership. It is a non-profit that works with the city, but the question is how close the Partnership to becoming financially self-sustaining is? It was explained that it is difficult to tell because of how small their staff is. The work environment is being worked on. Another question was asked regarding cost of membership. The answer is that stake holders at the individual household level is \$50, a new or not for profit business is \$125 and an established business is \$250, and biggest supporters which are banks and things of that nature is \$1,500.

Resolution #220 of 2018 – Resolution to authorize the use of the City's portion of Courthouse Park to host the annual ‘Great Cortland Pumpkinfest’ on October 5th (setup), 6th and 7th (Event) and 8th (takedown). This will be the 23rd year of the Pumpkinfest.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #221 of 2018 – Resolution to waive the City's Open Container Ordinance to permit alcoholic beverages to be served and consumed within the confines of Courthouse Park during the event hours of the “Great Cortland Pumpkinfest”.

There were concerns because of past years’ issues with children being around drunk individuals who got too rowdy. The solution for this to avoid situations like that, the alcohol will be sold in a different location, in front of the sheriff’s office. It is also not-all-you-can-drink. Also, it will be sold per glass, and there will be a designated area to consume the alcohol.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #222 of 2018 – Resolution to permit amplified live music during the “Great Cortland Pumpkinfest” from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on October 6th and from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM on October 7th.

There is a need for volunteers, particularly for setup and breakdown.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #223 of 2018 – Resolution to accept the Special Event Application for the Zombie Walk on October 26 at 6pm to walk from the 1890 House to the lot next to Key Bank on North Main St.

The food for the event is locally sourced and made by a local restaurant. The event is sponsored by the 1890 House.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #224 of 2018 – Resolution to approve the Exotic Pet Permit application for two guinea pigs for a SUNY Cortland student.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #225 of 2018 – Resolution to assist CNY Arts in assessing the feasibility of establishing a local Arts and Entertainment District within the Downtown Core.

Whereas: CNY Arts has secured a \$100,000 grant from Empire State Development in partnership with the CNY Regional Economic Development Council to underwrite the development of Phase I Master Planning of Downtown Arts and Entertainment Districts in the cities of Cortland, Oswego, Auburn, Syracuse, and Oneida, and

Whereas: CNY Arts has retained the services of the Lakota Group of Chicago, Illinois to collaborate with each city to create individualized Phase I Master Plans, and

Whereas: the intended purpose of an Arts and Entertainment District is to serve as a transformative revitalization tool incorporating strategies and initiatives related to cultural arts sector, place making, historic preservation, and small business development, and

Whereas: the creation of a Phase I Master Plan will support and complement the Downtown Art component funded through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), and

Whereas: the City will bear no cost of the Phase I Master Plan nor be obligated to either accept or implement any Plan recommendations. Therefore Be It Resolved; that the City will assist CNY Arts in assessing the feasibility of establishing a local Arts and Entertainment District within the Downtown Core, and

Be It Further Resolved; that the Cortland Downtown Partnership is herein authorized to represent the City during the CNY Arts Planning Team’s Assessment Visit in October of 2018.

Frank Kelly was present to speak. He is a member of the Cortland Downtown Partnership board. Frank stressed how important it is for there to be art downtown to beautify the city. There are no matching funds for this.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #226 of 2018 – Resolution to approve the bid for the roof work for City Hall.

Nic Dovi was present to speak. The roofing is a new, foam, material. Due to the timeline, Nic explained that they will be using A-Z coating. It will take about 7-10 days for the materials, and 7 days to install it. The roof has a 20 year warranty on it. After the 20 years, the contractor comes and assesses it. If it does need repairing, the process will be much more efficient than it is now.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #227 of 2018 – Resolution to approve Local Law to amend 300-11 R-1 Residential District.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 2 (Aldermen Thomas, Beckwith)

Resolution #228 of 2018 – Resolution authorizing the issuance of \$272,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of the rehabilitation of Wickwire Swimming Pool and publication of the Estoppel Notice thereof.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #229 of 2018 – Resolution authorizing the issuance of \$275,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of resurfacing the Port Watson Street Parking Lot and publication of the Estoppel Notice thereof.

In the last two days, Empire State Development has agreed to pay the matched \$275,000 by the 20%, which was originally \$100,000. We will receive from Empire State Development \$38,000 sometime from 2019-2020.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #230 of 2018 – Resolution determining that the proposed action of issuance of bonds to fund in part the rehabilitation of Wickwire Swimming Pool is a Type II Actions for the purpose of the New York Environmental Quality Review Act.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #231 of 2018 – Resolution determining that the proposed action of issuance of bonds to finance the resurfacing the Port Watson Street Parking Lot is a Type II Actions for the purpose of the New York Environmental Quality Review Act.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

DRI – There are plans for a meeting with project sponsors, to be able to start talking about timelines and scheduling. The next step is meeting with some private developers. As the projects progress, it is important that Main Street stays accessible, without hindering the ability to do work.

Parker School Task Force – There is a meeting tomorrow, September 18, 2018. Members have been reaching out to different potential partners, and tomorrow it will be revealed what each potential partner had to say.

2019 General Fund Budget: Cortland has been very fortunate in terms of finding opportunities to decrease spending, offset potential costs. Cortland been doing so without loss of personnel, or service cuts. The budget does increase in terms of funding for paving for sidewalks and paving. One of the reasons it is important is because paving is something that Cortland has been decreasing the spending of. The main increase in the budget, like every year, is personnel costs. The new sales tax agreement basically eliminates any real growth in terms of finances for the City. If we went with the current agreement from the last five years, the sales tax revenue would be \$212,000 more than what the current projection is. Overall, the budget puts forward a potential property tax increase of about 3.4% about 2.5% would be from the loss of the sales tax revenue. The Mayor does not request that the Council votes immediately today, but reminds the Council that the first vote is moving it from the Mayor’s budget to the tentative budget.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Thomas

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 18TH 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.

RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN