



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
January 17, 2012

Council Meeting #2
January 17, 2012
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Tobin, Aldermen Bird, Silliman, Bennett, Quail, Ferrer,
Ferguson and Michales

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Corporation
Counsel Kelly Colasurdo and City Clerk Judith Chamberlin

Mayor Tobin called the second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:05 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comment

Anne Doyle announced that there would be a Second Ward meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Parkside Church, 78 Homer Avenue at 6:30 PM. Neighborhood Watch will be discussed and all are invited to attend.

Mike Dexter spoke about vacant houses recently torn down on Maple Avenue and Groton Avenue. He noted that there is a house on Lincoln Avenue that may also be targeted to be taken down. He would like to see alternatives to this as this erodes the tax base. He felt that the houses could have been rehabbed or perhaps Habitat for Humanity could have been contacted to see if there was any interest.

Mike Dexter, as Chairman of the Tree Commission, spoke about tree trimming in the City. He felt that City employees should take advantage of training seminars on tree trimming and tree care and Chris Bistocchi agrees with the idea. He is working with the DPW to get pruning and trimming done that is acceptable to both the City and the homeowner. He wants to manage and protect the trees in our urban forest.

Minutes of January 3, 2012

Minutes of January 3, 2012 were approved as amended.

Bills were reviewed.

Ward Reports

Ward 1 - Alderman Bird did not have anything to report.

Ward 2 - Alderman Silliman stated that Ward 2 will have a Neighborhood Watch meeting on January 18 at 6:30 PM at 78 Homer Avenue, Parkside Church. She thanked Anne Doyle for organizing this. She noted that Legislator Parker will not be able to attend, but will attend in the future. She also reported that one neighbor was not happy that their recycling was not picked up and she has learned from the DPW that residents must use the blue bags, even if only once a month, and this will pay for their recyclable pick up.

Ward 4 – Alderman Bennett noted that he has constituents who are very interested in Neighborhood Watch and he will let them know about tomorrow’s meeting and provide them with materials. He noted that college students have returned, increasing traffic. He welcomed them back.

Mayor Tobin stated that Steven Rhea is compiling a calendar of meetings and to please contact him to add your meeting to that calendar.

Ward 6 – Alderman Ferrer did not have anything to report.

Ward 7 – Alderman Ferguson noted that she and Alderman Michales attended the Public Safety meeting where they expressed safety concerns regarding lights on some streets and some changes were discussed. She received a snow plowing complaint, which she addressed.

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales attended the Public Safety meeting which was called due to two (2) students being injured on their way to their bus stop a few months ago. He noted that it was concluded that traffic should be slowed down in the area of Greenbush, Elm and Central and it has been proposed that on a trial basis, that all of these intersections will be turned into four (4) way stops. He noted that if this works well, other areas of the City will be looked at around other bus pick up areas. He hoped that this would begin in about a month when some signage could be installed and the traffic signals would become flashing red lights. He hoped an article would be put in the paper to alert the public to the change.

Alderman Michales announced that he will be hosting a Ward meeting on January 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the County Office Building. He noted that his legislative counterpart will be hosting as well and guest speakers will be Mack Cook and Martin Murphy. He noted that they will be discussing City and County issues and is looking forward to getting people back together again in Ward 8.

Alderman Quail noted that in several areas of the City as well as in his Ward, a number of street lights are out or are flickering. He asked that it be announced so that residents can contact the City so this can be addressed.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Tobin noted that they will be moving on a number of topics; houses, trash, trees and later in this meeting, there will be a discussion regarding what the Council has developed as far as a committee structure to address some of these topics and concerns.

He stated that he attended the Governor's State of the State address and had the opportunity to meet with Marty Mack who is currently working in the Attorney General's Office. They discussed Council Rules of Order and Codes of Ethics. He learned that the Attorney General's Office is reviewing all city, town and village Code of Ethics trying to make sure that they are consistent statewide.

He hosted a community forum here on the Governor's State of the State address last week presented by Matt Driscoll. He and Matt Cook met with Thoma Development and a Department of State representative about brown field opportunities and he would like to meet with Aldermen Michales, Quail and Ferguson about some ideas for their wards.

He explained that there was a Common Council retreat over the past weekend. He noted that the total cost was twenty-three dollars and ninety-five cents (\$23.95) for the two day event, which was very successful. He explained that the Council was able to establish a mission statement, goals, objectives and they were able to come up with a plan on where they would like to proceed. He would like to hold two (2) open houses at 8:00 AM and a second at 10:00 AM on January 20, 2012 if the public would like to learn more about the Council's long-range plan and ask questions. He asked that the public please contact his office to register so he could plan for a room to accommodate all those who would like to attend.

Mayor Tobin explained that Channel 2 has not had a broadcast schedule up on their website and he informed everyone that the City Council meeting will be broadcast on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 8:00 PM and also on Friday, January 20, 2012 at 10:30 AM and next Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Tobin stated that he met with Mack Cook and Corporation Counsel Colasurdo met to discuss the needs of Law Department and what cases the City is currently facing and he hopes to present a proposal or an overview of these needs and what further staffing maybe needed.

Mayor Tobin asked that an item be added to tonight's agenda regarding the appointment of Kellie Green as a Commissioner of Deeds for the County.

Director of Administration and Finance Report

Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook gave updates on the Corrective Action Plan, the Buckbee Mears property, Waste Water Plant update, tentative 2011 Financial results, the Marietta Corporation waste water issue and the sale of fire trucks and the bonding for fire trucks.

Mack Cook spoke about the bond letter which noted that there was an anticipated surplus increase by at least five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000). He explained that

revenues had increased and that all but one (1) department had come in under budget in 2011, but that some funds were still owed for health insurance.

Mack Cook gave an update on what the City has done to date to address items noted in the Corrective Action plan.

Mack Cook noted that there was still contamination on the Buckbee Mears property, but it was not migrating, noting it was in the sub-soil which had not been taken out. He explained that if the City took the property over, there would be costs to maintain and market the property. He noted that this could be done and that additional funding could be obtained to do the remediation. He spoke about the availability of brown field funds and the City's aggressive pursuit of these grant funds. He noted that if the funds were received it would allow the City to put funding back into the contiguous neighborhoods which amounted to about forty (40) percent of the City, including Main Street.

Mack Cook noted that Bruce Adams has been looking at co-generation facility capabilities down at the Waste Water Plant and will continue to work on this.

Mack Cook explained that work is continuing with Marietta and the New York State and the EPA regarding the standards and testing procedures and the impact they have on the City's ability to accept their waste water at our facility. Our requirements are very stringent to develop a solution.

Mack Cook explained that there has already been a meeting with Adam Megivern of the Downtown Partnership to develop a family friendly First Night celebration for the end of this year.

Mack Cook reported on the purchase of the City fire engines and explained the Council authorized bonding, the need for the short term borrowing to fund these purchases and the Bond Anticipation Note that was sold today. He also explained the goal of retiring some old debt that has been carried on the books.

AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #12 OF 2012 –Consideration of a Resolution to re-appoint Kellie Green as Commissioner of Deeds for a term of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item No. 1 – Presentation on \$425,000 in financing of two (2) fire engines and repayment of \$900,000 bond Anticipation Note. (Chief Glover and Mack Cook)

Mayor Tobin noted that this had been well covered in Mack Cook's report and Chief Glover spoke briefly.

RESOLUTION #13 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the appointment of non-chartered Financial Advisory Committee members. (Mayor Tobin)

James L. Buttino
Eugene A. Palmer
John A. Poli
John O. Reagan
Alderman Carlos Ferrer
Alderman John Bennett

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #14 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the attached listing of the Mayor’s appointments to fill vacancies on the City Boards and Commissions for the terms indicated.

Mayor Tobin read the updated listing.

By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #15 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to recognize and appropriate Youth Bureau donations:

A correction was made to the original agenda from Mental Health to First Niagara Bank.

a. Kings Daughters	\$ 300.00
b. First Niagara Bank	\$1,000.00

By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item No. 5 – Discussion regarding Common Council assignments. (Mayor Tobin)

Mayor Tobin wanted the public to realize what had been discussed by the Council and what their priorities were so they could receive feedback. He explained that there are

about nine (9) committees and he wanted to explain four (4) or five (5) of them to begin with.

Mayor Tobin noted that there was a Personnel Committee, a Housing Committee, a Committee for Government Efficiency and the Image Committee to deal with trash, crows, etc. These committees had been formed based on the Council's priorities and meeting times were being scheduled.

Alderman Quail explained the need to establish a mission statement for each committee to define its goals and boundaries. He outlined what should be included in a mission statement.

Alderman Ferguson asked members of the Ethics Committee and the Planning Committee.

Mayor Tobin explained the following:

Development Committee

Alderman Ferrer
Alderman Michales
Alderman Ferguson

Shift in Population Committee

Alderman Bird
Alderman Silliman

Housing Committee

Alderman Silliman
Alderman Michales

Communication and Coordinating of Objectives

Alderman Silliman
Alderman Bird
Alderman Dye

Image

Alderman Quail
Alderman Bird
Alderman Ferguson

Efficient Government Objectives

Alderman Quail

Alderman Ferrer
Alderman Bennett

Mayor Tobin explained that there would be an Audit Committee under Efficient Government Objectives to review the audit at the end of the year. He urged the public to come in on Friday where he would explain these committees in depth. It was asked that the meeting times of these committees be placed on the monthly calendar and it was noted that the Council wanted balance on these committees and would be looking to include members of the public to participate.

Item No. 6 – Discussion regarding cleanliness of downtown and weekend downtown trash removal. (Alderman Michales)

Alderman Michales explained that this was brought up during the Council retreat. He would like to improve the image on Main Street. He would like to see weekend trash pick-up done on Main Street. Currently Casella is picking up Main Street trash three (3) times a week during the week.

Anne Doyle asked that banks of snow be removed from Main Street so people could access the sidewalk directly from their cars without having to climb over snow banks. She noted that the DPW used to do that on Main Street and she has heard many complaints from older citizens and store owners.

Discussion ensued regarding when the DPW removed snow from Main Street and a schedule of removal would be obtained. Alderman Silliman noted that perhaps some paths could be cleared. Mayor Tobin recommended that this be referred to committee.

Alderman Michales stated that he would like to meet with Mr. Casella and Chris Bistocchi regarding trash removal to see if something could be worked out for a possible weekend pick up. Mayor Tobin felt that would be a good meeting to have.

Alderman Michales and Alderman Bennett indicated an interest in following up on the weekend trash removal idea. Alderman Ferguson also expressed interest in participating.

Executive Session

Litigation
Proposed Litigation
Personnel Issues
Contractual Concerns

Motion to go into Executive Session.

By: Alderman Bird
Seconded: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of Executive Session.

By: Alderman Bird
Seconded: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #16 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to allow the Mayor to adjust the salaries of his reportees.

By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays - 0

Adjournment

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

I, JUDITH CHAMBERLIN, CITY CLERK OF 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 17th DAY OF JANUARY 2012. 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.

JUDITH CHAMBERLIN, CITY CLERK

MAYOR TOBIN



CITY OF CORTLAND
City Council
EXECUTIVE SESSION
January 17, 2012

Council Meeting #2
January 17, 2012
Executive Session
City Hall
8:00 PM

Present: Mayor Tobin, Aldermen Bird, Silliman, Bennett, Quail, Ferrer, Ferguson and Michales

Absent: Alderman Dye

Staff Present: Director of Finance and Administration Mack Cook,
Corporation Counsel Kelly Colasurdo

RESOLUTION #17 OF 2012 – Authorizing the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement as proposed to settle outstanding litigation and related charges with the Wastewater Treatment Plant employees.

By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded: Alderman Silliman

Roll Call Vote: Alderman Bird – Aye
Alderman Silliman – Aye
Alderman Bennett – Aye
Alderman Quail – Aye
Alderman Ferrer – Aye
Alderman Ferguson – Aye
Alderman Michales - Aye

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

I, KELLY COLASURDO, CORPORATION COUNSEL FOR THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD DURING A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF JANUARY 2012. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED FOR HIS CONCURRENCE IN ADOPTION OR REJECTION BY VETO POWER.



KELLY COLASURDO
CORPORATION COUNSEL



MAYOR TOBIN