



City Council Minutes  
The City of Cortland  
**April 7, 2015**

Council Meeting #9

**April 7, 2015**

City Hall

7:00 pm

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

Absent: Alderman Silliman, Ferguson

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Fire Chief Glover, Police Chief Catalano, City Clerk Ray Parker, Conf. Secretary Shellie Blaisdell

**Public Hearing:** to hear comments for a proposed change to the Charter 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.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:00pm.

**Jim Reeners** – Is pleased to see there are some of the zoning/codes are being updated and supports the city reviewing them. Some of the system is flawed and a small group of people to approach these problems would be beneficial. Would like to say that Bill Knickerbocker is doing a superior job for what he works with including the enforcement, method, time frames sometimes can be difficult.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:04pm.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

Mayor Brian Tobin called the ninth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:05PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Public Comments:**

**Steve Terwilliger** – Appreciates the Zoning/Code presentation this evening but there are many issues facing the City that are not clear and concise and could cost the City a lot of money in legal fees. For instance the code enforcement of the Signs – the revision to the charter was adopted by resolution and should have been done by local law-it cannot be enforceable.

**Elsie Ferro** – has a question as a tax payer – wouldn't it be cheaper for the city to have the Code Department work be done by a private company? Feels it would save tax payer money.

**Anne Doyle** – “You're doing a good job”. Wants to say publically to the Mayor that the 3 boys (Louis' Andrew, Brandon) who volunteered their time to shovel her walk were so helpful and went

even above by doing additional work. Anne urges everyone to be patient with the DPW in fixing the pot holes. She would also like to remind all of “The Big Event” and to encourage all to take advantage of the event on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Jo Schaffer** – Also encourages people to put applications in for “The Big Event”. Commented on the Adhoc committee put in place to review the Code and some of the work has already been completed.

### **Ward Reports**

**Alderman John Bennett-Ward 4** – To re-emphasize what has already been said, he is pleased to see the students wanting to do this community service “The Big Event” with over 300 volunteers. Also to further comment on the pot holes and is asking for patience and give the DPW the chance to get them taken care of.

**Alderman Michales-Ward 8** – Has received many calls on pot holes but the DPW is making their rounds. He had a sewer issue in the ward. Alderman Michales would like to add an agenda item for the April 21, 2015 meeting regarding a discussion on the Signs Ordinance.

**Alderman Dye-Ward 3** – Wants to restart the committee on the City Charter review.

**Alderman Ferrer-Ward 6** – Nothing to report.

**Alderman Dutcher-Ward 5** – is reporting new neighbors in the community and welcomes them.

**Alderman Bird-Ward 1** – Nothing to report.

### **Mayors Report –**

- The students mentioned by Anne Doyle will return next season.
- The mayor went with other representatives to Geneseo, a similar City to Cortland, and had discussions on their innovations and processes on being a SUNY community.
- To follow up on the Zoning/Code presentation given prior to this meeting by Bob Rhea and Bill Knickerbocker expresses we are doing what is best for all citizen in the City.
- Grant-RFP opportunities.
- The facilities steering committee has met and has the intention of determining long-term goals in the city tasking the department heads for a listing of their facility needs. Working with a one-year assessment goal.
- On Wednesday, April 8, 2015 there will be a meeting at Beaudry Park building for a presentation on the city parks and playgrounds for a long overdue upgrade. It is an opportunity for the public to provide feedback.
- Also, on April 22, 2015 there will be a “Positively Cortland” branding event and encourages all to submit ideas. It will be in the form of an art gallery for the ideas submitted and from 8pm-9pm there will be an informal sit-down discussion.
- Reinforcing support for “The Big Event”! Please get your applications in.

**Proclamation:** The Mayor read a proclamation for “Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service”.

**Recognition:** To Sergeant Patrick Sweeney with the City Police Department serving the City for 25 years. Congratulations. Chief Catalano spoke of commitment and work ethic of Sergeant Sweeney and thanks him for his service to the City. Also recognized was Eric Sutton serving 25 years as a City Fireman. Deputy Chief Knickerbocker stated he is a trusted person in the role of Ladder Operator.

**Minutes of the March 17, 2015:**

**RESOLUTION #70 of 2015** – Resolution to approve the March 17, 2015 Common Council Minutes with amendment.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item #1** – Distribution of material of the guidelines and application for the 2015 Sidewalk Program.

**Resolution # 71 of 2015** – Resolution to allow the City of Cortland to close Pomeroy Street between Elm Street and Central Avenue to through traffic on Sunday, June 14, 2015 from 6:00am until 9:00pm for the St. Anthony’s Day Festival planned for June 13 and 14, 2015.

Peg Dienhoffer answered questions from the board. Chief Catalano indicated there were no issues from the police department for this annual event.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #72 of 2015** – Resolution to allow the Cultural Council of Cortland County to use the South Side of Court House Park for the Cortland Arts & Wine Festival to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Wine tasting will be confined to a contained area within the appropriate permits.

Chief Catalano indicated there were no issues from the Police Department for this annual event.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution # 73 of 2015** – Resolution to waive the City’s Open Container Ordinance during the annual Arts and Wine Festival within the designated area from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, August 1, 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #74 of 2015** – Resolution to allow the Mayor to close the parking lot between the Marketplace Mall and the VFW from 12:00 noon until 10:30 pm for the Main Street Music Series each day on the following dates: July 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2015.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
 Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution # 75 of 2015** – Resolution to waive the Alcohol Open Container Law for the Main Street Music Series on each day on the following dates: July 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2015 from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #76 of 2015** – Resolution to accept the following donations to the Cortland Youth Bureau:

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
<i>First Niagara Bank</i>	<i>\$1000.00</i>	<i>Spelling Bee</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>ASC-SUNY Cortland Greek</i>	<i>\$53.00</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>Tenkate Grant Service</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>Cortland Senior Citizen Club</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>Cortland Prof. FF Association</i>	<i>\$499.00</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>Cleary Pizza of Cortland, Inc.</i>	<i>\$109.99</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>JPB Fire Sales, LLC</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.405</i>
<i>JG Wickman</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Fund</i>	<i>T-68</i>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$2,411.99</b>		

Derek Reynolds from the City Fire Department explained the Fire Camp where kids can be a firefighter for a day. It was highly successful and they will be doing it again this year for two days on July 29, 2015 for 3-8 year old age group and on July 30, 2015 for 9-14 year old age group. There will be a media campaign launch from the youth bureau and they are looking to host 300 children.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
 Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution # 77 of 2015** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute agreement between the City of Cortland and the Town of Cortlandville for services rendered by the Cortland Youth Bureau from January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015.

The contract remains the same of \$86,700.00.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Item # 9 – Discussion and possible Consideration of a Resolution** regarding changes to the Charter on the Noise Permit and the fee for commercial business. (Alderman Tom Michales)

- To reduce the noise permit fee to \$100 per event for a period of time or permanent.
- To allow commercial businesses to purchase a one-time fee for \$100 for multiple events. The business would need to apply for that permit by a specific date to be determined and they would still need to apply for each event.
- To set the noise permit end time for 10:00 pm.

Alderman Michales would like to re-do the changes to the permit fees as last year stating it was successful for commercial businesses with the possibility of adding it permanently to the City Charter. The large fees stop businesses from having events and events are very important to Cortland.

A concern from Julie Bird regarding a possible increase in police force. Chief Catalano indicated there were no issues from last summer and all ordinances are still in place for the police to enforce should there be any violations.

Alderman Ferrer is concerned there may be a strain of additional applications being processed through the Clerk’s office and should consider that in the cost.

The board recognized Jim Reeners to speak: Jim stated he also attended the discussion in Geneseo this past week and the success they have with their downtown. That City embraces their college and would be ideal to model after them to support downtown business events.

The board also recognized Dan Cleary who stated as an event planner, the reduction in the fee and allowing to pay one time for multiple events is critical to continued success. He suggests having the application be available every January 1<sup>st</sup> much like the Sidewalk Café Permits.

Ric VanDonsel will work on getting a draft and possible public hearing scheduled for April 21, 2015.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 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**