



**COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA  
September 16, 2014**

Council Meeting #18  
**September 16, 2014**  
Regular Session  
City Hall  
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Alderman Bennett, Michales, Dutcher, Ferguson and Ferrer, Silliman  
(Alderman Silliman arrive after the Public Hearing)

Absent: Alderman Dye, Bird

Staff Present: Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

**Public Hearing:** To hear comments on the proposed additions to Chapter 107-Buildings, Vacant of the Code for the City of Cortland.

The public hearing opened at 6:45pm. Speaker Anne Doyle commented that she is on flood committee and at the last meeting they discussed what apartment owners and tenants need to do for emergencies in regards to having access to the gas, water, electric utilities to shut off. Most tenants do not have access.

The public hearing closed at 6:48pm.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Public Comments:**

Adam Megivern – In support of the agenda item #6- to close the Marketplace Mall on October 4, 2014 for hosting a beer tasting event; he states this presents a big benefit for Main Street bringing dollars into the community where the pumpkin festival event doesn't really get people down to Main Street and this event will.

**Minutes of the September 2, 2014 meeting:**

**RESOLUTION #186 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the September 2, 2014 Common Council Minutes with one amendment.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved:                   Ayes – 6  
                                  Nays – 0

**Mayor Tobin read the following Proclamations:**

**Proclamation** – Disability Employment Awareness Month for October 2014

**Proclamation** – Anti-Bullying Awareness Month for October 2014

**Proclamation** – October 5-11, 2014 as Fire Prevention Week

**Presentation** – and discussion of the City’s 2013 Audited Financial Statements.

A presentation was given by Randy Shepard, CPA for Bonadio group on the City’s 2013 Audited Financial Statements. Mr. Shepard indicated the audit report card went very well for the City, there were no significant deficiencies, there were no misstatements and the audited material was accurate and reliable. The perspective taken from the audit is the unfunded liabilities, compensated absences earned at different rates of pay to when the employee leaves is a funding issue. Recommends the City to stabilize and rebuild fund balance. Socio-economics an issue facing the city and the tax base.

**Resolution #187 of 2014** – Resolution to accept the City’s 2013 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by the City and audited by the Bonadio Group.

Motion By:               Alderman Bennett

Seconded By:           Alderman Dutcher

Approved:               Ayes – 4  
                                  Nays – 2 (Alderman Michales, Ferguson)

**Presentation** – Area Agency on Aging Needs Assessment and Community Awareness by Liz Haskins, Director of Cortland County Area Agency on Aging.

The needs assessment finds the following key essentials for Cortland County:

1. Transportation-no access to public transportation for medical appointments, shopping, social engagements and recreational.
2. Stigma-reluctant to tap into services, feel there is a welfare stigma attached to it.
3. Housing-there is no real retirement community in Cortland.
4. Getting the “word out” – not enough awareness to what is offered.

There are three units – 1- Retired/Senior Volunteer; 2 – Aging Services Unit-health insurance counseling, Transportation, legal services, and aging services;  
3 – Nutrition Service - Food service with a dynamic staff to meet the needs in Cortland County.

Expanded in home services program-non-medical in home health care can make a difference with someone continuing to stay at home vs. institution.

Have a program of NY Connects which is one central place for people to go to for help with all the services. There is also several brochures and handouts available.

**Resolution #188 of 2014** – Resolution to allow access to Independence to use the Courthouse Park on Saturday, July 26, 2015 for the 24<sup>th</sup> ADA Anniversary Celebration Picnic (Frances Pizzola, Community Education Coordinator).

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #189 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the closing of Court Street from Church Street to the bank parking lot entrance for the Fire Station Open House on October 4, 2014 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This is an annual event.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #190 of 2014** – Resolution for the City to authorize the closure of the Marketplace Mall parking lot on October 4, 2014 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm for a beer tasting event to be managed by George Seibel.

George Seibel states due to the Pumpkin Fest utilizing the space this event previously occupied they want to have the event on Main Street. Donations from proceeds will be given to local agencies (Wickwire Pool Fund, the City Police Department for body cameras, Christmas Tree Lighting) – they plan to donate \$4,000-\$5,000 to local agencies.

Tickets will be sold in advance for \$25 and \$30 at the door. Guests will be given bracelets with a souvenir glass to use for the 4 oz. pouring. There will be live entertainment. There will be TIP certified staff on hand to keep level of intoxication under control using their right to refuse anyone, simply refusing to serve or calling police.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #191 of 2014** – Resolution to appropriate proceeds from the sale of surplus of used traffic signals in the amount of \$992.00 to account A3010-5405 for use in purchasing new “Welcome to Cortland” signs.

The signs were not budgeted for this year and with the sale of the used traffic signals it helped to fund three (3) signs – Port Watson Street, Madison Street, Groton Avenue. Will budget for 2015 to replace the other four (4) signs. The new signs will last longer, using overlaid metal/plastic.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #192 of 2014** – Resolution for new appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Police Commission	Eric Prior	New Appointment
Cortland Housing Authority	Paul Quinlan	New Appointment

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #193 of 2014** – Resolution to set a public hearing for an amendment of the Rental Permit Law and a new nuisance ordinance for Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 6:50 pm.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #194 of 2014** – Resolution to approve the Mayor’s 2015 Tentative Budgets. ‘

***Whereas;** the Mayor submitted his 2015 Tentative Budgets for the General Fund, Waste Water Fund and Water Fund on August 19, 2014*

***Whereas;** presentations and discussions of said 2015 Tentative Budgets have occurred between departments, Mayor and Members of Common Council,*

***Whereas;** after a public hearing, but no later than December 31, 2014, Common Council may add or subtract, increase or decrease items of appropriation or anticipated revenues from the Proposed City Budgets except appropriations required by law for debt service.*

***Therefore be it resolved** that the Mayor’s tentative 2015 Budgets for General Fund, Waste Water Fund and the Water Fund as submitted are hereby approved which shall upon adoption of this resolution become the City’s 2015 Proposed Budgets which shall be filed with the City Clerk.*

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #195 of 2014** – Resolution to cause the City Clerk to publish in the City’s official newspaper an itemized abstract of the City’s 2015 Proposed Budgets for the General Fund, Waste Water Fund and Water Fund and notice that on September 30, 2014 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, Common Council shall hold

a Public Hearing on Each proposed budget. At such hearing any persons may be heard for or against the City's Proposed Budgets, or any item thereof.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #196 of 2014** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Donna Coye – Part-Time Office Clerk/Deputy Registrar.

The replacement person will start at the current rate of pay.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #197 of 2014** – Resolution to adopt a Nepotism Policy effective upon passage of this resolution.

It is a policy long overdue and is being put in place to protect all employees. Corporation Counsel will responsible and make the determination of potential violations. It is grandfathered however there is no one currently falling into this policy violation.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #198 of 2014** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute and sign a master contract with the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation for the EPF - #137617-C3-Wickwire Pool Grant.

To accept the grant from the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation and will allow for the next step for the continued support of the Wickwire Pool renovations. Ken Teeter, engineer was to be present to give an update on the scope of work, cost estimates and RFP/time frame however he was delayed from a prior appointment for this meeting. Will see if he can return at the next meeting.

*This was originally item #9 on the original agenda and was moved to the last item giving time for presenter to arrive.*

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

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 16<sup>TH</sup> 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.**

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**RAY PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**