



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
December 3, 2013

Council Meeting #22
December 3, 2013
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Alderman Bennett, Michales, Silliman, Dye, Bird, Ferguson, Quail and Ferrer

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard Van Donsel, Fire Chief Charles Glover, Deputy Fire Chief William Knickerbocker, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

PUBLIC HEARING:

Speakers for Proposed Local Law #4 (Prohibition against consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors on private property)

- Joanne Wickman and Kimberly McRae spoke on the consideration of the “Social Host” local law. Law will help local law enforcement and to promote finding ways to reduce underage drinking in our community. The Local Law #4 can have a positive impact for the community. Both expressed sincere thank you for the consideration. Explained how coalition works, science and research based validated strategies shown to be effective.
- Chief Catalano spoke and is in favor of this law. He requested the board vote on this law at this Common Council Meeting so it can be put into place immediately.
- Closed public hearing on local law #4.

There was no speaker for the Proposed Wastewater fund Budget

Opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Water Fund Budget

Speakers:

- Connie Sorrells life long city resident and city tax payer – Thanked Alderman Bird for her support. Expressed concern after increases to all of the utilities it begins to infringe on quality of personal life especially for a single family income. Know the best of intentions, but please think the rate increase out carefully and do the best that you can do.
- Close the public hearing on Proposed Water Fund Budget.

Opened public Hearing for the Proposed General Fund Budget:

Speakers:

- Chris Hotchkiss - read a statement from Bonnie Ann Heath regarding the Reinstatement of the Deputy Fire Chief position. Thanks the Council for restoring DC position. Statement was a recap of the concerns and communications from the Fire Department. Words of gratitude as well.
- Rich Allen – 1st assistant vol. chief – Spoke of the importance of the command staff – thank you for reinstating that position. The leadership is so very important.
- Close public hearing on the Proposed General Fund Budget.

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Brian Tobin called the Twenty-Second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:02PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Speakers

- Tom Gobel – With due respect to City of Cortland. Starting to see a problem. Feels the City of Cortland has lost respect due the events of Cortica weekend and being labeled a party city. Media provided additional push to that lack of respect. Lack of respect from others. Bring back respect for the city “no more party city”.
- Jessie Conway - several weeks ago, Katy Silliman presented a request to ban the game permanently. Please reconsider this request. Expressed his concerns as a resident of the city. Spoke of safety, effects on children, how it affects other residents wanting to stay in the city. Please do not allow this in our home.
- Mayor Brian Tobin - Explained that a commission has been formed and be assured the commission is looking at all options and hopefully promote positive dialog for this weekend and any other weekend throughout the year.

Minutes of the November 19, 2013 meeting:

RESOLUTION #267 of 2013 – Resolution to approve the November 19, 2013 Common Council Minutes

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Ward Reports

Alderman Bennett: (4)

- Ward quiet

Alderman Michales: (8)

- Cats not cared for, very little response from SPCA. Calls to police dept – finally got addressed by SPCA.
- With the money set aside in budget, recommends the checks are approved by Council before any payments to SPCA. This way, they don’t receive the check until issues are addressed.

Alderman Silliman: (2)

- After effects of Cortica – transparent and accessible to public – on website. Set by the Commission, an evening will be set for each group (Business, resident, Tavern Association, College, Students, et...) to be heard. She stated she is encouraged by the first meeting and feels it will be effective in changing the culture.
- Quiet in the Ward.

Alderman Dye: (3)

- Commission will be meeting 2 times a month. Feels there is a wealth of knowledge on the committee and a great expertise. The commission has not yet set meeting venues.
- Minutes from the Commission meetings will be posting on SUNY w/link to City or City w/link to SUNY.
- Ward was quiet.

Alderman Quail: (5)

- Street lights – Beaudry Park is dark and needs lighting (Sledding).

Alderman Ferguson: (7)

- Santa Toys for Tots will be gift wrapping (Corset Building)
- Having trouble with Marietta trucks again
- Ward 7 is doing good

Alderman Ferrer: (6)

- Crows on Charles Street

Alderman Bird: (1)

- Organizing Tree Lighting Ceremony - December 14, 2013 6:00 pm
- Santa is confirmed – apparatus bay at fire station is being used for cookies and cocoa

Presentation by Alderman Michales – Provided handouts for Council members on the Town/Gown event sponsored by Tompkins County. The event promotes community outreach, awareness of the value of education and understanding university contributions. Alderman Michales read the Mission Statement and explained the programs initiated by this program and its benefits.

Resolution #268 of 2013 – Resolution that the City of Cortland is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funds from the New York State Office For Community Renewal under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2013, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000; to authorize the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign said application on behalf of the City; and upon approval of said request, to enter into and execute a grant agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the City of Cortland. (Thoma Development)

Linda Armstrong was present to speak; she explained the Grant targets 2 unit homes with Owner occupied and low income. There is a waiting list.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #269 of 2013 – Resolution to establish a Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution (RS2417-A) for the purpose of the requirements of NYSERS for Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel as *12 days per month*.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #270 of 2013 – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund (John McNerney):

<i>Donations</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mary Lou Bordwell	\$100.00
<i>Total Donations</i>	\$100.00

Motion By: Alderman Bird
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Motion to table Agenda item # 6 regarding the authorization to transfer \$46,000 from the reserve for snow and Ice Removal to line item A-05-5142-540500 (DPW Snow and Ice Control Operating Supplies) (Bistocchi)

Motion to table until December 17, 2013

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
 Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #272 of 2013 – Resolution for a request to have the sum of \$36,000 appropriated from \$275,000 and made available to cover the cost of participation in the Safe Route to Schools project.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #273 of 2013 - Resolution to appoint Elaine Contento to the Cortland Housing Authority Board as a replacement for Mary Jane Corey (resigned).

The Board expressed appreciation to Mary Jane Corey for her service.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #274 of 2013 – Resolution to create a Sewer Heavy position. (Nicholas Dovi)

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #275 of 2013 – Resolution to abolish a vacant MEO Heavy position. (Nicholas Dovi)

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #276 of 2013 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to promote two individuals with the Department of Public Works to the title of Sewer Heavy. (Nicholas Dovi)

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #277 of 2013 – Resolution to promote two individuals from within to Sewer Heavy positions. (Nicholas Dovi)

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #278 of 2013 – Resolution to allow the Mayor to enter into an agreement with a consultant to manage the recently awarded CRF CDBG (Cortland Multifamily Acquisition/Rehabilitation Program) who was selected via a Request for Proposals. (Mayor Tobin)

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #279 of 2013 – Resolution to override the statutory New York State tax cap. (Common Council)

Motion to set a Public Hearing for December 17, 2013

Motion By: Alderman
Seconded By: Alderman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #280 of 2013 – Resolution to accept Local Law #3 (presented at the November 19 Council meeting), amending the Charter with regards to the Department of Public Works, Public Safety, and the Water Department. (Chris Bistocchi)

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #281 of 2013 – Resolution to revise the Sewer Ordinance as presented at the Public Hearing November 19, 2013. (Bruce Adams)

Bruce Adams presented a recap, clarifications and definitions for the revision to the Sewer Ordinance.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #282 of 2013 – Discussion regarding 2014 Water rates. (Common Council)

Chris Bistocchi was present to discuss what increase means and to answer questions. Mr. Bistocchi presented past history and what brought the rate increase recommendations for the budget.

Council will take opportunity to provide alternative possible suggestions versus the rate increase and will provide the alternatives before Friday, December 6, 2013.

Resolution #283 of 2013 – Resolution for The Cultural Council of Cortland County to hold its annual Arts & Wine Festival on Saturday, August 2, 2014 from 10am-5pm in Courthouse Park and requests approval to use the south side of the park for this event as well as a waiver of the open container law. (Sheila Cohen)

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Executive Session

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session for litigation.

Motion By: Alderman Quail
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of Executive Session

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

ADJOURNMENT - 9:30 PM

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

I, SHELLIE BLAISDELL, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE MAYOR 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 19th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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.

SHELLIE BLAISDELL
CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE MAYOR

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN