



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
February 18, 2014

Council Meeting #4
February 18, 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, Chief Catalano, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

Absent: Alderman Bird and Dutcher were absent for the Public Hearing, City Clerk Ray Parker absent for Common Council Meeting.

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 pm: To consider a Mobile Ice Cream Truck Vendor
Closed the Public Hearing at 6:42 pm. No speakers for this public hearing.

REGULAR SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Anne Doyle:

- Referring to agenda item #8 – There are meetings monthly to make aware of things going on at the college; it is a good idea to resume those meetings.
- Provided information on SNAP – SNAP has been in Cortland for ten years – haved spay/neutered 25,000 animals. If you call, they will take them. If you are unable to pay, they will still take the animals. They have subsidized \$85,000 in surgeries with donations and grants. All workers are volunteers. No one from the City of Cortland has approached them as yet on the issues facing the city. Someone recently stated that a city resident used several traps and caught 12-15 cats and took them out to the country and left them.

Connie Sorrels:

- Regarding the SPCA contract; As a taxpayer and an employee – at the last meeting Mack Cook listed items accomplished in January, and indicated above and beyond and all of the

extra work done – it was done without a contract for four years. The SPCA is a dog control contract – not a cat control contract. The city has never been able to put anything in place for cats. For three days in a row-arriving home, there was a cat on my roof trying to get into my house. If she had taken the cat or called to have it picked up, no one would have been happy because it was someone's cat.

- The SPCA contract needs to be put in place. Give outside organization the tools to do their job.

Minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting:

RESOLUTION #35 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the February 4, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Comments:

Ward 6 – Carlos Ferrer

A reminder to shovel sidewalks. Codes are out working on complaint basis. They drive around and try to contact the homeowners a head of time. North Main Street is a concern. With the high snow banks it is hard to see around them. Please shovel the sidewalks.

Ward 8 – Tom Michales

The parking space on Church Street at the exit/entrance to the back side of city hall will be eliminated-helping to exit into traffic without incident. This item will be on the agenda for February 18, 2014.

Ward 2 – Katy Silliman

Please come out for the Chill-a-Brat downtown February 22nd Noon – 4:00 pm. It is a good time for all.

Mayor Tobin has moved the Proclamation until the next meeting of March 4, 2014.

Agenda Item #1 – Presentation in support of the proposal of renaming of the athletic field at

Beaudry – Friends of Greg Partigianoni Committee gave a presentation in support of renaming of the athletic field at Beaudry Park as the Ray Reilly Athletic Complex and the baseball field as “Greg’s Field”.

John McNerney spoke in support of the proposal; a year ago, the idea was brought forth for naming and recognition of Greg Partigianoni. They wanted to do something powerful and permanent. The advisory board also supports the proposal.

Renaming parks is becoming a trend allowing municipalities opportunities to enhance the parks.

A policy was adopted to follow-historic events, people, outstanding people and major gifts. John Tobin, an advocate for youth and with the best interest in the city and the youth, spoke on behalf of “Friends of Greg Partigianoni” in support of the proposal. Greg Partigianoni was a Cortland native, going to SUNY Binghamton and Cortland State, sporting goods store. Diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Disease at the time he was named head coach for Cornell University. Wide background in baseball and an all around great guy.

NCA team, Cortland Crush (Cortland Apples) and was division 1 & 2 athletes. Updates to the field to host those divisions.

The field was cleared by Ray Reilly who was a City of Cortland DPW employee.

Honor both Greg and Ray by naming the fields as the Ray Reilly Athletic Complex (1 baseball, 2 softball and 4 soccer fields) and the baseball field would be “Greg’s” Field”

Proposing a wooden sign and a large rock (or boulder) with an imbedded plaque. Also a sign along the back fence of the baseball field.

Fencing needs repair, the dugouts, leveling of the field (uneven caused by water table) new pads on the poles, build a bull pen area-press box.

The committee has authorized a donation upwards in the amount of \$30,000 towards these improvements.

Resolution #36 of 2014 – Resolution approving the renaming of the athletic fields at Beaudry Park to the Ray Reilly Athletic Complex and the baseball field as “Greg’s Field”.

Thank you to John McNerney for coming up with and working on the naming/renaming policies.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #37 of 2014 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amended State Assistance Contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Site: Noss Industrial Park.

It was explained this is ongoing testing being done at the site. The DEC expands engineer/testing of water; this extends the time to accomplish this.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #38 of 2014 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor and the Wastewater Chief Operator to sign an agreement with Cedarwood Engineering Services PLLC for professional services related to Clinton Ave sewer evaluation (CFA #31745) in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

Bruce Adams explained this is an opportunity to use available funds for the engineering study of the sewers on Clinton Ave. The application was awarded and now we can move forward.

Ultimate goal will be to determine what repairs might be required to the sewers (some of the oldest in the city), opportunity to address the infrastructure.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #39 of 2014 – Resolution authorizing the city to commit to a 20% local match for the Clinton Ave sewer evaluation (CFA #31745) Planning Grant.

Whereas, the City of Cortland has received an Engineering Planning Grant for the Clinton Street project, and

Whereas, one of the requirements is a 20% local match and, the City has already committed local funds for the project Therefore, let it be;

Resolved , that the City of Cortland authorized and approves a minimum of 20% local match as required by the Engineering Planning Grant for the Clinton Street Engineering Study. Under the Engineering Planning Grant, this local match must be at least 20% of the total cost of the project cost (Engineering Study). The maximum local share appropriated is subject to any changes agreed to by the Operator shall not exceed \$6,000 of the 30,000 project cost. The Operator may increase the local match via the use of in-kind services without further approval of the City Council

Motion By: Alderman
Seconded By: Alderman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #40 of 2014 – Resolution declaring the Clinton Ave sewer evaluation (CFA #31745) as a type II action for SEQR purposes.

Clarified this is Ave, not Street. Also, this is only a study.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #41 of 2014 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Cortland Community SPCA for services in 2014 in the amount of \$75,500.

Alderman Dutcher stated the Common Council has been looking into the issues but have not been able to contact every available resource. He provided information on SNAP and they do have some things to offer. They work with the SPCA and several area shelters that can do part of what they can do. The SPCA is only agency to fulfill all of the contractual needs for the Dog Control Contract. Recommends the City of Cortland looks at alternatives to enhance the city’s needs but urges Common Council to sign this contract.

Alderman Michales explained there has been a lot of dialog with Chief Catalano, city Council and Corporation Council and they have weighed in on the things discussed in the past weeks. Discussing the number of options. Common Council is now receiving the reports from the SPCA to show cats are being taken care of.

Ric VanDonsel explained indeed taking care of a number of cats. However there is a statutory obligation for the care of dogs. Ed Lake agreed to doing a public service announcement and playing on the Cortland news channel about what they can do about cats in the city. All are willing to work with other contracted agencies with regards to cats.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #42 of 2014 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum Understanding between the City of Cortland Police Department and the SUNY Cortland University Police Department which sets out the respective duties and obligations with regard to the coordination of law enforcement efforts between the University and the City.

Mayor Tobin was approached by Chief Dangler (SUNY Cortland) to put in place. This is an extension of what is already in place but due to changes in staff, updated contract is presented.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #9 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement by and between United States Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Cortland regarding Buckbee Mears Co. site.

Because this has an impact on property taxes, this item is tabled until a public hearing is scheduled.

Item #10 – Consideration of a Resolution to schedule a public hearing to hear comments on an agreement with United States Environmental Protection Agency that will compromise property taxes owed on the Buckbee Mears property.

A public hearing will be held on March 4, 2014 at 6:45 pm.

Mack Cook explained in June 2012 and working with the EPA to sign an agreement, the City missed the procedure of the public hearing and Common Council approval.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Executive Session

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session for:

- 1) An employee performance
- 2) Potential Litigation
- 3) Potential Property purchase

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

A Point of information for Common Council and general public. The city had a meeting the morning of Tuesday, February 18, 2014 (Mayor, Dept heads, Union Heads, and a few employees) regarding the Tompkins County Health Consortium and encourage involvement in the consortium.

Also, Mayor Tobin recognized Mack Cook for his involvement in the Health Care Consortium, and time and effort to staying involved in several committees, being a primary driver, and also with due diligence on the Buckbee Mears property. Support to Mack for his continued efforts to the City and employees.

Common Council recognizes Tom Gobel to speak – Assemblywomen Barbara Lifton will be having a town hall meeting at the Town of Cortlandville Friday, February 21, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

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 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