



## City Council Minutes The City of Cortland October 6, 2015

Council Meeting #19

**October 6, 2015**

City Hall

7:00 pm

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Linda Ferguson, John Bennett, Clifton Dutcher, Ken Dye, Thomas Michales, Julie Bird, Kathryn Silliman

Absent: Alderman Carlos Ferrer

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard VanDonsel, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Police Chief Michael Catalano, Superintendent of WWTP Bruce Adams, and Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow

### **REGULAR SESSION:**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **Public Comments:**

Tom Gobel – Expressed his concern for how one of the council members was treated after a vote was made at the last Common Council meeting. He quoted a French philosopher, “I may disagree with what you say but I defend your right to say that.”

Derek Reynolds – Provided documentation to the common council. He has spoken in the past about an investigation that was conducted by the department of labor. Derek pointed out that the City was supposed to have paid back wages to 89 employees by June 23 and as of September, they have not. Mr. Reynolds was willing to wait around after the meeting to meet with anyone that had questions.

Chris Buttino - Expressed that he wanted to add to Mr. Reynolds’ statement that his members are committed to the safety, health and well-being of the Cortland community.

Jo Schaffer – Expressed that on Tuesday, October 13 from 7-8:45 PM at the County Office Building, there will be a hearing on Economical Health and how it impacts our City. The forums for County Sheriff will be held Saturday, October 17 from 10 AM-12PM, and on Saturday October 24 from 10AM- 12PM will be Legislature districts and city council. The Mayors will be from 12:30 PM- 1:30 PM. All will be held at 19 Church Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## **Ward Reports**

**Alderman Bennett- Ward 4** – Stated that the last week in October, he and Chis Bistocchi will be holding an informational meeting regarding the safety of the sidewalks around Barry School. The specifics on when and where are to be determined. He will send out notices and flyers.

**Alderman Michales- Ward 8** – Follow up on a house with a lot of debris. They are in the final stages of cleaning up the back portion of that residence. Request to add an agenda item discussing the regulations on boarding houses. This property started out with some debris on the curb from when the residents moved out. A couple weeks later there were 12 mattresses that were staked outside the residence. – approved by council to add item to agenda.

**Alderman Silliman- Ward 2** – Have had some vandalism and trash on the hill. There is also concern building with Cortica and how it will be this year. The tee shirts that the bars sold were profane regarding Cortica. Would like the football game and festivities to be family friendly. A special thanks to Jim Dempsey and the Board for putting on the pumpkin fest. Also to Russel and Gabby from B2H (Bridges to Health) and Tim Tobin for all their help with the pumpkin fest and clean up.

**Alderman Dye- Ward 3** – The City has removed the tree on Hamlin Street that was very dead. He attended the pumpkin fest and the fire department’s open house. They did a great job!

**Alderman Ferguson- Ward 7** – Has been working on some current issues and will get back to us on them at the next meeting. A new granddaughter was born and is very excited about it.

**Alderman Dutcher- Ward 5** – Concerns from residents on Taylor St. There are problems with cars speeding. Could they maybe get a lighted sign to show the speed limit? Is there any salt that has been delivered to the city? They have noticed an overabundance of dogs in the city. When was the last time the SPCA has done a dog numeration?

**Alderman Bird- Ward 1** – All is quiet in ward 1. She would like to thank Bill Carr for responding to a call made by Julie and her family. There was a dog loose and he retrieved the dog and got it back to its owners. Talked about it being Breast Cancer Awareness month. With all the new technology, they are finding cancer much earlier. The earlier it is detected the better the prognosis is to fight it. Please encourage all the beautiful and special woman to go get checked. Men should also do exams and get checked out if they find a lump because they are not immune to it.

**Mayor’s Report** – Went to the Regional Economic Council in Syracuse with the governor. Many different commissioners from surrounding areas attended as well. They discussed different plans, thoughts and needs for all surrounding areas. Mayor Tobin also attended the Aid to Victims of Violence balloon launch. The Franziska Racker Center had a breakfast meeting to acknowledge the many services they provide. There was a meeting with the president of student government association held regarding the dynamic between students and community and the college itself.

**RESOLUTION #188 of 2015 – Minutes** - Resolution to approve the September 15, 2015 Common Council Minutes as amended.

Motion By: Alderman Bird  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Alderman Ken Dye** would like to make a statement regarding requests of the City to do something special. The City does not require 60 day notice. It's only required the Tuesday before the Common Council Meeting.

**Alderman Kathryn Silliman** would like to approve adding 2 more resolutions to the agenda from Mack Cook. These will be items 8 & 9. – All approved to add to agenda.

**Mayor Tobin** requested an Executive Session be added at the end of the meeting to discuss pending litigations and contract negotiations.

**Proclamation** – Mayor Tobin read the Domestic Violence Awareness Month of October

**Proclamation** – Alderman Bird read the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month of October

**Proclamation** – Mayor Tobin read the Anti-Bullying Awareness Month of October

**Resolution # 189 of 2015** – Resolution to allow Cortland Area Communities That Care to close the Marketplace Mall parking lot on Saturday, November 14 from 8 AM until 5 PM for a viewing party of the Cortaca football game. The event will take place from 11 AM-4 PM. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for patrons.

Matt Whitman stated that this event is to be a positive event to replace other Cortica events. It is to be an alternative for students and the community. They are still looking for community and business partners for the event to help out. There will be a tent set up in case of weather. He has not yet talked with the businesses within the mall but plans on doing so this week. If any of them object then the event will be canceled.

This item was temporarily tabled till paperwork was found and brought to the Council Members. Once the paperwork was found and presented, the topic was then discussed and approved.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Presentation** – was given by Mack Cook on the general idea of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

**Resolution #190 of 2015** – Resolution to award the CDBG Contract for 2014 housing rehabilitation funds.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 1 (Alderman Dutcher)

**Resolution # 191 of 2015** – Resolution to approve a HOME program grant, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, to provide grants for low to moderate income homeowners to renovate owner-occupied single family homes and, upon approval, enter into a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance.

This was done in 2009 and 2010. These are HUD grants awarded to the State. Thoma Development does not deal directly with HUD, they apply for the money through the State. There were some changes made to the application.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 1 (Alderman Dutcher)

**Resolution #192 of 2015** – Resolution to appoint Devon Rainbow for the Records Management position at an annual salary of \$400.00 effective October 2, 2015.

This position started out at \$200 in May 2013 then went up in August 2014 to \$250. This position requires weekly attention and added responsibility. The person has to work with the county and their available hours. It requires the person to have to leave City Hall for a period of time to file and/or retrieve records.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 1 (Alderman Ferguson)

**Alderman Bird** questioned why the Mayor’s new secretary did not have to be approved by the Council. Mayor Tobin explained that he asked for the hiring freeze to be lifted so he could fill the position. He needed someone to start fairly quickly to help prepare for meetings and take care of tasks in the office. He wanted consistency throughout the departments. Other department heads do not ask approval for specific people to be hired, they just ask for the hiring freeze to be lifted. Mayor Tobin asked if the council would like to add a resolution to approve the position of the Confidential Secretary, all members denied this to be added.

**Resolution # 193 of 2015** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill a vacancy by the resignation of the Part-Time Office Clerk/Deputy Registrar, for 17 hours a week at \$12.00 an hour. City Clerk Raymond A. Parker will be hiring for this position.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #194 of 2015** – Resolution to accept the following donations to the Cortland Youth Bureau Budget/ Trust Funds as indicated below:

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Event</u>
<i>Marcia S. Bulger</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>Wickwire Pool Fund</i>
<i>Laurie C. Hogan</i>	<i>\$2061.00</i>	<i>Jim Partigianoni Scholarship Fund</i>
<i>JP Brown</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>Jim Partigianoni Scholarship Fund</i>
<i>John R &amp; Bonnie L. Barker</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>Jim Partigianoni Scholarship Fund</i>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$2,711.00</b>	

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #195 of 2015** – Resolution to amend the resolution adopted on September 1, 2015 authorizing the issuance of \$3,983,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of reconstruction of the Clinton Avenue sewer and storm water system to permit the term of said Bonds to be 40 years in length.

Motion By: Alderman Dutcher  
 Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #196 of 2015** – Resolution to amend the resolution adopted on September 1, 2015 authorizing the issuance of \$2,010,000 in serial bonds to finance the cost of reconstruction of the Clinton Avenue water system to permit the term of said Bonds to be 40 years in length.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett  
 Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
 Nays – 0

**Item #10** – Discussion on Boarding Houses. (Alderman Thomas Michales) The charter is vague on this topic. He would like to target unsafe houses. Would like to make sure there is safe housing for individuals to live in. We will need to consider zoning and code enforcement, possibly even include law enforcement. Would like to possibly put in place a one year moratorium to look into reestablishing the ordinance of boarding houses. He will need to get some more information to move further with this issue.

**Executive Session:**

- Pending litigations
- Contract negotiations

Motion to go into:

By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Motion to come out of:

By: Alderman Dutcher  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Bird

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**I, RAYMOND A. 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 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 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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**RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**