



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
August 19, 2014

Council Meeting #17

August 19, 2014

Regular Session

City Hall

7:00 PM

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

Absent: Alderman Ken Dye, Linda Ferguson

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

Public Hearing: To change the traffic signs on Summit and Liberty Streets:

1 – Stop sign on Summit Street at the intersection of Liberty Street heading east from Route 281

1 – Stop sign on Liberty Street at the intersection of Summit Street heading north from Madison Street

Public Hearing open at 6:45 pm

Speaker: Judy Ouellette – appreciates the stop sign proposal to help with the traffic that uses those streets as a cut through and they go through very fast. The stop signs will slow it down.

There is no one else to speak.

Public Hearing closes at 6:48 pm

REGULAR SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Jo Schaffer – Expressed concern on the traffic and parking on Pearl Street. From the construction at SUNY, the workers have been using Pearl Street as parking and students are looking for off-site parking, it has become very inconvenient to residents at that end of the street. Would like to request something be done to control the parking. (Parking meters is not the solution). If put in two hour parking sign, the City could benefit from the parking violations. Also, would like to propose a different fence. Asking the City to address these issues please.

Tom Gobel – Next week the return of SUNY Cortland Students-consider it to be an asset to Cortland-looking to the positive changes coming and opportunity for the City and SUNY to work together. Wants to see the continued work together.

John Finn – Withdrew

Minutes of the August 5, 2014 meeting:

RESOLUTION #157 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the August 5, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer

Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Announcement: by Alderman Katy Silliman – A repeat from the last meeting- will be having a Ward meeting in the Birch Building, August 21, 2014 at 6pm. 2014 Cortaca – moratorium rental housing permit – Also, went through entire ward and provided inventory of street lights that are out – 21 street lights out – go to the city website – company likes to do a group at once – please report the number on the street light pole and a cross street.

Alderman Julie Bird would like to request adding an agenda item taking the Public Hearing and voting on the local law. It will be Agenda Item #14.

Alderman Tom Michales talked about attending a NYCOM sponsored summit in Geneva regarding abandoned property. This summit was well attended by Cortland as well as NYS. A few key things came away with to consider: Possible property managed task force, night court for violators, code issues and civil court. Same kind of computer system for code dept. as the police dept. has with on board data base – grant. County involvement in vacant property – taking property-Zombie Law. Representatives throughout the state.

Mayor Tobin announced a reminder of the Wickwire end of year pool party from 5-7 pm, there will be a DJ and refreshments will be served – encourage everyone to come down. The pool will be closed in 2015 for renovations.

Proclamation – Red Dragon Pride Day – Where red on August 29, 2014 – taking actions for a positive year.

Presentation – Chris Bistocchi introduced his two Summer SUNY Seasonal Students (Antrico Forbes, Nicholas San Phillipo) who have been working on the GIS Locating and Mapping of the city who gave a presentation of the progress made and explained the program and benefits. Students mapped all of the waterlines/sanitary/hydrants into the computerized program. Once fully utilized the GIS program and the technology integrated the technology can load onto tablets for the crews to have with them in the trucks and will be more efficient. Even the Fire dept. with up to date records will benefit. Dave Stathis also worked with the students and wants to reinforce the continued internships so the program can grow. Adam Lavine, SUNY Cortland Physical Plant with GIS The opportunities are endless (Fire, police, road repair, codes, streetlights, abandoned properties...) this is a program to get very excited about.

Resolution #158 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Cortland Youth Bureau Budget/Trust Funds as indicated below:

<u><i>Donation</i></u>	<u><i>Amount</i></u>	<u><i>Amount</i></u>
<i>Kings Daughters</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Trust Fund</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>
<i>Florence & Mark Finney</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Trust Fund</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<i>Alan McCormick</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Trust Fund</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>Total Donations</i>		<i>\$440.00</i>

Motion By: Alderman Bird
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #159 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the closure of William Street from Church Street to Greenbush Street on August 31, 2014 from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm for an annual Neighborhood Block Party.

This is an annual neighborhood gathering that meet all together and provides a lot of benefits. It is a great event and many people attend.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
 Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #160 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the Sound Device Permit in the amount of \$100 for multiple events for Stone Lounge for amplified music every Saturday night from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm beginning August 16, 2014 through October 19, 2014.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
 Seconded By: Alderman Michales

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

Resolution #161 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the Sound Device Permit in the amount of \$100 for multiple events for Hairy Tony’s for amplified music every Friday and/or Saturday night from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm beginning August 16, 2014 through October 19, 2014.

Approved with the stipulation they need to clarify either Friday or Saturday or fill out the permit request for every event. And submit week by week so it can be distributed to council and police and fire departments.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
 Seconded By: Alderman Michales

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

Resolution #162 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the funding for New York Main Street Applicant.

Rich Cunningham from Thoma provided information on the grant – the original grant was for \$250,000 and this is the last of the money from that grant to be committed in the amount of \$50,000. It requires 25% match, if all is spent then reimbursed up to 75%. There is a clear scope of work and goes through an approval process. They have to finish one grant before applying for another one. This is the fourth main street grant and the commitment has been successful.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #7 – Submission of the Mayor’s 2015 projected budgets for General Fund (\$18,886,283), Wastewater Funds (\$3,770,396) and Water Fund (\$2,202,415).

Mack Cook handed out the 2015 projected budget. This is an early submission for the budget; it is fairly accurate for projections and revenues. Will continue with the workshop. October 15th submission and vote by November 15th with December 31st submission.

Resolution #163 of 2014 – Resolution to revoke any and all applicable local laws that would permit the city to override limitations imposed by the NYS Tax Cap on the 2014 Tax levy (2015 Budgeted Property Tax Levy).

In order to make the City taxpayer’s eligible to receive the rebate, the City needs to revoke any prior law that would exceed the tax cap. For this year, the City is significantly under the tax cap and do not see any need to exceed the tax cap. We are simply “cleaning the books” of old laws not applicable.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #164 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize to accept the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Grant of \$40,000, no match, for technical assistance to develop the City’s Tioughnioga River Urban Headwaters Green Infrastructure Plan.

This is to get it started. The City is not in a position to compete for grants until the information is in place and we have a good scope of work.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #165 of 2014 – Resolution to appoint Virginia Jones and Sylvia Cook to the Board of Assessment Review effective August 20, 2014.

Corporation Counsel advises no conflict of interest.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #166 of 2014 – Resolution to amend the consolidated fee schedule to include Rental Permit Fees as follows:

Early Registration	\$ 60.00	to be removed
Appeal Fee (Variance)	\$100.00	to be added
Complaint Inspection Violation Fee	\$ 50.00	to be added

For the Appeal Fee – it would be processed the same way as the other appeals to the ZBA and is an administrative processing.

The Complaint Inspection Violation Fee is only applicable to aggrieved, if it is real founded complaint and violation. If unfounded, no fee.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Vote fails: Ayes – 0
Nays – 6

The resolution is amended to remove the Complaint Inspection Violation Fee. Resolution to read:

Resolution to amend the consolidated fee schedule to include Rental Permit Fees as follows:

Early Registration	\$ 60.00	to be removed
Appeal Fee (Variance)	\$100.00	to be added

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #12 – Consideration of a Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Shelley Knickerbocker.

It is recommended the City take a look at the needs of the Code department and evaluate the position with the input of the Personnel Committee and the union as well.

A motion was made to table this item until September 2, 2014 Common Council Meeting.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #169 of 2014 – Resolution to appropriate proceeds from the auction of a used police vehicle in the amount of \$3,530.00 to account 206 for use in purchasing new police vehicles.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #170 of 2014 – Resolution to change the traffic signs on Summit and Liberty Streets:

- 1 – Stop sign on Summit Street at the intersection of Liberty Street heading east from Route 281
- 1 – Stop sign on Liberty Street at the intersection of Summit Street heading north from Madison Street

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

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 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 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