



City Council Minutes  
The City of Cortland  
February 3, 2015

Council Meeting #3  
**February 3, 2015**  
Regular Session  
City Hall  
7:00 PM

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

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

**Public Hearing #1** – Community Development Block Grant Program; required of municipalities to submit CDBG housing applications for fiscal year 2014 funds, due February 5, 2015; (MCR)

This public hearing was held in the Mayor’s Conference Room by Thoma Development. Minutes for this public hearing are available through Thoma Development.

**Public Hearing #2** – To hear comments on the proposed changes regarding the re-organization of the Wastewater Department.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:43 pm. There is no one to speak at this public hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:44 pm.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Public Comments:**

**Tom Gobel** – Wanted to say “good job” regarding the roads and sidewalks with all of the snowfall this season. Also, low income housing is a concern. County legislature says we don’t need anymore. Landlords are hurting because rents are too low with the subsidies.

**Gerry Ruggiero** – Wants to bring to Council’s attention the rental permit lawsuit and the settlement that has been tentatively reached and would like to move forward with it. The landlords have agreed to move forward and settle before trial. They are willing to work with the City to remove (evict) bad tenants. Landlords are going to lose some rental income during the second semester on contract law. Maybe get better tenants next year. All the plaintiffs have signed off and feel it is a healthy approach.

A motion was made by Alderman Dutcher to add an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the litigation from Gerry Ruggiero. The motion was seconded by Alderman Silliman. Ayes-8, Nays-0

**Ward Reports:**

John Bennett/Ward 4 – Student parking in front of driveways. Otherwise quiet.

Tom Michales/Ward 8 – Trash collection-trying to get residents thinking more in line of putting it out the night before because the trash haulers have been coming earlier and some is getting out too late to be picked up. Also, sidewalks that are very close to the City streets is more difficult to maintain with snow removal. With larger storms, the plows dump it on the sidewalk because there is no frontage between the sidewalk and road.

Katy Silliman/Ward 2 – There are some wicked pot holes on Pleasant Street. Emailed Nick Dovi just today and hopefully will be addressed. Also residential snow removal with homeowners not taking care of the sidewalks-elderly are having a difficult time navigating. Not sure what the solution is but there is a concern. A traffic concern at Halvert and Madison Street looking into.

Recognition that Cortland lost an icon; Gary Dillingham passed away and was a great wrestling coach and humanitarian in the City.

Ken Dye/Ward 3 – Trash collection was delayed due to the snow event from Sunday and Monday. Wants to see all the trash picked up by Friday. Dave Daryl congratulations on Wrestling Coach of the Year in NYS and 8 Region area.

Carlos Ferrer/Ward 6 – Quiet

Linda Ferguson/Ward 7 – During absence tried to keep up with things going on in Ward. Complaint of snow on Main Street; is there any way we could remove away from Main Street and the sidewalks due to congestion of snow.

Clif Dutcher/Ward 5 – There was an issue with the Beaudry Park lights but now they work properly which is important to the sledders. Had a small turnout for a first Ward meeting. Will get the word out for a future one.

Julie Bird/Ward 1 – Also have Snow issues. Thank Nick Dovi because of a street in the first ward shows difficulty on how and where to place the snow but he has managed to figure it out. Would like to remind people not to push your snow or snow blow the snow across and into the street.

Feels the City should seriously look into a human resource department / or a person for those that feel threatened with Workplace violence and Bullying. Also participated in Girls Day Out at the YWCA, grades 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade girls and they come for a day of activities. Shared what she does for a day job and sitting on the Common Council and felt it was a well worth event.

**Mayor's Report:**

- The YWCA has put on the Girls Day Out event in collaboration with SUNY Cortland for a number of years now and it is a well-attended event and well received.
- SUNY SafeZone Training if anyone is interested and helps those learning how to better deal with others.
- Spoke at afternoon Rotary and spoke of past accomplishments and the next couple of weeks will be giving the State of City Address and goals in 2015. Also met with the Department Heads goals
- Bike/Pedestrian Meeting – A committee run by Christella Yonta with the Seven Valley Health Coalition talking of issues facing pedestrians, bike riders and community as a whole.
- John McNerney-stakeholders heavy utilizers of Wickwire Pool reached out to see what their thoughts are and how better to serve the public going into the future.
- Cortland Counts Forum – large meeting and then several track meetings focused on economic housing, youth, and sustainability.
- “Local Food Market and Café” has opened and encourages all to visit it. It is on the north end of Main Street and be sure to welcome Chastity to the community.
- Reminder that with the sidewalks being potential blocked to walk will walk in the street and wants to caution drivers to watch for them.

**Minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting:**

Corrections to the January 20, 2015 include; a missing sentence in the summary of minutes, for resolution #13-the motion was made by Alderman Silliman and seconded by Alderman Dutcher; for resolution #22 –it states the list is attached –will it be in the official minutes-yes, the list will be included in the official minutes.

**RESOLUTION #24 of 2015** – Resolution to approve the January20, 2015 Common Council Minutes with amendment.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0  
Abstention: Alderman Ferrer and Ferguson

**Resolution #25 of 2015** – Resolution to grant permission to hang a banner across Main Street for “Paint the Town Purple” during the week of April 26, 2015 through May 2, 2015. To also include ribbons along Main Street and at other locations within the City, business window displays and home decorating.

Would like to make note to the committee to be sure to have the banners down by Monday after the event.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #26 of 2015** – Resolution to amend the Charter, Chapter C, Article XVII Department of Wastewater Treatment of the City of Cortland, New York.

Just a reminder, this is to restructure and modernize the facility.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #27 of 2015** – Resolution to create the position of Superintendent of Wastewater.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #28 of 2015** – Resolution to temporarily lift the hiring freeze in order to fill the position of Superintendent of Wastewater.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #29 of 2015** – Resolution to authorize the appointment of Bruce Adams, a current employee, to the position of Superintendent of Wastewater effective January 7, 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #30 of 2015** – Resolution to enter into agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the *utility work agreement for waterline work* State’s construction project – PIN 3028.11 Reconstruction of Route 281 from the intersection at Route 281 and Summit Street to 450 feet north of the intersection at Route 281 and Wheeler Avenue, Cortland, New York.

The State is undertaking this project and at their expense.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #31 of 2015** – Resolution enter into agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the *Sanitary Sewer work agreement* on the State’s construction project – PIN 3028.11 Reconstruction of Route 281 from the intersection at Route 281 and Summit Street to 450 feet north of the intersection at Route 281 and Wheeler Avenue, Cortland New York.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #32 of 2015** – Resolution to appropriate proceeds (\$895.20) from the sale of six (6) vehicles from the City of Cortland Police Impound Lot, which had been classified as abandoned in accordance to Section 1224 (3)(a) of the New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law to be directly applied toward the purchase of new police vehicles for 2015.

(These vehicles were sold for scrap).

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #33 of 2015** – Resolution to designate the following bank depositories for City funds:

- A. NBT Bank
- B. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.
- C. M&T Bank
- D. Tompkins Trust Company

The City has banking relationships with all of these banks. (Bonds, depository, on-line, sewer tax)

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #34 of 2015** – Resolution to designate the Cortland Standard and The Shopper as the official newspapers of the City of Cortland.

For public notice, the law requires two.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #35 of 2015** – Resolution to designate Lori Crompton and Julie Maddren as the signators on all accounts.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #36 of 2015** – Resolution to suspend the \$3,000 in Vacant Building Registry Fees owing on the property located at 51-55 Main Street (Pothos Building) upon the condition that Phase 1 of the rehabilitation begins no later than February 23, 2015 and is completed no later than June 1, 2015. Upon completion of Phase 1 by June 1, 2015, Common Council will consider a resolution to waive the \$3,000 in Vacant Building Registry Fees.

The City will suspend only to allow for building permits, the City will revisit after June 1, 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 1 (Alderman Bird)

**Alderman Ferrer exited the meeting (7:44pm)**

**Agenda Number 13** – Discussion regarding the Zoning Officer position. A public hearing is set for February 17, 2015 at 6:45 pm to hear comments on the proposed changes to the Charter for a full-time Zoning Officer.

The change to full time status requires a Charter change. Will take on additional responsibilities of the Flood Plain Administrator. The Zoning Officer will need to be appointed as the Community Rating System Officer. Changes were made from the last meeting this was presented. A public hearing is scheduled for February 17, 2015 at 6:45 pm.

**Resolution #37 of 2015** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for a part-time clerk in the City Clerk office.

The Clerk’s office has an employee who has resigned effective February 13, 2015. Ray Parker expressed although the position is part-time, it is a position that should still follow protocol of a full-time employee through the Civil Service application and qualification process due to the nature of work the person will be doing (vital records) and the person will be appointed as a registrar.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Executive Session – To discuss the Notice of Claim/Gerry Ruggiero and an update on the Rental Permit Law/current court case.**

Motion to go into Executive Session:

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of Executive Session:

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Alderman Bennett is indicating there is a chosen candidate for the City Assessor position. The person cannot put in his two week notice until everything has been approved by the City of Cortland and the three towns for the shared services. Would like to advise he will call a special meeting due to the time sensitivity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

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 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015. 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**