



**City Council Minutes**  
**The City of Cortland**  
**April 1, 2014**

Council Meeting #7

**April 1, 2014**

Regular Session

City Hall

7:00 PM

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

Absent: Alderman Ferrer, Silliman

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

Public Comments:

SPEAKER: Mike Dexter:

Representing the Landscaping and Design Commission – regarding tree planting. There are not enough people signed up. They need to apply through the city website – April 11, 2014 is the deadline for applications. Arbor Day is April 25, 2014. Will be planting the annual Arbor Day Tree on April 24<sup>th</sup>, tree but no location has been determined yet. Asks for Proclamation at next meeting. Tree City USA – more tree applications. It is up to commission and Thomas – cities right of way –few exceptions. Urge people to apply.

SPEAKER: David Funk:

Concerned citizen (is a member of ZBA but not representing on that behalf) –

Wants the City of Cortland to consider enacting a 6 month moratorium in regards to boarding houses. It would be a good use by the city to put a hold on development to get it organized with what was adopted with the city plan. At this time there is no real definition for the city in regards to “Boarding Houses” in a residential neighborhood which doesn’t have guidelines. Before continue with any development, take action.

Concerns GB-CB guidelines are limited. There needs to be more criteria for development. For Large scale, commercial projects, it should be sensitive to the neighborhood. There is a need in the city but, need there needs to be guidelines first. City plan has been sent – need to enact wide variation of definition of boarding house. Looking for at least a 6 month moratorium.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Ward Reports:**

**Ward 4** – Attended a conference with Mack Cook and Mayor Suits of Homer. Fiscal stress of Cities in NY State. We have already talked about similar government pushing the shared services. For saving money with shared services but has proved it doesn't always save money. It is a better service for taxpayer does. Contracting out and privatizing has not saved taxpayers at all. Now it is a hand-in-hand operation. Shows it is a problem every city has in funding the mandates passed down by the government. Most local municipality were over 60% city has to pay compared to other eastern states, only 30-50% of mandates not budgeted this year. Mandate – pension fund-state is doing great -the state still demands big burden on the taxpayer. Local cities cannot continue this way to cover the state mandates.

**Ward 8** – attended NYS Preparedness Conference – it was a very informative training session. It was the same weekend that a call went out because of the river at Kellogg Road; it was cresting - making phone calls to determine action needed with the potential for flooding. The training session tied into the flooding issue.

Separate issue – Noticed with the nicer weather with people walking dogs, there are no collars; licenses-not quite sure. Just want the city police and SPCA to be aware.

Another issue regarding crown nursing home with cigarette butts all along the streets and sidewalks. Would like to request the Code Officer issue a courtesy call to check it out.

**Ward 3** – The Weather is getting nice – bringing more awareness to the pot holes-when the time is right, looking for repairs for the pot holes-please be patient.

**Ward 7** – Marietta trucks are still an issue.

Agree about the dogs – has been a problem for months-license and leash. Control of dogs.

**Ward 5** – Garbage dumped on Union Street, garbage is being dumped on Union Street, trying to figure it out – are taking care of it – save it/go through it for any clues to find out who is dumping it.

South Ave/South side - Concerns about the direction taken and have been taking calls.

**Ward 1** – March 24 meeting expanding Route 281 phase 2 expansion. Residents along that area are concerned and waiting to hear back from the Project Manger.

**Mayor's Report:** Recently met with a company who is soliciting energy door-to-door. Has been in Cortland before, asking for permit-concern and adhere to policy with the city. Asking they should have a permit to solicit – it is okay to say “no-thank you”. Issues or concerns contact your Alderman, City Clerk or city hall. If solicitor is too aggressive or too many complaints we can pull the permit. If it is successful, could possibly offer cost savings to residents on their utility bills.

Catholic Charities meeting – There were a number of cases for transitional housing was a topic. The definition of a boarding house and expectations which is enough of a concern to consider a request for a moratorium type of housing in city.

CDP – good discussion about the dumpsters on Groton Ave; some good ideas to clean it the dumpster area on Groton Ave and behind Main Street. Create a more pleasant environment and not to become erroneous of business owners. Current ordinances business friendly. Create more pleasant in community.

Schools meeting – Talked about flooding and there was some exciting discussion to pursue for potential to reduce the cost of flood insurance for city residents. FEMA has some guidelines that if we can follow the steps there is potential of cost savings.

Waste water treatment plant-potential for the Exchange (Ash for trash); continue to have discussions. Route 281 expansion project; although it is a couple years of project, it is good that the State was able to give a presentation at this time.

Partnership between the City and Marietta with the pre-treatment plant and a good collaboration which will actually increase employment in the community.

**Minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting:**

**RESOLUTION #69 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the March 18, 2014 Common Council Minutes with changes. (Resolution #66-Vote is 6/0 and Resolution #67-Motion by: Ferrer, seconded by: Bennett.)

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

Mayor Tobin read a Proclamation that April 19, 2014 will be declared Van Akin Burd Day.

Mayor Tobin recognized the milestone 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of February 28, 2014 for Sergeant Daniel L. Edwards and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of March 26, 2014 for Chief F. Michael Catalano.

**Item #1** – Consideration to set a public hearing at the Common Council meeting of April 15, 2014 at 6:45 pm for the Natrium Products proposal of a new warehouse construction on Property at 39-47 Court Street, currently zoned General Business. Natrium is requesting an amendment to the zoning map for this general business district line be changed to General Industrial District.

All Council Members agree to set the public Hearing for April 15, 2014 at 6:45 pm.

**Resolution #70 of 2014** – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with UCS (Unified Court System) for Court Cleaning and Minor Repairs (Contract No. C300313); New Five Year Contract Agreement with Budget (Appendix B) for SFY 2013-2014.

This contract is more efficient and cost effective.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Discussion**- Regarding raising the fee structure City Ordinance Fine Violations.

With the supporting material, the recommended fine increases come from a recommendation of the Cortica Commission. Some of these fines have not been revised in a number of years and is appropriate and consistent with rural laws and min/max choices inequities and is not an unusual format. The purpose will be to send a message of stiffer fines. Would like to move quickly on this with the Spring Fling approaching along with the nicer weather.

**Resolution #71 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Wickwire Pool Trust Fund:  
Thank you for the Board.

<i><b>Donations</b></i>	<i><b>Amount</b></i>
Diane S. Chu	\$200.00
S. Morrell	\$100.00
Jerry & Judy Casciani	\$100.00
Cynthia Cason	\$ 75.00
Norma & Robert Rhodes	\$ 25.00
<i><b>Total Donations</b></i>	\$500.00

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #72 of 2014** – Resolution to appoint James Sponaugle as Loss Control Consultant at a rate of \$50.00 per hour not to exceed \$5,000.00 annually.

Questions from Council: are we any closer to weaning from these responsibilities? The department heads compiled their reasons for his value and continued service. There is still training and procedural things to put in place in order we are complying with all proper procedures. He is reducing the liability and exposure. We can review in six months.

Motion By: Alderman Michales  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

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

**Resolution #73 of 2014** – Resolution to appoint David Dovi to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #74 of 2014** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to replace vacancy of Part-Time Zoning Officer at a 20 hour per week position with an annual income of \$20,000.00.

Bruce Weber will retire effective April 11, 2014. Would like to take this time to evaluate the position and possibly consider returning it to a full-time position. There is an understanding of the financial climate. For now, we need to fill the position for the balance of the year at part-time.

Motion By: Alderman Michales  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #75 of 2014** – Resolution for authorization to declare the City an interested party in the Cortland-Onondaga Incinerated Trash Proposal.

This is for the “Ash for Trash” proposal. Counties of Cortland and Onondaga SEQR, we need to have interested so we can be informed, ask questions, etc. as it develops. This allows us to be a significant player and be totally informed.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #76 of 2014** – Resolution to authorize the closure of Central Avenue from Greenbush Street through Pendleton Street at the East Court Street Railroad crossing on Sunday, April 27, 2014 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm to accommodate the activities of Cortland Blooms.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #77 of 2014** – Resolution to recognize \$9,125.50 from NYMIR for the City’s 2014 Capitalization Interest Distribution and appropriate it to A1990-400 Contingencies.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

Additional Business: Chief Catalano wanted to add to the comments about the door-to-door solicitors; if residents encounter a solicitor who cannot produce a permit, or become overbearing, please call the City Police Department report it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

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 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 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**