



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland September 1, 2015

Council Meeting #17

September 1, 2015

City Hall

7:00 pm

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Alderman Linda Ferguson, John Bennett, Clifton Dutcher, Ken Dye, Tom Michales, Carlos Ferrer, Julie Bird, Katy Silliman

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

REGULAR SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Connie Sorrells – In regards to agenda item #2-Parking Lot Ordinance- Connie has a major concern due to lack of City of Cortland employee's lack of parking. It becomes disruptive at times causing issues in the work day. It also causes disruption when employees have to go out to move their car every two hours to avoid a ticket. Parking should be made available to employees in the City Hall building. A suggestion would be to allow City Employees designated spaces during the daytime (7am-5pm). Please consider this solution.

Tom Gobel – Would like to request the City to recognize some championship accomplishments by the college with the baseball team and the girl's lacrosse team inviting coaches to a meeting to give either a proclamation or Key to the City. This could be a way to help end any animosity between the City and College.

Andy Simpson – is asking Council to please step in to an issue he has brought to his Alderman for the past three years and tried to bring to attention to the Mayor, Zoning Officer a few weeks ago. Andy stated he has lived on James Street for over 26 years-starting as a residential neighborhood. Although it is zoned as R1, it has become a street of student housing. One house in particular at 2 James Street has become an issue for neighbors with parties and disrespect for property. The house is a single family house but according to one parent it has at least 6 students living there. The owner of the house-Gerry Ruggiero has done nothing to comply with the Rental Housing laws. A prior owner tried to re-zone the house years ago but was denied. They sold the house and after two or three owners it is now in the hands of Gerry Ruggiero who has made it student housing. After three years of trying to get the City to do something about it – can you please “uphold the law”?

Minutes of the August 18, 2015:

RESOLUTION #167 of 2015 – Resolution to approve the August 18, 2015 Common Council Minutes as with one correction.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Mayor Tobin requested an additional item be added to the agenda as Item #10.

Ward Reports:

John Bennett – with 7000 SUNY students returning would like to remind everyone to pay attention to the added car and foot traffic.

Tom Michales – reporting a coyote citing and after getting Animal Control involved it was confirmed there are three in the area. Please keep your garbage covered and be mindful. Also reported debris on Bartlett that was handled by DPW. Tom reported a successful annual block party (8th year) with a good turnout. Thanks to Police for the assistance of street closures.

Katy Silliman – In walking the ward recently there seems to be more noise than usual with the return of college students with even this last evening with being awakened several times until 2am. There was an offensive banner that was pulled down and is being addressed. Another issue this past week are cars driving the wrong way on a one-way street. Believes some GPS devices have incorrect information (calling one of them and they will update their system however it will take several weeks). A call from a resident has requested speed bumps on Madison and Maple Streets.

Ken Dye – School is back-there is a lot of activity on Groton Avenue. Would like to see parent information collected when students are arrested to notify them?

Carlos Ferrer – Reminder school will start next week – be mindful of buses and walkers.

Linda Ferguson – Would like to thank all of the services that came to aid her these past couple weeks with a great deal of activity going on. Thank you to Mayor, Mack Cook, Bruce Adams, Codes, Nick Dovi and Police Dept. (helping with a person sleeping on a resident’s back steps).

Clif Dutcher – Received a call with a concern of the speed limit on Denti-Way, an access to Beaudry Park. They would like to see the speed limit reduced from 20 MPH to 10 MPH. Clif will get a letter to the Public Works/Public Safety Commission with the request.

Julie Bird – Had a light that was not on the correct timer at the basketball courts and was on all night – John McNerney and Andrea worked with National Grid to get it corrected. Also have received phone calls regarding the proposed budget – will address them during the workshops.

Mayor’s Report: It is important to for us to make sure everyone that lives in the community that they are aware of what the expectations are. The Code office, Zoning Officer and Police are going around reminding all of the expectations. We do need participation from people in the community. Whatever the issue, they need to call so we are aware. (Katy Silliman stated the calls remain anonymous). Nuisance Party Ordinance and the Rental Permit -all rental properties registered to bring property into compliance – if you have rental property and you don’t register –

you will get fined. Working with SUNY to have available housing listed with them of registered rental properties (Submitted by the Code Dept.).

Proclamation – Mayor Tobin read a proclamation of the 2015 Suicide Prevention week of September 7 – 13, 2015. Alexandra Huntington-Ofner, Youth Services Development Director and SPOA Coordinator with Cortland County Mental Health, invited all to attend the Suicide Prevention Walk to raise awareness in our community and encourages support. She is currently working on putting together a task force for Cortland County.

Resolution # 168 of 2015 – Resolution to accept the Regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant as the Host/Lead Agency. Approve for application at the November 4, 2014 Common Council meeting.

Fire Chief Glover stated this grant application was submitted November 2014 and will provide breathing apparatus. Cortland is the lead agency for this three county grant.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #169 of 2015 – Resolution to approve a Parking Lot Ordinance-parking lot assignment at 17-19 Court Street to include overnight, hourly, and permit parking.

With the concern raised by Connie Sorrells during Public Comment, Alderman Michales would like to have further discussion and be sure there are accommodations for City Employees. A review was given by Mack Cook on the board.

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Michales to table the agenda item for further discussion and review, the motion was seconded by Alderman Bennett.

Roll call vote to Table the item:

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

Vote Fails: Ayes – 4
Nays – 4

Further discussion on the specifics of the parking lot including a review given by Mack Cook on the board.

Roll call vote on approving a Parking Lot Ordinance-parking lot assignment at 17-19 Court Street to include overnight, hourly and permit parking.

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

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 3 (Alderman Ferrer, Ferguson and Bird)

Resolution # 170 of 2015 – Resolution to accept the low bid of \$989,000 from William L. Watson, Co. Inc. and authorize the Mayor to sign a contract for the renovation of Wickwire Pool contingent on NYSPRHP acceptance of contract.

Youth Bureau Director John McNerney provided an update on the Wickwire Pool project. There will be a preconstruction meeting held mid-September putting it right on schedule with the timeline outlined in August. William L. Watson Co. Inc. is a very reputable company who has completed very large projects for colleges, schools, cities and others. A reminder there still needs to be State approval.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #171 of 2015 – Resolution to accept additional donations to the Water Department Deer Fund of \$50 on August 17, 2015 from Bottle and Can Donations and \$200 on August 24, 2015 from Professor Kassim Kone from the sale of bicycles.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Michaels

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution # 172 of 2015 – Resolution to appropriate proceeds from the sale of three (3) vehicles from the City of Cortland Police Impound Lot, which have been classified as abandoned in accordance with Section 1224 (3) (a) of the New York State Vehicle Traffic Law. The total proceeds for the sale of these vehicles for scrap is \$463.60. The funds will go toward the purchase of new police vehicles for 2016.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #173 of 2015 – Resolution to authorize the issuance of \$3,983,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of the reconstruction of the Clinton Avenue sewer and storm water systems.

Applying under the 2015 Infrastructure 200,000,000 available grant money. Mack Cook explained with this grant it needs to be project ready with a complete application. We are not borrowing against bonds, we are just demonstrating to the State we are ready with all the mechanisms in place.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #174 of 2015 – Resolution to authorize the issuance of \$2,010,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of the reconstruction of the Clinton Avenue water system.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Dutcher

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Set 2016 Budget Workshops as follows: two presentations and a final discussion workshop – reconfirming dates set for the 2015 budget workshops as follows:

September 3, 2015 at 6:00pm (Dept. Head)
September 8, 2015 at 6:00pm (Dept. Head)
September 17, 2015 at 6:30pm (Discussion/Review)

It was noted Alderman Silliman is unable to attend September 3, 2015.

Resolution #175 of 2015 – Resolution to classify the projects listed below as Type II actions under SEQR as identified in 6 NYCRR Park 617-5 (2) which states the following actions are not subject to review including, “replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes unless such actions meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part.

- 1) Clinton Avenue Water Distribution System Replacement
- 2) Clinton Avenue Sewer and Storm Collection Replacement

This is to identify the two projects specific for this grant.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer

Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

The Mayor, per the request of Alderman Katy Silliman, request another item be added to the agenda of a discussion on Rental Permit Signage. The members of Council approved of the addition.

Item # 9 – Presentation of 2016 projected General Fund Revenues.

Mack Cook asked this item be moved to the September 17, 2015 budget workshop. It will demand 30-40 minutes to get through.

Additional Item #11 – Alderman Katy Silliman presented an idea that came from the Housing Committee on how to deal with identification of rental houses with a plaque to place on the side of the house indicating owner, phone number, rental permit number and web address or other information deemed relevant.

Alderman Silliman believes the landlords will see this as a good idea. Another municipality already uses this and it is successful giving people a way to get immediate information.

Alderman Dye expressed concern about screwing a sign to the side of the house.

There will be a discussion on the Rental Permit Signage for the September 15, 2015 Common Council meeting to give time for discussion with landlords, students and others involved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher

Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 8
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 1st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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