



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
January 21, 2014

Council Meeting #2
January 21, 2014
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

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

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard Van Donsel, Fire Chief Charles Glover, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Superintendent of Public Works Chris Bistocchi, City Clerk Ray Parker, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Brian Tobin called the Second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Cheryl Michales and Mary Ann Piedigrossi:

- In regards to the SPCA – Refers back to calls in November 2013 – a concerned city resident called out of compassion for 3 abandoned cats – there were many calls to SPCA with the response being "what do you want us to do about it?" Did not feel appropriate response and feels the SPCA needs compassion.
- The concerned city resident then called Alderman Michales who got involved.
- There is a portion of the law - if a cat is left 12 hours - abandoned - they can take the cat. A change is needed.
- Big supporter of the SPCA. The way this issue was handled was not handled well under the deplorable conditions.
- Really need to take another look at the way cats are handled.
- The cats have now been picked up and the issue has been resolved finally.

Mike Dexter:

- Tree City USA – (Tree City helps in getting money from DEC) applied and approved. Standards require a Tree Board, ordinance and planting trees.
- Last year, spent \$40,000 to remove trees in the City of Cortland. Nick Dovi has been a huge asset to getting work done. Took trees down, removed stumps also. National grid assisted with trees that interfered with wires.
- Planted 70 trees last year. 120 trees planted with the grant over the last two years.
- \$6000 allotted to plant next year less than 100 trees.
- Applied for another grant through Thoma and the City.
- The number of trees taking down vs. replanting is not equal. There is a need to increase planting.

Minutes of the January 7, 2014 meeting:

Linda Ferguson questioned a person working in Finance that she did not see was approved through Common Council either in the video or minutes from January 7, 2014. Mack explained there was a termination in the Finance Dept and the City of Cortland is not replacing the person. A temp was hired to fill in to handle the tax season. There will be a re-assessment periodically to determine further need.

RESOLUTION #12 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the January 7, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #1 – Presentation from Bailey Place Insurance – A presentation was given by Steve Franco on the City's insurance package.

- Mack Cook introduced Bailey Place Insurance-Mr. Steve Franco -
- For the past 24 months the City has been looking at all the insurance packages and property insurance packages with Steve Franco and Mr. Spaulding. In two weeks, would like to come back and discuss adding coverage where they see gaps in coverage.
- Asked Bailey Place to come in to give an overview of coverage and recommendations.
- The number of claims filed against city - municipal liability as well.
- Another service provided by Bailey Ins. Handle many claims that come up and does not elevate itself to city. There is an invaluable service which falls under the radar.

The Presentation from Steve Franco – President and co-owner of Bailey Place Insurance

- Explained the history and background – Risk manager for 15 municipalities.
- Relationship goes back to 1950's. And insured with NYMIR since 1997.
- Explained all areas covered (Property Liability Contract – city buildings and contents, police, fire, waste water treatment plant, city parks and recreation services and water dept.
- Acts as the City risk manager by adjusting minor liability claims and special events
- Reviews any liability and workers compensation and licenses issued
- \$43M in building and contents
- \$100,000 General liability policy – example paid out \$2200 in claims but saved over \$40,000.
- Keep expense cost down, saves the city a lot of money. Premiums are comparable.
- Auto policy - 86 vehicles total
- Coverage to discuss - previous administration - self insured liability - (2007). \$50,000 (with \$100,000 retention)
- Public officials policy
- Law enforcement liability - will pick up with other profitable insurances.
- NYMIR incredible partner and has kept premiums pretty stable.
- Will cost \$50,000 to add (second packet) Law enforcement and public officials- umbrella
- Looking at this because it is time to do it.
- Digest information and talk in two weeks.

Item #2 – Presentation from David Stathis and Fingerlakes Technology Group

- Antiquated phone system – Recently the DPW lost phone during power outage.
- This proposal brings new equipment through fibers - can manage from City Hall. Bring fiber optics from Dryden on Route 13
- Is Ethernet base – IT protocol – completely separate connection from internet. Completely different technology than what we have today.
- Proposal doesn't increase from now - replaces Verizon and Time Warner - (phone and internet)
- Will have voice mail for each individual and other features we don't currently have.
- Voice mail - individual depts. means of helping to answer phones. (Saving a phone from ringing off the hook which is what it does now).
- Can work with smart phones/compatibility - has a lot of flexibility
- Back up units - (provides 2-3 hours of back up time).
- Can there be a list of all the costs from Verizon and Time Warner - (\$3500 - \$5000) factor in phone repair \$10,000-20,000 in a major repair that is not built in right now.
- No purchase of equipment is needed, new phones is included in the quote.
- Ethernet units - how have they improved? There are continuously improved software systems and contractor (Fingerlakes Technology Group) has a good relationship and knows the equipment inside and out.
- Recurring is monthly and then there is a one time charge. Potentially saving a lot of money.
- Equipment is brand new.
- Looking at having system up and running by the beginning of May, 2014 providing quick approval.
- With the demand from Munis - experiencing network interruptions - phone outages are unrealistic. Causing great aggravations. This new phone system will eliminate those frustrations.

Item #3 – Presentation from Chris Bistocchi regarding the NYSDOT funding and project costs for the bridge projects scheduled for this construction season.

- Bridge program - 2010 applied for federal aid for four bridges Groton Ave at Otter creek, Madison Street at Helen Ave, Rickard St, Homer Ave/Brown Ave.
- With assistance from CDM Smith-Benjamin Choroser, engineer, working on best way to utilize grant dollars efficiently and effectively.
- Original amount in request is 80% of \$600,000 due to inflation and other elements that is now 80% of \$745,000 - contact DOT to see if there is anything that could be done.
- Recommendation is to move forward with final design on all four bridges - approach three of the bridges - Homer Ave, Groton Ave and Rickard Street. Leave Madison Street Bridge for another year. There is potential to get additional funding for that bridge at a later time.
- Ben has worked closely on these bridges. We do not want to short change on these - and then have to come back at a later time for additional work.
- With Madison Street on hold The City will re-apply for 80% grant being a 3 year program and receive funding in 2016.
- Holding an information meeting on Wed. 7 pm Ben and CDM will go over it.
- Regarding condition of some of the city streets, we will need to pick through some streets that need attention. - There are some concerns about some major street issues.
- All bridges are subject to NYS inspection. May and June inspection - reports available in August.

Resolution #13 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund:

Donations	Amount
Cecile & James Dore	\$100.00
Ashley & Beverly Ellefson	\$100.00
Total Donations	\$200.00

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #14 of 2014 – Resolution to reappoint the following members to the Boards and Commissions whose term expires 01/31/2014. New term effective February 1, 2014 as follows:

Cable Commission	Sharon Stevans, Lisa Kahle
Planning Commission	Chris Ryan, Joseph McMahon
Police Commission	Thomas O’Mara
Public Safety/DPW Commission	Russell Teeter, Keith VanGorder, Cliff Kostuk
Youth Bureau Commission	Thomas Steele, Darrell VanGorder

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
 Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #15 of 2014 – Resolution to newly appoint the following members to the Boards and Commissions. New term effective February 1, 2014 as follows:

Historic District Commission	Katrina Murphy
Landscape & Design Commission	Theresa Quail

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #16 of 2014 – Resolution to accept the Memorandum of Agreement to support a municipal program for “bunker” volunteer firefighters between the City of Cortland and Cortland Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF, Local 2737.

- Tom Michales made the statement it is a successful program.
- Derek Reynolds was present to answer any questions and stated the program has great success with the training overall and is working really well. The grant runs through 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 1 (Ferrer)

Resolution #17 of 2014 - Resolution to enter into a contract with Shallow Creek Kennels, Inc. for the purchase of a Narcotics Detection/Patrol Police Service Dog in the amount of \$13,500.

- The age of the dog is typically 10 months to 16 months old at training. Care and Training starts at a much younger age than previously. Average working life of dog is 8-9 years and graduate out of program through age 10-12.
- When using a canine from another agency is there a cost to the city – no, however there is a cost to the loaning agency for us to use the dog. There are many instances we could have used a dog but could not due to many reasons. Time of travel constraints, cost prohibited, no training on how to protect the scene or other areas on working with a dog.
- Anticipate using the dog probably daily.
- Purchase of the dog and training is not costing the city any money.
- City will need to work out with setting up policies if we will allow use of dog to other municipalities.
- Chief Catalano is not aware of any law suits over the use of a canine dog.
- Officer Roger Stafford has prior experience working with canine dogs, started program with sheriff dept which is still running today. Legislature – from a narcotics only dog to a full police canine.
- This canine dog will serve as a dual purpose dog police dog and narcotics - dog is considered to be another special tool to fight crime in this city.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #18 of 2014 – Resolution to enter into a contract with the Cortland Police Benevolent Association for the reasonable compensation (a ½ our of pay based on the current salary level of the canine officer, each day of the year (365 days) of canine officers for any and all off-duty working including, but not limited to, the training, boarding, caring, feeding, walking, grooming, and general maintenance of assigned canines.

Salary for the canine officer would be \$5,080.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #19 of 2014 – Resolution to designate the following bank depositories for city funds:

- A. NBT Bank
- B. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.
- C. M&T Bank

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #20 of 2014 – Resolution to designate the Cortland Standard and the Shopper as the official newspapers of the City of Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #21 of 2014 – Resolution to designate Lori Crompton and Julie Maddren as the signatory on all accounts.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #22 of 2014 – Resolution to designate Donna Coye as Deputy Registrar for the City Clerk's office.

City Clerk Ray Parker explained the need for a backup Deputy Registrar as coverage for vacations.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #14 – Discussion regarding the Charter's stipulation that all members of City Boards and Commissions have to be city residents.

There may be some limits the number of people available for boards and commissions. Need to determine if it is worthwhile to investigate whether non-residents to be available to sit on them. Example: some business owners on Main Street are not city residents but would like to have input on Commissions.

Some boards with ex-officio members or advisors may resolve some of the vacancy where it is hard to fill the seat or when working with other agencies such as Town of Cortlandville/Youth Bureau Commission. Before making a recommendation for a change or a decision to change, Common Council would like to know why it was restricted originally.

Item #15 – Discussion regarding an Ice Cream Vendor Truck.

- A person had the purchase and license and approval to operate, when he started up he was then told, because of the Charter, he could not operate.
- Solicitor and vendors charter - only allows for push carts.
- Alderman Bennett has a listing of rules and regulations for Council to consider, would like to put to public hearing and then a vote to change/add to charter.
- Originally was put in place to protect downtown business and not take business away from them.
- Would request to keep to residential neighborhood - keep it off Main Street.
- Special permit to be issued for one day event (ie; June Dairy Parade) and also city parks.
- Hours of operation are clearly stated.
- In regards to item #9 with Litter, it will be to the best of his ability. Same would apply to the sound decibel for the truck jingle.
- This would go into effect in the Charter and would be open to others wanting to operate a mobile ice cream truck.
- A Public Hearing is scheduled for February 4, 2014 at 6:30 pm. Work on the assumption that a second public hearing will be needed before going to vote due to the significant change and complexity. Believe there will be additional questions moving forward.
- Gives opportunity to move forward on this.
- Both Ric VanDonsel and Chief Knickerbocker have looked the suggested rules and regulations and have given feedback and recommendations.

Executive Session

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session for discussion on two (2) Employee’s Compensation.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

ADJOURNMENT AT 9:10 PM

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

I, RAY PARKER, CITY CLERK 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 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2014. 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.

RAY PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN