



## City Council Minutes The City of Cortland August 4, 2015

Council Meeting #15

**August 4, 2015**

City Hall

7:00 pm

**Present:** Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Linda Ferguson, John Bennett, Katy Silliman, Clifton Dutcher, Carlos Ferrer

**Absent:** Alderman Julie Bird, Ken Dye, Tom Michales

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

**6:45pm-PUBLIC HEARING:** To hear comments on the proposed local law “Signs permitted without zoning permit or fee”, an amendment to Charter 300-107 § 3 (H) – Real Estate “For Sale” signs.

- Anne Doyle – Why change the size of the signs and why are they allowed to be so big? Anne states she feels the realtor’s do not support and make the buyers be aware of the zoning/codes of the City.
- Daniel Ellis Esq, for Cortland County Board of Realtors – Speaking on behalf of the Cortland County Board of Realtors, Daniel states the board is a proponent of the proposed changes. The main purpose being the current code regulations requires realtors to custom order signs because it is not the industry norm. The proposed new regulation of 7 square feet allows for a rider on top and on bottom – riders such as “pending”, “For Sale”, “sold” or include a phone number. The commercial and industrial proposed signs also go along with industry norm.

The Public Hearing closes at 6:54pm.

### **REGULAR SESSION:**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Public Comments:** There is no one to speak during Public Comments.

### **Ward Reports**

John Bennett – Nothing to report for the ward.

Katy Silliman – Street signs going up soon, hopefully before the students return. Attended a Cortland Downtown Partnership meeting and was impressed by the organization of it. She also commented about music flowing from downtown, nice to hear.

Carlos Ferrer – nothing to report for the ward but would like to extend appreciation to the City of Cortland Fire Department for their responding to the fire on Riverview Ave early this morning.

Linda Ferguson – Reported on a well-attended Neighborhood Watch meeting in her ward and flyers will be handed out very soon. Also, there is still a lot of discussion regarding the traffic signals with three of the questionable lights in her ward. Her ward strongly feels the lights should be replaced, although the study is being done, they do feel traffic signal is the best choice. Also noting there are concerns that the two-way stop sign that replaced a traffic signal at Central Ave and Pomeroy Street is not working. There are near miss accidents and they feel this should have four-way stop signs. . Linda also wanted to report an issue recently with woodchucks, the SPCA had mentioned years earlier there was grant money available to hire someone to get rid of the woodchucks. Woodchucks are difficult to get rid of.

Clif Dutcher – Ward has been quiet since the flooding event.

**Mayor's Report** – wants to remind everyone of the Brockway Truck Show this weekend and of a new event organized by Cortland graduates from late 1980's to early 1990's. It is going to be a family friendly event asking community to bring non-perishable food donations for attending the event (not required) that will support a local food bank.

The Mayor also attended the Ward 7 Neighborhood Watch meeting, it is nice to see people interested in the community and their potential for helping with some solutions to the issues brought up during the meeting.

**Recognition** – Christella Yonta-Winner of 2015 John B. Bennett Health Award-is deserving of the recognition. Not only has she contributed to the public health field but to other areas as well such as the bicycle/pedestrian committee. The Mayor presented her with a City recognition award as well. Jackie Leaf, Seven Valley Health Coalition, expressed thanks for her contribution as well.

**Minutes of the July 21, 2015:**

**RESOLUTION #150 of 2015** – Resolution to approve the July 21 2015 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett

Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

**Mayor Tobin** requested an additional item be added to the agenda as Item #2.

**Resolution # 151 of 2015** – Resolution to adopt Local Law #9 of 2015 “Signs permitted without zoning permit or fee” an amendment to Charter 300-107 § 3 (H) Real Estate “For Sale” signs.

The only section to be voted on is “Chapter 300-107 § 3 (H) Real Estate “For Sale” signs.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher

Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved:               Ayes – 5  
                               Nays – 0

**Presentation on the 2015 Fire Camp** – Derek Reynolds and Andrea Piedigrossi gave a presentation on this year’s Fire Camp which was held July 29<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>. The camp was a huge success hosting 250 kids with volunteers from fire department staff, volunteer fire, bunker staff and administration, contributions by many community sponsors.

**Resolution #152 of 2015** – Resolution to accept the following donations to the Cortland Youth Bureau Budget/Trust Funds as indicated below:

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Budget Line</b>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm Paintball</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>Fire Camp</i>	<i>A-7550.5405</i>
<i>Friends of Larry Pfister</i>	<i>\$255.00</i>	<i>In memory of Larry</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Trust Fund</i>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$355.00</b>		

Motion By:             Alderman Ferrer  
 Seconded By:         Alderman Silliman

Approved:             Ayes – 5  
                               Nays – 0

**Resolution # 153 of 2015** – Resolution to close Williams Street from Church Street to Greenbush Street on August 30, 2015 from 12:00pm-6:00pm for an annual Neighborhood Block Party.

Motion By:             Alderman Ferrer  
 Seconded By:         Alderman Dutcher

Approved:             Ayes – 5  
                               Nays – 0

**Resolution # 154 of 2015** – Resolution to permit amplified music for the Crown Alliance Church at 1 Bellview Avenue for an event on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 11:00am to 8:00pm.

An event which raises funds to support back to school supplies for students in need and is open to the public.

Motion By:             Alderman Ferrer  
 Seconded By:         Alderman Bennett

Approved:             Ayes – 5  
                               Nays – 0

**Resolution #155 of 2015** – Resolution to accept funds received from the Cortland Police Department Bicycle Sale which was held on Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 8am-11am and apply \$390 to the Wickwire Pool Fund and \$395 to the new Water Department Deer Fund.

Also to include the addition of \$94 collected from the bottle and can collection at the Water Works (to be applied to the Deer Fund).

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5  
Nays – 0

**Submission of the Mayor’s 2016 Budget –**

Mayor Tobin submitted the 2016 budget to Council. By having it available for review this early, it gives a chance for thorough review and time to ask questions.

Some key highlights:

Maintenance of services-moving from Misc. Budget the addition Regional Sports Council, Sidewalk program and other programs like those that need to continue to function well. Moving to the Mayor’s budget – Zoning Officer. A new line item to engage more people in the community with a Neighborhood Empowerment Grant - \$40,000 total to be shared among the 8 wards. Planning for the future, making positive changes at a local level.

Another new item is \$70,000 for vacant properties. Local level we need to start tackling these issues directly. Important topic to start movement on this.

Being able to hold lines on a lot of items combined with the submission of the Government Efficiency Plan, overall looking to bring money coming back to homeowners from the State.

Council will tentatively plan on three workshops with department heads. Mayor Tobin will email and start looking at availability with the plan to set the workshops at the next Council meeting.

Other business: The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Cortland County River Cleanup hosted by the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2015 looking for volunteers to clean up streams and rivers. Please get the word out to get people registered who want to volunteer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferguson

Approved: Ayes – 5  
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 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 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**