



## City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

August 20, 2013

Council Meeting #15  
August 20, 2013  
Regular Session  
City Hall  
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Alderman Julie Bird, Ken Dye, John G. Bennett, Jr., Daniel Quail, Linda A. Ferguson, Carlos Ferrer, Thomas Michales

Absent: Alderman Katy J. Silliman

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Corporation Counsel Richard Van Donsel, Fire Chief Charles Glover, Police Chief Frank Catalano, Deputy Superintendent of the Department of Public Works Nicholas Dovi, Deputy Fire Chief William Knickerbocker, Wastewater Treatment Facility Director Bruce Adams, City Clerk Judith Chamberlin, Assistant to the City Clerk Alex Goldstein

Mayor Brian Tobin called the 15<sup>th</sup> Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:04 P.M.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### Tom Gobel

- Wants city to embrace the return of the SUNY Cortland students

#### Bernie Ellis

- Concerned about the expenses regarding street closures and block parties
- Concerns regarding agenda item #9 – increasing fees associated with code violations
- Concerns regarding sidewalks and curbs throughout the city

#### Mike Dexter

- Concerns regarding the way Linda Kline was treated by the public during the last Planning Commission meeting
- Expressed support for Linda Kline as Chairman of the Historical and/or Architectural Advisory Board

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- During a department head meeting, we debriefed the flooding event and our response to it. John Bennett and I also met with Soil and Water and Chris Bistocchi and Nick Dovi of the DPW. The berm in the Waterworks functioned exactly as anticipated. There was movement of some rocks, but the intent was to hold back a 15 year flood. This was a 50 year flood. Chris and his crew at the DPW are to be commended for their work, it prevented the flooding from being worse.
- Received a letter from Congressman Hanna that urges people to apply to the Small Business Administration for low-interest disaster loans. The information will be posted on the city website. Information can also be found by contacting the Mayor's Office at (607) 753-0872.
- We have had dumpsters placed at Suggett Park, Waterworks and Beaudry Park to assist in cleanup after the flood. I'd like to thank Legislator Ray Parker, who is bringing the disposal of damaged goods to the County Legislature in hopes of receiving some assistance with the cost of disposal of people's ruined possessions.
- Created a Facebook Page, City of Cortland Flooding Assistance to distribute information to the general public. In the event of potential future flooding, we will be able to distribute information and allow people to ask for help, and volunteer to help those in need. Please look up this page and like it if you may need help or may like to lend assistance.
- The County has a Flooding sub-committee from their Agriculture and Planning Committee that will meet in early September. I have approached Sandy Price and I am asking for a dialogue about the streams and creeks that flow through the city, to work on improving the situation to prevent future flooding. We are concerned not just with the Otter/Dry Creek watershed, but also Perplexity Creek.
- This event was not the first, and it would be foolish to assume that it will be the last flooding event that we will experience. We want to talk about the tributaries that flow through the city, and what can be done to lessen the impact on properties. I am optimistic that we will be able to pull representatives from relevant entities and come up with the necessary actions to improve the current situation.
- There will be a concert on Main Street near The Stone Lounge this Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Softball tournament to benefit the Wickwire Pool was last Sunday, with the Fire Department, Police Department, Cortland County Sheriffs Department and TLC. Fire Department went 2-0 and the Police Department went 1-1

## **MINUTES TO THE AUGUST 6, 2013 MEETING**

**RESOLUTION #194** of 2013 – Resolution to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2013 as amended

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

### Changes to minutes:

- Ward Reports
  - Alderman Bird
    - Change ride to road

**PRESENTATION** – Presentation by the Historical and/or Architectural Board regarding what their board does and what guidelines they have set up for small businesses to follow

Linda Kline, chairman of the Historical and/or Architectural Board, presented to the council what the Historic District is, what the process is for getting approval for work to be done in this area.

Jo Schaffer expressed her appreciation for what the Historic and/or Architectural Board does for the city.

**RESOLUTION #195** of 2013 – Resolution for a street closure William Street from Greenbush Street to Church Street on September 1, 2013 from 12:00PM to 5:00 PM for a Block Party

Motion By: Alderman Michales  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #196** of 2013 – Resolution to accept the following donation for the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund:

<i><b>Donation</b></i>	<i><b>Amount</b></i>
Hope Mob	\$1,046.00
Cecile Swift Lippitt	\$25.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$1,071.00</b>

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #197** of 2013 – Resolution to accept the 2012 Financial Audit

Motion By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Mack Cook addressed questions submitted by Alderman Julie Bird regarding the 2012 Financial Audit.

**RESOLUTION # 198** of 2013 – Resolution to authorize the following actions in support of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Cortland Pumpkinfest:

- A. Permission to use the City’s portion of Courthouse Park from October 5, through October 6, 2013.

- B. Permission to place promotional signs at or near the City's entrance signs.
- C. Permission to operate the Micro Brew Tasting on October 5, 2013 from 1:00 PM to 5:00PM in the Courthouse Park.

Motion By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #199** of 2013 – Resolution for the Mayor to execute the labor agreement between the City of Cortland and the Volunteer Companies of the Cortland Fire Department for the period commencing January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstention – 1 Alderman Ferrer

**RESOLUTION #200** of 2013 – Resolution to table the request to lift the hiring freeze for the Fire Department until the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting

Motion to Table: Alderman Quail  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 4  
Nays – 3 Alderman Bird, Ferguson, Dye

**RESOLUTION #201** of 2013 – Resolution to set a public hearing on increasing the fees associated with code violations for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 PM

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #202** of 2013 – Resolution to waive the permit fee for hot water heaters and furnaces that were destroyed during the flooding

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #203** of 2013 – Resolution to approve the appointment of Alex Goldstein to the Board of Assessment Review

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**PROCLAMATION**

- Red Dragon Pride Day

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Union Contract Discussion

Motion to go into:

By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of:

By: Alderman Bennett  
Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

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 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2013. 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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**JUDITH CHAMBERLIN, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**