



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
February 4, 2014

Council Meeting #3
February 4, 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, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, City Clerk Ray Parker, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

Absent: Alderman Silliman was absent for the Public Hearing

Open Public Hearing at 6:32 pm: To consider a Mobile Ice Cream Truck Vendor

Speaker: Rafael Felix:

Rafael Felix sits on the Planning Commission – a few people has approached him about why isn't there any thing on the books for allowing ice cream vendor trucks. Is in favor for this and knows the vendor trying to move this forward and is in support for it.

Close the Public Hearing at 6:35 pm.

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:

Tom Gobel:

- Referring to the article that appeared in the Cortland Standard regarding the lot on Route 13 and Clinton Street Extension – has a recommendation to put in a building and make it a tourist booth for the City of Cortland.
- Regarding agenda item #10 – the SPCA contract – he recognizes a need for a few adjustments. With the public relations, if we don't pass the contract soon it will take away from more important issues facing Cortland, for instance, businesses that are leaving the Cortland area.

Ann Doyle:

- Regarding the SPCA contract; “Disregard everything said by Tom Gobel”. She is unhappy with the SPCA and the city should look into alternatives with regards to the cats. Offered to get SNAP information to Council.

Minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting:

RESOLUTION #23 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the January 21, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Ward Reports:

Ward 4 – John Bennett

The ward has been quiet. Would like to discuss the Cortaca Commission meetings; on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 (business) and Thursday, February 13, 2014 (community) there will be the last two public sessions and would like to stress the importance of getting public attendance for these two meetings. Alderman Bennett stated he has learned so much by sitting on this commission and mentioned how social media has made a huge impact in society. For example; there is a site on Twitter that is called “SUNY Party Stories” where people can post pictures of their party times and then the pictures are voted on best picture. This is a statewide site.

Ward 8 – Tom Michales

Also regarding the Cortaca Commission; please help to get the word out to support better attendance for the meetings of February 12th and 13th.
In regards to street lights – with a consolidated effort between all wards, working together can get the street lights responded to.
Snow plowing-on streets that are narrow with sidewalks that are right next to the road, when the plows come through it dumps the snow right onto the sidewalks making it difficult for some property owners to clear. Would like to ask both Chris Bistocchi and Nick Dovi to see if anything can be done to throw the snow beyond the sidewalk.

Ward 2 – Katy Silliman

Please come out the February 12th and 13th Cortaca Commission meetings. Attendance is critical. The commission is really trying to get as many different points of view as possible. Thank you to the DPW for continuing to try to fill in the pot holes.

Ward 3 – Ken Dye

Regarding the pot holes, as fast as they fill them, that many more are created. It is hard to keep up with it.

Ward 7 – Linda Ferguson

There will be a 7th Ward meeting in March and one item being discussed with be vacant houses.

Ward 6 – Carlos Ferrer, Ward 5 – Clif Dutcher and Ward 1 – Julie Bird

All reported Wards are quiet.

Mayor Report:

Recently attended a Youth of the year Award – Impressive hearing the nominees and accomplishments. At the event, gave out an award to Kelly Bell; an outstanding youth of our future.

Agenda Items:

Mayor Tobin asked if Council would consider moving agenda items #12 and #13 up to #1 and #2. Council agreed.

Resolution #24 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: (It is noted, William Wood is not being reappointed at this time due to having to be approved by the Board of Engineers prior to the approval of Common Council; it will be recommended for reappointment at a later Common Council meeting).

Fire Commission	Chris Hotchkiss
Environmental Advisory Commission	Frank Kelly, Donna Lieberman, Anna Bennett

Motion By: Alderman
Seconded By: Alderman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #25 of 2014 – Resolution to newly appoint the following members to the Boards and Commissions. New term effective February 1, 2014 as follows:

Environmental Advisory Commission: Nancy Rongo, Virginia Levine, Judd Olshan, Adam Davison

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #1 – A presentation was given by John McNerney on the financial update for the Wickwire Pool Fund.

Review: The original project costs were estimated at \$925,000. We have secured \$727,174 (78.6%), this includes the \$500,000 grant from NYS Parks and Recreation. Mayor Gallagher secured \$100,000 in his term and Assemblywomen Barbara Lifton secured \$100,000 with the remaining \$27,174 being donated by community members and other donors. At this time, there is a \$197,000 gap; how do we bridge that gap?

There is surplus from 2011-12 of city funds that were set aside for parks-possible reserve. In 2013 we applied for a \$25,000 grant to be awarded if we secured the \$500,000 grant. Will be following up on this. There will be fund raisers this year; Corn Duck Derby, McDonald Foundation-reviews grants in April and awards in May, National Grid. SUNY Cortland in the Spring, Under My Skin at the Armory over the summer and the City has an opportunity to Bond.

Timeline: Will be dictated by NYS Parks and Recreation. We are expecting a letter from EPF any time which is starting the process. Meeting of city officials sometime in February, out to bid and possibly start the project in the fall.

It will be a complete renovation to include new filtration, circulation, meet codes, decking, the whole interior of the pool, ladders, lifeguard chairs, all the “nuts and bolts”, to include a comprehensive operation. (Does not include the changing room). Would like to incorporate the wade pool and move it closer to the pool. With the renovation budget looking at in-kind service utilizing staff to help defray some of the costs.

Item #2 – Discussion regarding review process of the Pink Sheets

- Would like to see the process of signing off on Pink Sheets gets back on track
- Council to review the process and put a resolution on the table. (It was only a discussion in 2009/Fiezli) and was never formalized.
- Council will review and put to the Personnel Commission

Resolution #27 of 2014 – Resolution to grant permission to hang a banner across Main Street for “Paint the Town Purple” during the week of April 27, 2014 through May 3, 2014. To also include ribbons along Main Street and at other locations within the City, business window displays and home decorating.

Michelle Baker was present to answer questions. Advised to seek property owners’ permission (Main Street), be sure to be within code regarding window displays. A Recommendation was given to Michelle Baker to contact Linda Kline with Historical Commission.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #28 of 2014 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill the position of Finance and Administration Assistant on a temporary basis not to exceed one year.

Mack Cook presented to council the vacancy of an employee's resignation created a quick reaction at a critical time of tax notices and other duties at a first quarter busy period leading to hiring of a temp to work through the tremendously busy time. At this time, the focus is not on the position but on the functions. Hiring a part-time temporary person will allow the city to evaluate the entire process and present an opportunity to make changes the position. The position of the past might not meet the needs of the future. We will look at all things involved and come up with a recommendation to bring down the cost, see what is needed to perform these tasks more efficiently. This short term provides cost savings to the city.

There was no current civil service list for this position. This temporary solution will bring down the cost of the position and make funds available in the contingency.

Alderman Ferguson expressed frustration of the process of how this was brought to Council. It was explained under the circumstances of peak busy time and the installation and learning of a new software program, it was the best possible option to move quickly as the needs presented.

Motion By: Alderman Dye
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

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

Noted Alderman Bird was not able to ask her questions prior to the motion to call the question.

Resolution #29 of 2014 – Resolution to hire Tracy Hatfield for the position of Finance and Administration Assistant on a part-time basis at the hourly rate of \$15.00 an hour for the period not to exceed one year amended to include an addition of a salary cap of \$22,500.

Candidate is capable and competent and has already proven her skills to include high level of counter customer service and cooperation between departments.

Part-time is being deemed based on seasonality of the position. In the first quarter it is highly functioning and a very busy time requiring 35 hours per week, during the slower periods, for example at times during the second quarter, hours will be less per week. There was a concern of overtime pay; a recommendation is to place a salary cap on the temporary position of \$22,500.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Dye

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 2 (Alderman Ferguson and Bird)

Resolution #30 of 2014 – Resolution to allow for a budget transfer as follows:

From:	Administration and Finance Salaries	\$14,245
	Administration and Finance FICA/Med	\$ 2,610
	Administration and Finance State	\$ 210
	Administration and Finance Pension	<u>\$ 7,200</u>
	Subtotal	\$24,265
To:	Contingency	\$24,265

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #31 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize a grant application under the secretary of State Local Government Efficiency Program to evaluate the feasibility of centralized property tax administration within Cortland County.

Non matching grant with two municipalities to join together. Possibility of consolidated services.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #32 of 2014 – Resolution to transfer \$49,121.60 from the contingency account to insurance to fund the addition of Police Professional Liability Insurance to the City Insurance Policy.

Mr. Steven Franco provided information regarding past history with NYMIR-rates have been flat over five years, any increase, not likely and is set at being profitable.
 The City of Cortland has gone without this insurance for well more than five years and is the only city in NYS without this insurance.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
 Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #33 of 2014 – Consideration of a Resolution to enter into a contract with the Cortland Community SPCA for services in 2014 in the amount of \$75,500.

- Per Ric VanDonsel and Alderman Michales, a contract revision was submitted to the SPCA with language changes and the SPCA was not willing to enter into the agreement with these changes.
- Alderman Dutcher cited agricultural and license regulations stipulated in the Charters and encouraged the Council to move forward with a positive vote. It is not in the Cities best interest to go without a dog control agreement.
- Monthly reports from the SPCA are being submitted to the city police department; Chief Catalano will forward copies to council members.
- There is a recommendation to move forward with the dog control contract and begin to look at a cat contract to put in place as soon as possible.

A motion to table this agenda item of the Cortland Community SPCA Dog Control Contract was made.

Motion By: Alderman Dye
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

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

Resolution #34 of 2014 - Resolution to accept a donation of \$1,000 from First Niagara Bank to support the 50th Annual Cortland County Spelling Bee.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Executive Session

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session for:

- 1) Labor Contract (Fire Fighter)
- 2) Employee
- 3) Property negotiation purchase

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

A Motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

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