



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
January 7, 2014

Council Meeting #1
January 7, 2014
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Deputy Mayor Ken Dye, Alderman Bennett, Michales, Bird, Dutcher, and Ferrer

Absent: Alderman Ferguson, Silliman, Mayor Brian Tobin

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard Van Donsel, Chief Mike Catalano, Director of Administration and Finance, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

REGULAR SESSION:

Deputy Mayor Ken Dye called the First Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Tom Gobel

- Property Taxes, not too many seniors who want to move out of their homes
- Big businesses left Cortland feels he is in episode of the Twilight Zone; Cortland needs to work towards more positive ends.

Ann Doyle

- Disapproved of methods of getting things done; Feels people need to know about discussion to combine Zoning, Historic and Planning Boards.
- Strongly opposes combining Historic Commission with any other one. Feels it is unique and needs to stand alone. Without it, there would be no consistency.
- Feels Linda Kline is fair to those coming forward, and goes above and beyond her duties.
- Suggests Realtors need to communicate to buyers about the permit process.
- The relations board asks the Council to help move the process along as quickly as we can.
- No closed meetings and no short-cuts.
- Public Meeting / Cortica at County office building on 01/08/14; and also Neighborhood Watch meets at Parkside Church on 01/15/14 at 7pm.
- Endorses Mike Dexter's re-appointment.

Ken Dye welcomed Clifton Dutcher, Alderman for Ward 5.

Minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting:

RESOLUTION #1 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the December 17, 2013 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Item #1 – Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Cortland Community SPCA for services in 2014 in the amount of \$75,500.

Alderman Michales requested the item be tabled. Feels a few things need to be hashed out. Expressed he is concerned the SPCA has only responded due to the pending contract. He feels the SPCA is not responding to the rescue of cats. Requests Council withholds signing the contract until this matter is addressed to satisfaction. Wants to have more responsiveness.

Chief Catalano stated 100% cooperation from the agency at all times, not just when the contract is renewed. Was communicated from the SPCA when they responded to the call, the cats were found to be fat and healthy.

Alderman Dutcher pointed out the contract is a Dog Control Contract and that is what they should be voting on.

Motion to table Item #1.

Motion By: Alderman Michales
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 4
Nays – 1 (Bennett)

Resolution #2 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City of Cortland and the Town of Cortlandville for services rendered by the Cortland Youth Bureau from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #3 of 2014 – Resolution to enter into a contract with Mike Dexter for the continued care and maintenance on Water Works property; for the decorating of the facilities for holidays and special events, maintaining wildlife and landscaping on the grounds commencing January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #4 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the reappointment of Richard VanDonsel for the position of Corporation Counsel for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #5 of 2014 - Resolution to approve the reappointment of Ken Dye for the position of Deputy Mayor for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #6 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the reappointment of Mack Cook to the position of Director of Administration and Finance for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #7 of 2014 – Resolution to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Ray Parker to the position of City Clerk for the City of Cortland effective January 8, 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 4
Nays – 1 (Alderman Bird)

Resolution #8 of 2014 – Resolution to accept a donation to the City of Cortland Police Department towards the purchase of a K-9 dog in the amount of \$5000 from Mr. David McNeil and Family.

Chief Catalano provided a brief presentation of the K-9 program. It has been 18 years since the City of Cortland Police Department has had a K-9 program. Under the specific guidelines of benefits from seizure funds, (a drug bust from three years ago) the police department is able to use those funds for this program.

The police department has been researching for months and has found, what they feel is the best choice location to choose their dog. There is an officer all ready on staff that has been chosen to partner with the K-9 dog due to past experience in another law enforcement office.

The donation of \$5,000 from David McNeil and Family will be used towards the program cost of \$13,500. Outside of the purchase and training of the K-9 dog, there will be the continuing maintenance and care for the dog while off duty. Two separate contracts will be put to the council at the next meeting; one for the purchase and training of the K-9 dog and one for the compensation to the officer assigned to care for the dog while off duty.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #9 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the PBA (Police Benevolent Association, Inc.) regarding the timing of Opt Out Provisions.

“Opt Out Provision” allows employee to decline insurance benefits sooner. This resolution is the clean up particular language. It provides to allow the “opt out” at any time in the year.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #10 of 2014 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill vacant police officer position.

Chief Catalano stated he received a resignation from an officer. Due to the lengthy process, (canvass with Civil Service list, selection, background check) and with training starting in March, time is important. Academy is for 6 months, training is for 3 months. It will be 9 months before the officer will be on the streets.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Dye

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Resolution #11 of 2014 – Resolution to reappoint Kellie Green as Commissioner of Deeds for the Cortland County Treasurer’s Office effective January 8, 2014 through January 7, 2016.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

Executive Session

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session for discussion on Employee Compensation.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:30 PM

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 5
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