



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland March 17, 2015

Council Meeting #7

March 17, 2015

City Hall

7:00 pm

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

Absent: Alderman Michales

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Police Chief Catalano, Superintendent of Wastewater Department Bruce Adams, Superintendent of Public Works Chris Bistocchi, City Clerk Ray Parker, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Shellie Blaisdell

Public Hearing: to hear comments for a proposed change to the Charter C18-2; A – to remove the enforcement of the duty “Zoning” ordinances.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:52pm. There is no one to speak at this public hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:54pm.

REGULAR SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments: There is no one to speak for public comments.

Minutes of the March 3, 2015:

RESOLUTION #61 of 2015 – Resolution to approve the March 3, 2015 Common Council Minutes.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Proclamation: April is Fair Housing Month: Mayor Tobin read the “April is Fair Housing Month” Proclamation.

Announcements and Other:

Mayor Tobin announced the Landscape and Design Commission has received a tree grant for the City. Beautify the City and plant a tree.

Add agenda item as number 10 – Commissioner of Deeds request from Sheriff Lee Price, also per the request of Ric VanDonsel, include Heidi Brown to the list.

Alderman John Bennett asked to have an Executive Session added at the end of the meeting to discuss a legal matter/litigation.

Alderman Katy Silliman asked to speak before the Council – she wanted to recognize the kindness of strangers that has been visible lately. First, to speak on behalf of resident Anne Doyle. She wanted to thank the Mayor for his offer to have assistance to those who needed help during this harsh winter season. Ms. Doyle had volunteer students come to her house and shovel her walk and driveway. They did a super job and even went to purchase salt for her, they also helped clean out the drainage. Ms. Doyle also wanted to ask the public to be patient during “pot hole season”. The DPW is doing a great job.

Alderman Silliman recognized other acts of kindness when her son put the car went into a snowbank, people came to his rescue. Also, his back pack was lost (from driving away with it on the roof of the car) and some kind person found the back pack and returned it with everything in it.

Alderman Silliman also wanted to make a public service announcement in regards to Public Education-budgets have been cut by governor and continues to be cut-looking for support of public education.

Mayor Tobin announced he would be giving the State of the City Address on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 5:15 in Council Chambers, third floor, 25 Court Street, Cortland, New York for Council and members of the public. *(This date was changed due to weather conditions and was changed to Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 5:00 pm).*

Presentation: “The Big Event”

A presentation was given by Ashley Prewitt, a SUNY Cortland Graduate Student on a project called “The Big Event”. Ashley worked to bring this large undertaking event, which is offered in other communities in the U.S. and College campuses, to Cortland. It is a student lead project to bring “all” together as a way of saying “thank you” to the community. The event is scheduled for May 2, 2015. It is a service offered to community residents for their homes, non-profits, churches, city offices, parks, playgrounds and schools for a collaborative community clean-up. It is a project to bring students, faculty, and staff together for one full day of community service in the spring semester. The Mission of The Big Event is to simply say “Thanks” to the Cortland Community. There is applications (Job Site Request Form) available with a dead line of April 5, 2015. There is a qualifying liability waiver as well. The students are offering 4 hours of service. The students are insured through the Student Government Association. It is funded with a \$10,000 budget.

Currently they have 60 students signed up with the anticipation of having 300 total. They will have a kick-off event with job sites set up in each Ward.

Resolution # 62 of 2015 – Resolution to remove the enforcement of the duty “Zoning” ordinances from the Charter: C18-2, A – Powers and duties of Director.

Ric VanDonsel states this is just to clean up the language in the Charter based on the Zoning Officer full-time status changes.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman

Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #63 of 2015 – Resolution to approve the following donations to the Cortland Youth Bureau Budget/Trust Funds as indicated below:

<i>Donation</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Edward & Ann Hotchkin</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Total Donations</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>

Motion By: Alderman Bennett

Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Resolution # 64 of 2015 – Resolution for the City to authorize the closure of the Marketplace Mall Parking Lot on May 2, 2015 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm for a “Spring Picnic” event to be managed by George Siebel and Tom Terwilliger.

George Siebel proposed to the Common Council to host a “Spring Picnic” in the Marketplace Mall parking lot on May 2, 2015. Based on the success of the event hosted in October, they would like to do it again having proceeds donated back to the City. He feels there is a demand for the event where they will sell 500 tickets charging \$30 per person to include beer tasting and food. It will be a controlled and safe environment. He feels the event will attract people to Cortland and downtown.

Alderman Bennett expressed concern for a reason for people to drink and behave badly. Alderman Silliman expressed concern the event will be counterproductive to “The Big Event” where students are trying to correct their public image and feels the need to change the culture around the students.

Alderman Dutcher is in support of the Spring Picnic, indicating the City needs to put feet on the streets and this will help with the City economy. He feels the City has allowed things to go wrong and this gives business owners the opportunity to do it responsibly.

Mayor Tobin expressed support for the event stating the City is evolving into an entertainment destination and feels giving business owners responsibility to run good events.

Police Chief Catalano would like to have a clear idea of expectations for these types of events with regulations outlined.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

A roll call vote is requested:

Alderman Bennett: Nay
Alderman Silliman: Nay
Alderman Dye: Aye
Alderman Ferrer: Aye
Alderman Ferguson: Aye
Alderman Dutcher: Aye
Alderman Bird: Aye

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 2 (Alderman Bennett, Silliman)

RESOLUTION #65 of 2015 – Resolution to waive the Alcohol Open Container Law for the “Spring Picnic” event on May 2, 2015 from Noon to 5:00 pm.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 2 (Alderman Bennett, Silliman)

Resolution # 66 of 2015 – Resolution to establish a loan program funded with \$15,000 from the Program Income Fund to assist City Residents with the cost of restoring water services disrupted by freezing laterals and lines.

There has been 36 homes reported that had frozen lateral pipes during this season. The City is trying to help by providing loans that will offset the costs incurred. Homeowners can borrow up to \$500 max if they had to pay to have their lateral pipes defrosted. There is qualifying guidelines.

Motion By: Alderman Bird
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #67 of 2015 – Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$10,000 collected in 2015 from 2014 Code Receivables relieved to the Tax Roll, to the Code Enforcement Budget Line A3620-41505 which has been exhausted by an increase in snow removal costs this year due to the harsh winter.

Due to the harsh winter season, the funds in the budget have depleted. When the Code Department has to take care of snow removal or mowing the property owners are billed. Once these invoices are paid, the funds will replenish the budget line.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #8 – To set a date to amend/remove Article VI “Assessor §5-18: Maintenance of Codes, and C7-4 “Code Enforcement” eliminating these responsibilities of the Assessor and adding both items under Article XIII: C13-2 – Fire Department.

A public hearing is set for April 7, 2015 at 6:50 pm to hear comments or concerns on the proposed amendment.

Resolution # 68 of 2015 – Resolution to authorize the purchase of equipment from the Water and Public Works Departments under the CNY Farm Supply Equipment Exchange Program Funded through the Water Funds committed reserve for capitol replacement in the amount of \$194,806.00 of two back hoes and one skidsters.

Through the equipment exchange with aging equipment, the DPW is looking to get two back hoes and one skidster. There is attachments of a rock saw and snowplow to the skidster that will be beneficial year round.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #69 of 2015 – Resolution to appoint/reappoint the following as Commissioners of Deeds:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| -Richard Baker | -Colleen Hull | -Heather Euson |
| -Lindsay Vanliew | -Amy Hegedus | -Budd Rigg |
| -Christopher Twigg | -Heidi Brown | |

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Executive Session – A motion was made by Alderman Ferrer to go into Executive Session to discuss updated information on litigation and was seconded by Alderman Bennett.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Executive Session – A motion was made by Alderman Ferrer to come out of Executive Session and was seconded by Alderman Bennett.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Mayor Tobin is seeking more direction for the Facilities Committee – setting a steering committee of a core group: Mayor Tobin, Alderman Ferguson, Alderman Dutcher and Alderman Bennett, Mack Cook, and Ric VanDonsel and an Advisory Committee which will be set up with department heads and outside people who can lend expertise. The first Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 10:00 am at Frank & Mary’s restaurant to outline the structure.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

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 17th DAY OF MARCH, 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.

RAY PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN