



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
September 2, 2014

Council Meeting #17
September 2, 2014
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

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

Absent: Alderman Silliman

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard Van Donsel, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

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:

Tom Gobel – Public Service announcement – Children, our most precious commodity, are returning to school-please take ease on the gas pedal and watch for the children.

Mike Dexter –

1. Property of Jim Reeners – feels Mr. Reeners is being treated unfairly for his Lincoln Ave project – are people against it just because it is student housing? Mr. Reeners is by far one of the better landlords in the city and takes care of his properties, maintains control. The flood plain issues are being addressed.
2. Downtown-BT Jones building is a sight-please do something to make it presentable.
3. Waterworks-for 42 years – the sidewalks were taken up two years ago and still have not been replaced. The brick pillars are in need of immediate repair-take initiative and make the effort to put these brick pillars into the repair schedule.

Ward Reports:

John Bennett for Ward 4 – Reminder of the school buses starting back and young students on the streets. The City seems to come to life when students are back in town.

Tom Michales for Ward 8 – Participated in a police ride along-wanted a feel on how things are working with the college students in town. There were tickets issued, house parties, underage drinking-for a Friday night it seemed quiet. Expected more but police handled well.

Vacant property issues continue; would like to see this move forward. There is a pothole in East Ave to be repaired.

Ken Dye for Ward 3 – Nice to be back! Cemetery – woodchucks are becoming nuisance. Other note, thank you for paving.

Carlos Ferrer for Ward 6 – nothing to report.

Linda Ferguson for Ward 7 – Recently had a Ward meeting and would like to say thank you to Chief Catalano, Mayor Tobin, Mack Cook and Adam Megivern for attending. Made her feel proud of the representation. The meeting was on “neighbors bullying neighbors”. She feels progress was made and people were listening.

Clif Dutcher for Ward 5 – There are still a few dwindling issues related to the paving on Sunnyfield but feels it is under control.

Julie Bird for Ward 1 – a few issues in the Ward but was able to handle them on her own.

Mayor’s Report:

The Community Center is functional and there should be additional information becoming available as it gets comfortable and operational.

Attended several city meetings in the last week-flooding, legislative.

Will be participating in the Car Free Challenge the time period of September 12-26th and would encourage those that can find alternative transportation to join the challenge as well.

There are budget workshops set for September 4th, 9th, and 11th at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Courtroom and is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

ON Friday, September 5th, Senator Kristen Gillibrand will be hosting a forum on the SUNY Cortland campus in regards to Rural Communities.

Minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting:

RESOLUTION #171 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the August 19, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett

Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Recognition: Milestone anniversary for Lieutenant Richard Troyer serving the City for thirty-five (35) years as of September 1, 2014. An award was presented to Lieutenant Troyer for his dedication to the City of Cortland.

Proclamation – Suicide Prevention Week (September 8-14, 2014)

Would like to bring awareness to the community – there is a ripple effect in a community and can be quite extensive. On September 10th there will be a luncheon in the Beard Building in support.

Resolution #172 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and SEIU Local Number 200 to remove the position of Stenographer from the Collective Bargaining Agreement and replace it with the entitled position of Administrative Aid.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett

Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Resolution #173 of 2014 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Shelley Knickerbocker.

The structure of the position was discussed and determined it there is no change in title and salary schedule.

Motion By: Alderman Michales
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Alderman Dutcher)

Resolution #174 of 2014 – Resolution to appoint Shellie Blaisdell s the Records Management Officer effective September 3, 2014 with an annual stipend of \$250.00.

Motion By: Alderman Ferguson
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #175 of 2014 – Resolution to authorizing the Mayor to sign a master contract with the NYS DEC for an Urban and Community Forestry Grant awarded the City of Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #176 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the following actions in support of the 19th Annual Great Pumpkinfest:

- A. Permission to use the City’s portion of Courthouse Park from October 3, through October 5, 2014.
- B. Permission to place promotional signs at or near the City’s entrance signs.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #6 – Consideration of a Resolution for the City to authorize the closure of the Marketplace Mall on October 4, 2014 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm for a beer tasting event to be managed by George Seibel.

This item is tabled per the request of George Seibel until the September 16, 2014 Common Council Meeting.

Resolution #177 of 2014 – Resolution to add to Article III of the City of Cortland Code – “Professional Office and Service Districts”, Section 300-20 Professional Office District ©, allowed uses by special use permit, the functional category of indoor sales.

This is designed to allow the ZBA to grant indoor use in the district for indoor retail sales. The Code is dated and not fitting the modern business criteria. An example would be an eye doctor office that would benefit to sell accessory items for glasses. It would fit the retail component of a physician’s office and allow to accommodate in these districts.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Alderman Bird)

Resolution #178 of 2014 – Resolution to award Bid Items number 1 and 2 of CC-EQPT-14 for SBR equipment supply and SCADA Upgrade as part of the reconstruction and expansion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant to e-Process Environmental Inc. in the amount of \$1,792,000.

For Chesapeake Bay Compliance as phase two and computer control system. As a side note, the bids came in at 10% under budget.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #179 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement between Marietta Corporation and the City of Cortland for services as a Contract Operator for the City operation of the Marietta Waste Water Pretreatment Facility.

The Treasurer for Marietta-Jim Matthews was here to answer questions from the board and explained the contracts will allow the use for trained staff vs. outside contracting. In the one year start-up, is expecting to have the pre-treatment dramatically reduce the waste water; and the City is technically better to operate the equipment with Marietta reimbursing the City for the trained staff. The equipment is a 3 year agreement over a 20 year period long term commitment – 2 year labor contract with clause – straight labor agreement – there are 4 staff members to operate and they will rotate. It has already far exceeded expectations on savings.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #180 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the closure of Main Street from Tompkins Street to Williams Street on Sunday, October 5, 2014 from Noon until 5:00 pm for the ALS Challenge Event.

With the support of SUNY President, Eric Bitterbaum and Mayor Tobin-this event is projected to bring in a minimum of \$20,000. Hoping to see this as the largest ALS Challenge out there and has gained positive attention and will receive national attention. Plan is to have the Fire Department use two fire trucks and spray over the crowd. There will be a banner across Main Street, utilizing social media. There is a plan to have a small stage set up and the first challenge will have Mayor Tobin and SUNY President Eric Bitterbaum along with other city officials take the bucket challenge on stage. At the conclusion of the 1000 Man Challenge, there will be a challenge sent to Ithaca College along with one additional SUNY College to take the ALS Challenge. This is a non-alcohol community event.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Vote fails: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0 (Alderman Dutcher did not vote)

Resolution #181 of 2014 – Resolution to create a new Senior Account Clerk position.

Bruce Adams explained the current Senior Keyboard Specialist position has duties that are far beyond the scope of the position. It has taken more than a year to correct it.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #182 of 2014 – Resolution to abolish the Current Senior Keyboard Specialist position.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #183 of 2014 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to promote from the Senior Keyboard Specialist to Senior Account Clerk.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #183 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the offering of Dental Insurance Plan and/or a Vision Insurance Plan provided by the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund (Benefit Fund) to employees and retirees eligible to participate in the City’s Health Insurance Plan. The City is neither an administrator nor sponsor of said dental/vision plan and functions solely as a collection and remittance agent at the request of the Benefit Funds. The cost of said dental and/or vision insurance is borne solely by the participating employee/retiree.

Bringing the benefit to the eligible employees/retirees where the City is neither a sponsor nor an administrator and will only function as a collection and remittance for it. To clarify it is open to all employees who are currently eligible to the Health Insurance. The employee will pay 100% of the new dental/vision premiums.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Vote fails: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Alderman Dutcher)

Resolution #184 of 2014 – Resolution to schedule three(3) public sessions to receive input on the following proposed additions to *Chapter 107 – Building, Vacant* of the Code for the City of Cortland.

There is currently no direction or game plan on how to handle the vacant properties. There are about 60 vacant properties in the City of Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Michales
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #15 – Discussion on holding a possible workshop to discuss how the City would like to proceed with handling of vacant and deteriorating properties. Looking at getting direction and a plan to move forward with assigning responsible parties. Not looking at vacant properties to become a revenue source. Setting a public hearing will begin to get the topic out there and discussed. Public hearings are set at September 16th, October 7th, and October 21st at 6:45 pm. A workshop will be set 30 minutes prior to the start of the November 4th meeting to review from all three public hearings.

Resolution #185 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute the NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities (CGC) program grant in the awarded amount of \$112,000 for land use planning and zoning regulations revisions technical assistance In support of SUNY Cortland’s “Liv-in-Cortland” initiative. This grant requires a 25% in kind local match. (\$38,000).

In support of the “live in Cortland” initiative and urban planning. It will neither promote or prohibit the current zoning laws. Trying to determine if there is another zoning psychology to best use in these areas of the two parcels. The parcels were zoned industrial 40-50 years ago and might not be relevant today. This will help determine any new zoning structure to design and attract people to Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Alderman Ken Dye left the meeting prior to the Executive Session and did not return for the duration of the meeting.

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6 (Alderman Ken Dye left after motion to go into Executive Session)
Nays – 0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 6 (Alderman Ken Dye left after motion to go into Executive Session)
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 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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