



**City Council Minutes**  
**The City of Cortland**  
**March 18, 2014**

Council Meeting #6

**March 18, 2014**

Regular Session

City Hall

7:00 PM

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

Absent: Mayor Brian Tobin, Alderman Ferguson

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard Van Donsel, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Chief Bill Knickerbocker, Superintendent of DPW Chris Bistocchi, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 pm: To hear comments on Local Law #2 – prohibiting parking on Church Street, west side for a distance of 20+ feet north of the existing driveway of 25 Court Street (eliminating one parking spot).

(Alderman Ferrer was not present for the public hearing)

SPEAKER: Tom Gobel:

Although no car at the time, knows that it is a safety issue and this could be a dangerous situation. Also, to bring up another topic but feels the city should consider a study for a parking garage.

Closed the Public Hearing at 6:53 pm.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Minutes of the March 4, 2014 meeting:**

**RESOLUTION #55 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the March 4, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett

Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Deputy Mayor Dye read a Proclamation of the month of April as Fair Housing Month.

Deputy Mayor Dye read a Conflict of Interest Disclosure. Opinion of Corporation Council is there is no conflict for the City of Cortland with the application of Christopher Kabanuk for CDBG program.

**Resolution #56 of 2014** – Resolution to adopt Local Law #2 – prohibiting parking on Church Street, west side for a distance of 20+ feet north of the existing driveway of 25 Court Street (eliminating one parking spot).

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #57 of 2014** – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Thoma Development Consultants to provide Community Development Services pursuant to a “Comprehensive Contract” that covers certain “non grant-specific” services for the two year period of 01/01/2014 to 12/31/2015.

Representation by Bernie Thoma; Manage specific grants for the City of Cortland. There are other services outside the purview of grants and only involves grant that is not economical development or housing; records management for city code officer however the vast majority is covered in this contract. Will provide specific and expert advice outside the RFP contract.

Very fortunate to have Thoma Development.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #58 of 2014** – Resolution authorizing the submission of a Home Rule Request to the Legislature of the State of New York to authorize the City of Cortland, Cortland County, New York to Compromise Real Property Tax Lien(s) to spur economic growth for the city.

Corporation Council Ric VanDonsel indicates with the property closing of Buckbee Mears, it has been a very comprehensive closure; there are a variety of layers to go through and a variety of people looking at it. We may see more of this as we go along. Everyone is being very thorough with this. With the state budget coming up, we do not want this to get buried in the senate.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #4** – Consideration of a Resolution to allow the City of Cortland to close Main Street from the Groton Avenue intersection through Tompkins Street intersection on Sunday, May 18, 2014 from 2pm until 6pm for the Central New York Mustang and Ford Club’s 31<sup>st</sup> Year Cruise Night 2014.

There is a business owner who has a complaint about the closure. There is a possibility of another event being the same weekend and the closure at Central and Main will have loss of through traffic for potential business.

There was a business owner on Court Street with a complaint about the closure and requested the closure not include Court Street. This item was tabled until the Common Council Meeting of April 1, 2014 until there is representation to answer questions from the Common Council.

**Item #5** – Consideration of a Resolution to waive the \$250 fee for the street closing/amplified sound permit and the fee to use for the Cruise Night sponsored by the Central New York Mustang and Ford Club.

This item is tabled until the Common Council Meeting of April 1, 2014 until there is representation to answer questions from the Common Council.

**Resolution #59 of 2014** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to accept the proposal from C&S Engineers, Inc. for design and engineering services for the Port Watson/Ames Parking Lot Reconstruction Project in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.

The rehabilitation of the parking lot is from redirected grant dollars. C&S Engineers has had no compensation to date for their preliminary work. They are beginning the process of drawings, etc. to get us to the point of requirements of that redirected grant.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #60 of 2014** – Resolution to amend the Health Insurance Consortium Municipal Cooperation Agreement (MCA) to provide for additional at large labor representation on the consortium’s board of directors.

The signatory municipal Cooperation Agreement with Tompkins County and 18 others, there were no provisions to increase the board. It was requested the number of representatives for board labor be increased.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #61 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund.

<i>Donations</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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Hitchcock Hose Co. 6	\$100.00
Robert & Shirley Hulslander	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #62 of 2014** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract agreement with Katie Lockwood to operate the Yaman Park Concession Stand from May 24, 2014 through September 2, 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #63 of 2014** – Resolution to lease the property at 155 Clinton Street for a period of one-year for the annual sum of \$7,000 to preserve its availability for storm water management, city infrastructure and beautifying projects.

The concept plans for Clinton Ave for the Storm Water Infrastructure does not determine at the point the necessity of that property. With the \$40,000 grant feasibility study, it will be determined. In the attempt to secure the property the City of Cortland will lease the property for a period of one-year.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

**Roll Call Vote: (Ayes – 4 and 2 Nays)**

Bennett Aye  
 Michales Aye  
 Silliman Aye  
 Ferrer Nay  
 Dutcher Aye  
 Bird Nay

**Resolution #64 of 2014** – Resolution to transfer \$5,000.00 from the Water Fund Equipment Repair Account to the General Fund Police Department Equipment Account to reflect the transfer of a surplus police vehicle to the Water Department.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
 Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #65 of 2014** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill two (2) Sewer Heavy Equipment Operator position at an hourly rate of \$18.02.

With the number of employees dwindling, the work has not. In 2003 there were 21 employees, this year the number is at 14.

With the internal process, there were no internal employees interested in this position; most would be a lateral move. With the sanitary and storm sewer employees the maintenance is a huge part with the flooding. This is a budgeted position and goes through Civil Service requirements.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #66 of 2014** – Resolution to create a new Heavy Equipment Mechanic Position.

Will follow the County job description and will include NYS Inspection license so more can be done in house. Currently spending more in outsourced repairs that could be done cheaper in house. This would allow assisting in the larger equipment tasks and supervising a staff. Would like to try to fill this position from within.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #5** – Discussion for Natrium Products proposal of new warehouse construction on property at 39-47 Court Street, currently zoned General Business and does not allow this use. Natrium is requesting an amendment to the zoning map for this general business district line (at this property and 60 Pendleton street only) be changed to a General Industrial District. (Refer to County and City Planning Commission for report).

There are currently applications for both ZBA and Planning to approve the zoning changes for Natrium from GB (General Business) to GI (General Industrial). They propose to have a new warehouse. At this time, the County Planning Board is okay with this project. There is still not enough information to give on this. CC has about increased truck traffic, it will be asked at the Planning meeting of March 23, 2014.

**Resolution #67 of 2014** – Resolution to adopt the Miscellaneous Revenue Budget for 2014.

This is from money that was deposited from a settlement 5 years ago and is taxpayer funded and used to fund a handful of projects. It is a fund that is not self-sustaining and is surviving on grants and city giving money to, parking fees. There is question on what we will do in a few years when this money runs out. Exploring ideas now moving forward; hospitality tax – need to come to terms with parking (campus area), use that for funding. In addition-increasing the value of downtown partnership. There is criticism of loss to downtown stores. There is a lot of activity, construction on 2<sup>nd</sup> floors, and support from State. Improve downtown – close the disconnect, tie organizations together to promote downtown Cortland. We have

started to reconnect again with the new owners of Greek Peak, the Jets welcome, chambers and tourism and the tree program is not funded as aggressively as in the past.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 1 (Alderman Bird)

**Item #15** – Consideration of a Resolution to appoint James Sponaugle as Lost Control Consultant at a rate of \$50.00 per hour not to exceed \$5,000.00 annually.

Common Council would like some additional information; get a progress report, where do we stand, will this eventually be replaced in departments?

This item is tabled until the Common Council Meeting of April 1, 2014 until there is representation to answer questions from the Common Council.

**Resolution #68 of 2014** – Resolution to appoint Christine Barnes to the Historic Commission.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
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 21<sup>ST</sup> 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.**

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**RAY PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**