



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
December 17, 2013

Council Meeting #23

December 17, 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:

Public Hearings were opened and closed without speakers for the Override on the Statutory New York State Tax Cap and the proposed Wastewater Budget.

Public Hearing opened for the Proposed Water Fund Budget

Speaker for Proposed Water Fund Budget

- Bob Haight, Chamber of Commerce would like the City to scale back on the water rate increase and conduct a study of the water rates. He expressed he would like to see the support from the Council.

Public Hearing closed for the Proposed Water Fund Budget

Prior to the Regular Session, Mayor Tobin read a proclamation Recognizing Service by City of Cortland Alderman having ten or more years of service. December 17, 2013 is proclaimed Appreciation for a decade of Service on City Council Day. Those recognized were Margaret Dexter, Robert Haggerty, Fred Jenke, Daniel Tagliente, Ken Tobin, Daniel Quail, and Thomas Michales.

Family of the recognized honoree's spoke for the acceptance of the award.

Council, family and friends were given time for a brief celebration of the honor.

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Brian Tobin called the Twenty-Third Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:30PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Liz Golembeski (SEIU Secretary/Treasurer) regarding the SEIU Contract Negotiation Update

- First wanted to congratulate the Council
- Liz provided an update on the negotiation process of the SEIU contract. Filed necessary paperwork with the Public Employees Relations Board, have filed Declaration of Impasse. The SEIU has filed with the State and is waiting to be assigned a federal mediator at this time to help parties reach a settlement
- Contract is still enforceable until agreement is reached – without contract for 3 years.
- Hoping for closure to be reached in a speedy way and they can come to a settlement.
- The relations board asks the Council to help move the process along as quickly as we can.

Mike Dexter regarding the Water Dept

- Mike Dexter spoke regarding the Water Board, having 30 years serving as employee plus 10 years on a part-time basis. He is proud to say he worked in the Water Dept and one of longest serving employee.
- Mr. Dexter expressed concern, understands the city’s pinch and the amount of money the water dept is expected to give back to the city. Feels the infrastructure is the biggest reason the amount of money expected is not there – Infrastructure needs a lot of repair.
- Bottom line; don’t forget to take care of the repair the Water Dept.

John McNerney regarding Grant for Wickwire Pool Repair Fund

- Mr. McNerney announced a State Grant Award in the amount of \$500,000 for the repair of the Wickwire Pool. Very competitive money. There were very few park related awards this year.
- Thank you Council for standing behind the project.
- At this time, the pool is near 80% funded.

Minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting:

RESOLUTION #284 of 2013 – Resolution to approve the December 3, 2013 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #285 of 2013 – Resolution for the City of Cortland to accept Cortland Downtown Partnership request for 2014 “First Light” New Year’s Eve countdown celebration. Revised to include granting a Sound Device Permit for the event.

Jane Witty, Downtown Business Partnership was present to present the 2014 First Light Celebration. Main Street closure, there will be a screen on the side of building right next to Macho Burger. There will be no Show Mobile this year. Music will be provided by Fun Flicks/Sound System. The Fireworks permit is forthcoming. Ms. Witty did not realize the need for a sound device permit.

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #286 of 2013 – Resolution to appoint Wilma Van Dee to Commissioner of Deeds for 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #287 of 2013 – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund.

<i>Donations</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Matthew Banazck	\$100.00
Susan Harnick-Winston	\$ 20.00
Cash Donation Anonymous	\$100.00
<i>Total Donations</i>	<i>\$220.00</i>

Motion By: Alderman Bird
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #288 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt the City of Cortland Purchasing Policy and Procedures.

Mack Cook addressed the Purchasing Policy and Procedures – stated it solidifies in conjunction of the new software program.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #289 of 2013 - Resolution to adopt Local Law #4-*The Social Host Law*; *Prohibition against consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors on private property.*

Alderman Silliman wanted clarification *“The person(s) in control of the property at the time of serving alcohol would be the one to be held accountable, not necessarily the owner of the property.”* It was confirmed by Corporate Council.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #290 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt Local Law #5; *To enact an override to the tax levy limit established in New York General Municipal Law, §3-c, as Chapter 202, Article V, §17, of The Code of the City of Cortland, New York.*

The Council wanted clarification – this Override is only if needed as a precautionary measure.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #291 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt the 2014 General Fund Budget of \$18,839,071.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 1 (Alderman Bennett)

Resolution #292 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt a Property Tax Levy of \$8,160,486, an increase of 1.6% over the 2013 Property Tax Levy.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 2 (Alderman Bennett, Quail)

Resolution #293 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt the following water rates for 2014: (Moved Item up prior to Water Fund Budget)

Minimum	\$35.76
0-500 Units	\$ 2.98
501 to 1000 Units	\$ 2.71
1001 and Over	\$ 2.91

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Roll Call Vote: (Ayes – 4 and 4 Nays)

Bennett	Aye
Michales	Nay
Silliman	Aye
Dye	Aye
Quail	Nay
Ferrer	Aye
Ferguson	Nay
Bird	Nay

Mayor Tobin carried the vote as approved.

Resolution #294 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt the 2014 Water Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,202,415. Request to publicize projects; Council wants to see progress and work. Council wants to have a list of the proposed projects and put on the website and see progress in the work.

Council and general public will be made aware of specified projects.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 3 (Alderman Michales, Bird, Ferguson)

Resolution #295 of 2013 – Resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$46,000 from the 2014 budgeted amount to line item A-05-5142-540500 (DPW Snow and Ice Control Operating Supplies) and transfer said amount to the Reserve for Snow and Ice Removal.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Alderman Ferguson questioned amount, Mack Cook addressed and offered explanation of “internal bank account” theory. Budget is based on 5 year actual cost; high year of 2013 – offset by low snow year in 2011. Trying to keep reserve in tack and not run reserve down. Intent is to borrow from the reserve with the discipline to put the money back into the reserve. There have been 11 snow events since November 25th.

Have a request for Chris Bistocchi to provide explanation of Brine and when it is to be used. Brine and Salt Trucks have been seen to be used at the same time.

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #296 of 2013 – Resolution to decrease residential Wastewater Rates of one percent (1%). (Moved item up before the Wastewater Fund Budget agenda item)

\$650,000 and lighting reduction in kilowatts trend will continue – new renovations 2015-2017 reduction in electrical usage.

Motion By: Quail
Seconded By: Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #297 of 2013 – Resolution to adopt the 2014 Wastewater Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,732,416.

Motion By: Quail
Seconded By: Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #14 – Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Ray Parker to the position of City Clerk for the City of Cortland, New York, effective January 1, 2014.

Item is tabled until January 7, 2014 Common Council Meeting

Resolution #298 of 2013 – Resolution to extend the City of Cortland’s contract with Casella Waste Haulers from January 1, 2014 through 2016.

Contract is for a three year term (2014, 2015, and 2016). Mayor Tobin recommends three year contract due to extensive bidding process, very strong relationship established with waste hauler, have been helpful with special events and making donations, recommendation from Chris Bistocchi, and has a clear benefit for the city. There is clear discrepancy in terms of prices and quality of service along with reference checks of other waste haulers.

Indicates larger increase the first year with smaller increases for year two and year three.

Mayor Tobin provided information the city is doing a good job of recycling which essentially creates a decrease of amount going to the landfill. Waste hauler is seeing a decrease to profit margin. They still have the same costs going to landfill and recycling center. Recycling is free but still costs waste hauler.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 1 (Alderman Bird)

Resolution #299 of 2013 – Resolution that if needed, due to weather conditions prior to December 31, 2013, authorization to transfer \$20,000 from the snow removal reserved to fund the purchase of road salt. (Cook)

For clarification the amount is “up to - if needed through December 31, 2013”.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Executive Session

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session for discussion on an employees’ job performance.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of Executive Session

By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Quail

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Tobin reminded all Alderman of the swearing in Ceremony to take place at the County Court House, in the Court Room at Noon on December 28, 2013.

Alderman Quail – To Common Council Members-you have been excellent, you have a rough road ahead of you, have some guidance, and remember it is the people’s money, really listen to the people, don’t just listen to the naysayers, they may not be the majority. Don’t forget your ethical compass; keep up the focus and communication. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

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