



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
October 20, 2020

Council Meeting #22
October 22, 2020
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Alderperson Kat McCarthy, Bruce Tytler, John Bennett, William Carpenter, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales

Excused: Alderperson Katy Silliman, Jacki Chapman

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Director of Finance Mack Cook, Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Friedman, Confidential Secretary Devon Rainbow

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the twenty-second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:03PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing - Public hearing on Local Law making the Charter and Administrative Code gender neutral.

No one present to speak

Mayor Tobin closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 PM.

Public Comments

Kris Brehnke – Spoke regarding an incident that happened on Saturday, October 17. The “Back the Blue” group went down her street and honked and harassed her neighbor. She feels this group is making the City less safe and escalating the situation. She would like to know if the City or the Police Department support this behavior.

Melissa Kiser – Her home was targeted on Saturday, October 17 as the “Back the Blue” group sat outside her home and doxing her. The group was very loud upsetting her family and neighbors. She would like to know if the local Police support this behavior.

Beau Harbin – Spoke regarding the Local Law on political signs. This is people’s right as the first amendment. There should not be a limit on the number of signs. (See attached letter)

Brittany VanLoom – feels that the City should send the College Students home. The numbers have jumped since they came back and we need to send them home.

Jeffrey Constantino – Is against closing Groton Ave for Halloween. He owns a business on Groton Ave and it will affect them. They usually do a great deal of business that night.

Mayor’s Report:

Presentation from Fred Pierce: Mr. Pierce spoke regarding the increased cases of Covid at the SUNY. They will remain “Study in Place” for the rest of the semester. The numbers have gone down since they have shut down the campus. They have canceled all winter sports and classes are going to be on-line. They are not allowed by the State to send students home at this time because of the number of cases.

Resolution #203 of 2020 – Resolution to approve minutes from October 6, 2020 meeting.

Motioned by: Alderperson Carpenter
 Seconded by: Alderperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Item #2 – Presentation of the 2019 Audited Financial Statements.
 Kaylee Hines was present to go over the City’s Financial Statements for 2019.

Resolution #204 of 2020 – Resolution to accept the 2019 Audited Financial Statements.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
 Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #205 of 2020 – Resolution to approve an exotic pet permit application for a Rabbit for a SUNY student.

Motioned by: Alderperson Michales
 Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Item #5 – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the Street closure request for Groton Ave.

Council had concerns with local businesses that would be affected by this and the CDC is not recommending Trick-or-Treating this year due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases. There was no support for this item.

Resolution #206 of 2020 – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

| Donation | Amount | Event/Project | Budget Line |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Porch Fest | \$385.20 | Park Improvements | A-7110.5407 |
| Total | \$385.20 | | |

Motioned by: Alderperson McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #207 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the 2020 and 2021 Amendments to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement for the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #208 of 2020 – Resolution to transfer \$5,000.00 from the 5401.00 (Gasoline) line to the 5402.00 (Vehicle Maintenance) of the Cortland City Police Department budget to cover continually rising costs of vehicle repairs.

Motioned by: Alderperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #209 of 2020 – Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$705.02 received from NYMIR for vehicle repairs to Cortland City Police Department Car 15, which was placed into revenue account A2680 and transfer it in the Cortland Police Department budget line 5402.00 (Vehicle Maintenance) to offset the cost of the repairs to above noted vehicle.

Motioned by: Alderperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #210 of 2020 – Resolution to recognize and declare a used Kenwood NXR 710 VHF police radio repeater and five model TK-790 mobile police radios, in the possession of the Cortland City Police Department as salvage and allow them to be sold to another municipal police agency.

Motioned by: Alderperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #211 of 2020 – Resolution to recognize and accept a proposal from Owego Police Department to purchase a used Kenwood NXR 710 VHF police radio repeater for \$1,000.00 and five model TK-790 mobile police radios at \$100.00 per radio, for a total of \$1,500.00, to replace outdated and inoperable radio equipment at their facility and place the funds in the Cortland City Police Department budget line 5402.00 (Vehicle Maintenance).

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #212 of 2020 – Resolution to remove all fiscal data pertaining directly to the City's Trash Removal operations from the General Fund to a Refuse Operations Enterprise Fund effective January 1, 2021.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #213 of 2020 – Resolution to amend Resolution number 193 adopted by Council of August 7, 2018 to transfer \$23,000 from funding for the HVAC system at City Hall to repair of the boiler in the Armory.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #214 of 2020 – Resolution to accept the Mayor's 2021 General Fund Budget as tendered and designate it as the 2021 Council's 2021 General Fund Budget.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #215 of 2020 – Resolution to accept the Mayor's 2021 Waste Water Fund Budget as tendered and designate it as the 2021 Council's 2021 Waste Water Fund Budget.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #216 of 2020 – Resolution to accept the Mayor’s 2021 Water Fund Budget as tendered and designate it as the 2021 Council’s 2021 Water Fund Budget.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Council will have budget workshops on November 9, 2020 from 6:30-8:30 and November 12, 2020 from 6:30-8:30. A public hearing date was set for November 3, 2020 at 7PM.

Resolution #217 of 2020 – Resolution to establish a date, time, and method for a public hearing on a local law to permit the City of override the 2021 Tax Cap.

A date was set for November 3, 2020.

Motioned by: Alderperson Bennett
Seconded by: Alderperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #18 – Discussion on Fees for Water/Sewer bills.

Council discussed that due to the hardships people are experiencing because of the pandemic, it would be a good time to delay the penalty fee for Water/Sewer bills. It was decided that residents would have until December 15th, 2020 to pay their 3rd quarter bills without having a penalty. Anything paid after that date would get the penalty.

Resolution #218 of 2020 – Resolution to allow Water and Waste Water customers to pay the 3rd quarter bill up until December 15th, 2020 with having to pay penalty fee.

Motioned by: Alderperson Tytler
Seconded by: Alderperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #19 – Discussion on Political Signs and sign regulations.

This was originally a recommendation from the NYCLU. Currently the law states no more than 2 signs and they cannot be in the right-of-way. After discussion it was determined to not enforce at this time and the City will revisit the Local Law after the first of the year.

Item #20 – Discussion on Halloween Festivities.

New York State CDC does not recommend Trick-or Treating this year due to the increasing number of Covid cases. Council suggest children not going out this year unless just going to family.

Item #21 – Discussion regarding rules of order for zoom calls.

It was suggested that anyone who wishes to speak needs to have their camera on and full name present. There should continue to be a time limit to comments.

Item #22 – Discussion Cortland Forward and the “empathy” campaign.

Kristina Furi spoke regarding the new social media group (Cortlandforward!) that was created. They will have weekly meetings on empathy reminding people to identify with, think about and put themselves in other people’s shoes. They will talk about feelings and how everyone is doing during these hard times. Each week there will be a different word they are focusing on. This will happen from November 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

Item #23 – COVID19 and Response

There has been an increase in the number of cases in the City. It has come out that insurance companies may not pay for testing unless there is an Rx from a Doctor. This has affected many families and work places. Please remember to continue to wear mask, wash hands frequently and remain 6ft apart when able.

Resolution #219 of 2020 – Resolution to encourage Cortland County to increase the availability for free/low cost testing for Covid-19 for the members of the community to potentially reduce the risk.

Motioned by: Alderperson Beckwith

Seconded by: Alderperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy

Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

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 20TH DAY IN OCTOBER 2020. 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