



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
November 4, 2014

Council Meeting #21
November 4, 2014
Regular Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

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

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Fire Chief Glover, Police Chief Catalano, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell, City Clerk Ray Parker

Public Hearing #1 – To hear comments on the proposed amendment to the rental Permit Law and for discussion of a new nuisance ordinance for the City of Cortland.

- The Public Hearing opened at 6:55 pm. There was no one to speak at this public hearing.
- The Public Hearing closed at 6:56 pm.

REGULAR SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments: There are no public comments for this meeting.

Minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting:

RESOLUTION #225 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the October 21, 2014 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #226 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the September 30, 2014 Common Council Minutes of the Public Hearing – on the Proposed 2015 Budget with changes to the attendance.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Ward Reports:

John Bennett (4) – Reaching out to residents in the 4th Ward regarding the upcoming Cortaca Weekend – asking residents in his ward to not hesitate, not wait – and letting them know he will be available all weekend if he is needed. Also, he reported there is a “prankster” on Pearl Street who put up “no parking” signs. He has taken them all down and notified residents that the street allows for public parking and it is open to all.

Tom Michales (8) – Tom reported some garbage issues in his ward but was able to address it with the assistance of the Code Department.

Katy Silliman (2) – announced support of the Cortland High School’s performance of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” which will be held November 14th and 15th. Also, she has held a housing meeting, and also attended a Flooding Task Force meeting 99 and has provided a handout) regarding the Community Rating System. Katy will discuss in further detail at the next meeting. Katy also attended “Positively Cortland” held on Tuesday, October 29th which was a forum to promote and brand the City, it was well attended and was a positive evening. There will be another meeting to follow in January.

Ken Dye (3) – Also had to deal with some No Parking issues in his ward and have been taken down.

Carlos Ferrer (6) – Quiet in the ward.

Linda Ferguson (7) – Attended “Positively Cortland” and was very impressed.

Clif Dutcher (5) – There roads which were paved this summer have finally been painted. Has dealt with aggressive dogs and had assistance from the police department. Solar Panels-----

Julie Bird (1) – No Parking signs have been an issue with W. Main Street. The DPW is working on solving that issue. Attended the Halloween Parade on October 30th. It was a great turnout. “Save the Date” for the Downtown Tree Lighting Festival.

Mayor’s Report:

“Positively Cortland” began as a group of eight individuals who show leadership in the community to establish how we define the City of Cortland and promote/brand to make the City more attractive. A meeting generated to expand on the concept and they gathered a larger group of approximately 80 people to engage in a lively discussion. In an organized form, divided into small groups everyone worked on five questions to identify what we collectively want to pursue. There is a plan to organize the information collected and meet again in January to continue the project.

He also attended the Halloween Parade thanking the Downtown Partnership and the Elks Lodge for a successful event that was very well attended. It has potential to grow in the future.

Item #1 – Discussion – Several speakers highlighted the City and SUNY on the preparedness for the upcoming Cortaca weekend event. Fred Pierce, SUNY Cortland Public Relations Director explained the steps the college has put in place to prevent nuisance partying to include the communications to the students, the retribution or action the college will make against offenders, and what types of alternative activities will be available on the weekend of the game.

Deputy Fire Chief Bill Knickerbocker spoke about the activity the Code office has been doing leading up to the event weekend; they have been out talking to landlords, residents and making them aware of the laws that will be enforced on the parking and zoning laws especially in on the streets more likely to have a large gathering. DC Knickerbocker and Code department will be looking for violations and will be making rounds before and during the event weekend for the safety of the community. He explained that some of the landlords have sent notices to their tenants asking for cooperation.

Police Chief Catalano explained police presence during the weekend event will be very heavy relying on the full City Police staff, the Cortland County Sheriff Department and the State Police. With the game being played in Cortland this year, the SUNY police staff will be closely monitoring events at the field. There will be heavy support in the party area streets and they will be monitoring social media sites to get a heads up on where the parties are. The police will be out early and issues will be addressed immediately. The City Police have worked with the County Sheriff Jail Division to have steps in place for detainees to be held. He encourages residents to call immediately when they see anything that generates attention. They are prepared with the emergency call centers with extra staff. The Social Host Law will be enforced.

Corporation Counsel Rick VanDonsel states the legal system is ready to handle the violators-Social Host, disorderly conduct, even littering will be prosecuted. There are no plea bargain deals being offered.

Dumpsters are being placed and there is a clean-up crew ready for Sunday morning. The Tavern Owners Agreement is in place after a few adjustments.

Cortaca will take place on November 15th, hopefully all steps will return Cortaca back to the attention of the game and to the students who play the game.

Item #2 – Presentation – A presentation by the City of Cortland Police Department and the Cortland County Sheriff Department on the Methamphetamine in our community was given by Lt. Caulfield of the Cortland County Sheriff Department. The presentation highlighted how the growing population of meth labs in the county are affecting the communities.

Resolution #227 of 2014 – Resolution approving the proposed amendment to the Rental Permit Law for the City of Cortland.

Alderman Ferguson expressed concern from her Ward regarding the fact the City is putting this up for a vote at tonight's meeting due to being Election Day.

Alderman Bird asked questions relevant to sections 5C and H3 siting they seem to be the same thing but have different fine amounts. Corporation Counsel explained it is two different penalties – one is a lesser charge with a court order, the other is a contempt charge carrying a higher penalty.

Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel explained why it is necessary to put this into law – the Rental Permit Law is currently under a lawsuit; with some direction from Judge Rumsey a reference to the nuisance house is not properly defined and needs to be pulled out to stand alone. We need to amend the existing law and adopt a new stand-alone ordinance. This will require two separate votes.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
 Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 3 (Alderman Ferguson, Dutcher, Bird)

Resolution #228 of 2014 – Resolution approving the proposed New Nuisance Ordinance for the City of Cortland.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
 Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 2 (Alderman Dutcher, Bird)

Resolution #229 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Cortland Youth Bureau:

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Jack & Sharon Rappaport</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Fund</i>	<i>\$35.00</i>
<i>Lori & Richard Crompton</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Fund</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Total Donations:</i>		<i>\$85.00</i>

Motion By: Alderman Bird
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #230 of 2014 – Resolution authorizing the City of Cortland to apply for a Regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant as the Host/Lead Agency.

Chief Glover explained this grant is a labor intensive endeavor and is labor intensive. There is a three county consortium that has previously filed grants. This grant requires a fire department be the applicant. The City of Cortland Fire Department will file the grant on behalf of the three counties as the lead agent. The grant will be used to replace very costly equipment and apparatus.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
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 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 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