



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
December 16, 2014

Council Meeting #24

December 16, 2014

Regular Session

City Hall

7:00 PM

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

Absent: Alderman Ferrer

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 local law amending the Code of the City of Cortland to authorize “best Value Purchasing”

- The Public Hearing opened at 6:47 pm. There was no one to speak.
- The Public Hearing closed at 6:48 pm.

Public Hearing #2 – To hear comments on the proposed parking changes on Reynolds Avenue; no parking for a distance of +300 feet from the curb line of Tompkins Street.

- The Public Hearing opened at 6:51pm. There was no one to speak.
- The Public Hearing closed at 6:52 pm.

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Brian Tobin called the twenty-Fourth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:01PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Anne Doyle "Angry" regarding the upper part of Lincoln Ave. with the student housing signs - for more than three months have tried to get the signs down. Would like the zoning officer to enforce the code and get those signs down.

Steve Muka - (Speaking in regards to agenda item #5-code amendments) specific to delinquent property tax Claus in the code section for operating permits and the section the building permits-

There is concern the code will penalize property owners who are delinquent on property taxes and from a business owner standpoint, they will not be able to get building permits so they can make the repairs if there are violations to the nuisance property law.

Minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting:

RESOLUTION #249 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the December 2, 2014 Common Council Minutes with amendment to resolution #246 of 2014 – the vote is 6 Ayes, 1 Nay (Dutcher).

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Tom Michales – would like to remind everyone to be cautious of the receipt of delivery packages at this holiday time of the year. Please make arrangements for someone to receive your mailed packages, there have been reports of theft.

Resolution #250 of 2014 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign a consent order with NYSDEC regarding past operations and future staffing structure of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Jim Suozzo, Owner, Principal Engineer for Cedarwood Engineering supports the NYSDEC future staffing structure and feels they are fair and equitable for the reorganization of the Waste Water Treatment Facility. With the retirement of an employee, it is recommended to make the staffing changes with Bruce Adams moving to Superintendent of Waste Water Treatment Plant focusing on capital project planning and implementation, grant coordination and promoting Ed Poole into the day-to-day operations function as Operator of Record.

A motion was made by Alderman Ken Dye to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Alderman Michales. It was requested Bruce Adams, Mack Cook, Ric VanDonsel and Jim Souza be in attendance for the Executive Session.

Motion By: Alderman Dye
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

A motion was made by Alderman Ken Dye to come out of Executive Session and was seconded by Alderman Michales.

Motion By: Alderman Dye
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

It is supported that Bruce Adams is best utilized in the Capital projects and have the day-to-day operations be managed by Ed Poole.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #251 of 2014 – Resolution to adopt local law #12 of 2014 amending the Code of the City of Cortland to authorize “Best Value Purchasing”.

Alderman Bird expressed she understands the lowest bid doesn’t always mean best quality – how does the City put a value on quality-bringing in other factors – numerical value on how to structure the matrix. Mack Cook explained the matrix is based on what the purchase is and each bid is customized with specific certifications/specs. A qualified bidder has to meet the minimum requirements specified in the RFP.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

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

Resolution #252 of 2014 – Resolution to adopt Local Law #13 of 2014 authorizing changes on Reynolds Avenue; no parking for a distance of +300 feet from the curb line of Tompkins Street.

Chief Catalano provided statistics on the number of accidents/incidents in that area and based on the information there is justification for the parking changes.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #253 of 2014 – Resolution to appoint Charles Wood to Commissioner of Deeds effective January 1, 2015 for a period of two years.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #254 of 2014 – Resolution for the City of Cortland to accept Cortland Downtown Partnership request for 2014 “First Light” New Year’s Eve countdown celebration.

1. The Cortland Downtown Partnership (CDP) requests that the City of Cortland close down Main Street between Court Street and Port Watson Street from 9:00 pm Wednesday, (December 31, 2014) New Year’s, until 1:00 am Thursday, (January 1, 2015) for Cortland County’s First Light celebration.
2. The CDP requests that the City Youth Bureau parking lot on Port Watson Street be closed Wednesday, December 31, 2014 until 4:00 am Thursday, January 1, 2015 as the launching location for Little Big Shots Fireworks for the event.

Both Chief Catalano and Chief Glover have said the required paperwork has been submitted and see no issues with the event.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #5 – Discussion on amending the City of Cortland Code of Ordinance Section 100-10 A (1) e; to add a provision to include institutional and residential occupancies and special events to the section which allows for life safety concerns for the department and to amend certain language of the Code for ease of Operating Permit requirements.

A proposal to change the language to allow for private property events and larger commercial business events (Nursing homes, hospitals, child daycare centers) that anticipate a large group of people where there may be inherent safety issues where important aspects can be addressed such as; disabled/incapacitated person(s) able to evacuate, emergency personnel and vehicles able to access and other safety concerns.

RESOLUTION #255 of 2014 – Resolution that if needed, due to weather conditions prior to December 31, 2014 to transfer an amount up to \$20,000 from the snow removal reserve to fund the purchase of road salt.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Executive Session – for contract discussions (there is a possibility of board action after the executive session).

Motion to go into Executive Session:

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of Executive Session:

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Further board action from the Executive Session.

Resolution #256 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the Collective Bargaining Unit Contract for the Crossing Guards.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #257 of 2014 – Resolution to approve the Collective Bargaining Unit Contract for the SEIU.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

New / old Business: Mayor Tobin expressed gratitude to Mary Leonard for volunteering her time to filling in for Ric VanDonsel during his absence.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 7
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 16th DAY OF DECEMBER 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