



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
February 7, 2012

Council Meeting #3
February 7, 2012
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Tobin, Aldermen Bird, Silliman, Dye, Bennett, Quail, 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 third Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:02 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comment

Mecke Nagle spoke about the Cortland Task Force for Sustainable Energy. She explained how we could all recycle and reuse throughout our daily lives and asked for the City's support in this. She invited everyone to learn more about residential and industrial recycling and wind turbines at a seminar at SUNY Cortland.

Bill Wood spoke about a fall 2011 Post Standard newspaper article listing tax rates. He stated that the City of Cortland had the second highest tax rate in the five (5) county region of Central New York. He noted that the City has to provide necessary services and he asked the Council to make City services more efficient by sharing costs and services with other municipalities and to try to cut taxes.

RESOLUTION #18 OF 2012 - Minutes – January 17, 2012 as amended and Executive Session Minutes of January 17, 2012

By: Alderman Bird
Seconded: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed.

Ward Reports

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

Alderman Quail spoke with some constituents regarding the Beaudry Park building and the wading pool there. He still has concerns regarding the garbage situation in the South Main Street.

Ward 7 – Alderman Ferguson

Alderman Ferguson noted concerns regarding garbage and Marietta. She clarified that there will be more meetings with SUNY Cortland and more opportunities for the public to attend.

Ward 2 – Alderman Silliman

Alderman Silliman attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting and concerns were expressed about getting through the snow berms on Main Street especially by the Post Office. She noted that Ward meetings notices will be placed on placards. There were no issues with the street lights, as well as no attractive affordable housing to attract people to the City. She attended the SUNY Cortland meeting regarding the Life Science Building and there will be more talks. She also dealt with a garbage issue and that was referred to the Code Office and the DPW. She will be having a Ward 2 meeting Feb. 27, at 6:30 PM at the Beard Building with Legislator Ray Parker. Flood Control, three unrelated lawsuit, the County tax base and hydrofracking will be topics of discussion.

Ward 3 – Alderman Dye

Alderman Dye asked that if there were issues with street lights that residents should email their Alderperson at their City Ward addresses for resolution.

Ward 1 - Alderman Bird

Alderman Bird is working with Alderman Ferrer and they will be scheduling a joint Ward meeting in late February or early March.

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

Alderman Michales hosted a Ward meeting and noted that it was lightly attended. He hoped for better attendance at the next meeting.

Ward 4 – Alderman Bennett

Alderman Bennett received calls regarding trash pick up and a traffic back up caused by the timing of the trash trucks and school buses in the Delaware Avenue area. He contacted the DPW and Casella will change their schedule. He spoke with the DPW regarding snow removal downtown. He noted that in a typical winter there is no schedule to clear the snow banks downtown. They get to it when they can and it's all overtime. He noted that we've been lucky this year and the Downtown Partnership should be contacted

to see if they can help get people access to the sidewalks. He was happy the Giants won the Super Bowl.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

He noted that the crows are pretty much gone. It was noted by others that they do still congregate in the trees around the County Building and down Church Street.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tobin reported that he has been meeting with various departments trying to get to know the employees and the duties of the departments. He also held an open house and he is having another one on February 24.

He swore in the Volunteer Officers for the Fire Department at their installation dinner. He also attended and spoke at the Cortland Youth of the Year Awards. He hosted a press conference with Chief Catalano, the Sheriff's Department and a representative from the District Attorney's Office supporting the Governor's initiative for the statewide DNA database. He attended the Regional Economic Council meeting in Syracuse. There will be awards made this year and he will keep everyone informed on this.

He met with some County Legislators about possible redistricting and sales tax negotiations.

He organized a meeting between the City Council and SUNY Cortland to initiate open discussions and more meetings will be held. He asked that citizens share their issues and concerns with the City representatives so that these concerns can be brought forward and addressed at these meetings.

PINK SHEET Sign Off

AGENDA:

Item No. 1 – Discussion of Consideration of a Resolution to approve the request by Gary Thomas to waive the \$6,242 in permit fees for the renovations to the Pomeroy School Apartments.

Gary Thomas is the Executive Director of the Cortland Housing Assistance Council, a not for profit agency. He noted that 1.45 million dollars of renovations will be done on the Pomeroy School Apartments building and there was an additional three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in soft costs. He noted that this funding was from a grant. He spoke about the project and his concerns about a funding shortfall if they go over the grant dollars with various unknown cost increases. He explained concerns regarding the possible roof replacement which had not been anticipated. Mr. Thomas asked the Council to consider waiving the permit fees to help them stay within their budget.

Chief Glover spoke about the project review process and the cost to the City. He noted that this is the Council's decision to waive the fees.

Mr. Thomas spoke about the various unknowns that could cause costs to go up on this project. Alderman Bennett noted that they paid taxes on this property. Mr. Thomas explained that the units are rent regulated and they are only allowed a one (1) percent profit margin. He noted that they are not-for-profit and not required to pay property taxes, but their articles of incorporation state that they must stabilize the tax base and they pay taxes on the Pomeroy School and have done so since 1993. He explained that he would like to negotiate a PILOT agreement with the City to reduce their tax burden because the State has asked them to build their reserve balance. Alderman Ferguson went on record as opposing the waiving of any fees.

Mayor Tobin asked for more information from Deputy Chief Knickerbocker, Corporation Counsel and other department heads to present to the Council before a decision is made and this will be on the next agenda.

RESOLUTION #19 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)

Mayor Tobin noted the addition of the nomination of Jim Sponaugle to the Police Commission due to a recent resignation.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #20 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the bid award for the construction of the Beaudry Park Recreation building to Finger Lakes Construction, Homer, N. Y., in the amount not to exceed \$205,000 and authorize the Mayor to enter into and sign the contract subject to review by Corporation Counsel. (John McNerney)

John McNerney, Youth Bureau Director, gave the history of the attempts to get this project done. He explained the poor condition of the current building and the various groups that use this park building. He explained that the building was in such poor condition that it was not longer rented out for group use. He noted that the new building will offer an increase in rental potential. He reviewed the project budget and the project funding sources. He explained how the DPW will be working with the Youth Bureau to reduce building construction costs. He also outlined other cost cutting measures and his hopes to stay within budget. He highlighted the differences between last year’s and this year’s proposal, noting the biggest cost saving measures were going to a steel post frame building with no foundation and the siding will be board and batten rather than cedar.

Mr. McNerney described the various features of the new building noting that the proposed building is still the same size as the previously proposed building. He also gave the timeline for construction starting in May, with the anticipated deadline for completion of

August 2012. Alderman Silliman asked if there were items inside the current building that might be usable. Mr. McNerney indicated that some game items were usable.

Alderman Michales asked if they would inquire about more energy efficient to replace less expensive siding. Mr. McNerney stated that he would ask Finger Lakes Construction. Alderman Michales wanted to know if there was another siding material that required less frequent treatment to maintain.

Mr. McNerney spoke about the splash pool situation, noting that in the late 1990's the State Health Department closed the wading pool and the City had turned it into a sprinkler. He stated that it was little used and to cut costs they closed it. The Council asked him to explain constituent opinions on the sprinkler closing. Mr. McNerney explained that parents preferred Suggett Park and the Wickwire Pool for various reasons.

Discussion regarding the splash pool will be placed on the February 21, 2012 agenda.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #21 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to enter into a contract with the Town of Cortlandville for the provision of 2012 recreational services and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract subject to review by Corporation Counsel. (John McNerney)

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #22 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to enter into an easement agreement with Time Warner Cable, Inc. to allow for a cable line extension to carry service from Port Watson Street to the Leroy R. Summerson Waste Water Treatment Facility and authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement subject to review by Corporation Counsel. (Mack Cook)

By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #23 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt an internal, formal grievance procedure under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services regulations as required of recipients of certain federal

funding and designating the City's Director of Administration and Finance as the Grievance Coordinator. (Thoma Development)

Linda Armstrong of Thoma Development gave the background on this request for adoption and public notification requirements. Mack Cook outlined the grievance procedure.

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #24 OF 2012 – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt the revised City of Cortland Procurement Policy. (Thoma Development)

By: Alderman Michales
Seconded: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #25 OF 2012 - Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the upgrade, repair and refit of the two boilers at the Leroy R. Summerson Waste Water Treatment Plant not to exceed \$62,209 based upon the lowest and best quote received. (Bruce Adams)

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #26 OF 2012 - Consideration of a Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$20,915.00 from the proceeds of the sale of the surplus Cortland Fire Department vehicles into the CFD budget line A3410-206 to facilitate the purchase of an additional staff vehicle for the Volunteer Chiefs. Additionally requesting proceeds from the sale of surplus vehicles being replaced be returned to the Fire Department lines as needed to help offset these costs for both the Fire Department proper and the Board of Engineers. (Chief Glover)

Chief Glover provided an explanation of his replacement program.

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #27 OF 2012 - Consideration of a Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$10,252.50 from NYMIR Capital Investment reimbursement and appropriate it to A1990-400. (Mack Cook)

By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded: Alderman Dye

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays - 0

Adjournment

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Silliman

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 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY 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