



## City Council Minutes The City of Cortland February 2, 2016

Council Meeting #3

**February 2, 2016**

City Hall

7:00 pm

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Michelle Mastropolo, Katy Silliman, Bill Carpenter, Carlos Ferrer, Adam Megivern, Thomas Michales

Excused: Aldermen John Bennett, Gary Thomas

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Richard VanDonsel, Director of Administration and Finance Mack Cook, Fire Chief Charles Glover, Superintendent of WWTP Bruce Adams, City Clerk Raymond A. Parker, and Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow

### **REGULAR SESSION:**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **Public Comments:**

Tom Gobel – He has questions and concerns regarding the Fluoridation. He is scared as to what it will do to the water system and people in the City.

Steve Muka – He believes fluoridation affects many people. It is a prescription that people get from their dentist. It is not good for babies and older people. By putting it in the water, it forces people to consume it. There are a lot of side effects and it accumulates within the body. This is a time sensitive subject and not enough time has been given to the public. Dental sealants are a better and safer route to go. Other countries don't support fluoride and have good dental records.

Paul Connett – He was here 16 years ago regarding the same issue. There should be an available study from both sides of the issue. He is a chemist from Binghamton. There is a lot of Fluoride in nature. It is not safe for babies, it increases dental fluorosis, causes thyroid problems, and affects the brain. It's a Neurotoxic being added to our drinking water. He has studied the science for 22 years and is available for comments.

Mecke Nagel – She is against fluoridation. 16 years ago she was for it, but after doing research she is now against it. It's not a vitamin, it's a toxin and we should not be medicating people. The type of fluoride that is put in the water is not the same that is in toothpaste. Even the toothpaste container says "do not swallow" on it. The safety of the workers is at risk due to having to handle

the chemicals. It's manufactured in China. Many people use the water in other ways, and what will happen to the organic farms? Swimmers should not swim in water that is fluorinated. They use an Ozone to take out chemicals in the water.

Dr. Timothy Schaub – He is a Chiropractic Doctor and states fluorination is a Neurotoxin. It is dangerous for kidney disease and Hypothyroidism. Kidneys have to work twice as hard to rid the body of the toxins. This is a combination of mercury and lead and it stays in the body. Local restaurants and swimmers would be affected by this as well and many people of the community would no longer be able to eat from local restaurants.

Mike Moshkowski – He is opposed to it. It is a crystalizing salt and many Countries have banned it. Only 9 Countries use it. China manufactures it and who knows what is put into it and they don't even use it themselves. The teeth of our children are the responsibility of the parents not the City. Its peoples' right to choose if they want it or not. There are many other ways people can get fluoride if they chose to want it.

Dr. Dawn Stranges – She has a PHD in Global Wellness. Ithaca has banned fluoride in their community, Germany has banned it and France excludes it. NYSDOH promotes for their own benefits not for the people. She was impressed that Cortland did not fluoridate. There are fluoride components in some medication. There is no way to really regulate how much fluoride people are getting.

Debbie King – She is against it. There are many problems associated with fluoridation. Hyperthyroidism, joint pain, ADHD, kidney disease, male infertility, diabetes, and cancer are just a few of the problems. There are 300 studies on the effects it has on the brain. The natural fluoride that is found in soil is not the same as what is being put into the water system. How is the City going to regulate how much each person consumes when they can be getting it in other forms?

Dan King – He likes the famous quote from Jefferson, "A government that governs the least, governs the best." There are other options for people that want fluoride. He feels that the study will cost money in the long run and its tax payers' money that will go toward this.

Elsie Ferro – She has been here for 60 years and a study was done years ago. It was voted down back then. She feels this is a waste of time.

### **Ward Reports**

**Ward 1** – There is a ward meeting Wednesday night at 6:30. There will discussions on Suggett Park, the pool, 281 State project and future plans of the hospital. Michelle would like everyone to recognize that February 14<sup>th</sup> is Donate Life Day.

**Ward 2** – Katy has received a couple calls on the water issue. She encourages everyone to check out the website, Next Door Cortland. It's a good way to promote the City and Community. A couple concerns on VERTA properties. This Friday from 5-8PM the library will have art on display from local artist. The event is called, "First Friday" She has received some calls regarding a mix up with getting other people's mail. If this is happening, please call the post office.

**Ward 5** – There is a ward meeting this Thursday. Discussion on parks and code issues. There was a neighborhood watch meeting. Lighting issues within the parks and some streets were discussed. It was also discussed about speeding on Denti way.

**Ward 6** – There has been some talk regarding lighting issues, also Carlos has not been getting his messages at home. He has a messaging service that he would like people to use. 607-218-7451

**Ward 7** – Ward meeting Wednesday 7PM at 9 Main St. He would like to thank those helping to coordinate the meeting.

**Ward 8** – Still having some issues on Bartlett Ave. The Code department has been on it and hopefully it is coming to an end. There is a joint ward 8 and 5 meeting. The Mayor will be there to speak. Tom remembers 16 years ago sitting in the audience listening to the discussions on Fluoridation. The feelings and atmosphere have not changed.

**Mayor's report** – Would like to recognize Wilma Van Dee from DPW, who has recently retired after 29 years of service with the City. He would also like to recognize Chief Glover for 30 years of service with the City.

**Chief Glover** – Wants to say thank you and he is grateful for the opportunities the City has given him. He first joined the department in 1977. “Through those 40 years, I’ve been haunted by memories, many are horrific. However, those memories are offset by numerous memories of triumphant success.” He has been surrounded by many great people through the years.

**RESOLUTION #34 of 2016 – Minutes** - Resolution to approve the January 19, 2016 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Mayor Tobin asked if there could be an executive session added to the end of the agenda for litigation issues. All members agreed.**

**Item #1** - Presentation on the NYS Rural Water Association's Residential Service Line and Leak Adjustment Program.

ServLine was developed specifically for Utilities. It is a full service specialty program. The leak adjustment protection for water loss cost \$1-\$2 per customer per month. This protection will enhance the current leak policy. There is no deductible or contract to the customer. This protection will cover the cost of any leak from the street to the water meter. The customer and Utility do not pay anything out of pocket for the leaks. The water line and Sewer pipes protection is the same deal. The cost of the Water Line Protection is \$3.50-\$5.50 and the Sewer Line

Protection cost \$5-\$7 per month. The protection is up to \$10,000 for water line and an additional \$10,000 for sewer line per year. The repairs are unlimited. There is a packet of information that is sent to the customers with information and phone numbers. The home owner can choose any plumber they want to come fix the problem. ServLine would then reimburse them within 3-4 days. This is only offered to Single family, single meters with in the City.

**Item #2** - Discussion on Fluoridation.

Tiffany Kerns was present to talk about the benefits of water fluoridation in the City. There is a grant available for the City to run a study on the costs for adding the infrastructure. The water would have to be tested on a regular basis to make sure it's at the optimum level of .7 parts per million for reduction of tooth decay. The grant supports upgrading, replacing, repairing or purchasing equipment to initiate or maintain the process. Fluoride is a natural element found in plants, soil, water and air. Fluoride helps to protect and make the teeth stronger in children and helps restore lost minerals in adults to the tooth's surface. Tooth decay causes infection, extreme pain, difficulty chewing, poor weight gain, difficulty concentrating, crooked teeth, missed school hours, and costly treatments. Community water fluoridation can reduce tooth decay by 20-40% and reduce medical expenses. 44 out of 50 of the State's largest Cities have fluorinated water. New York City is 100% fluorinated. 50.1% of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Cortland County have cavities. 23.5% are untreated cavities. There is a 70 year science study backing fluoridation.

Mike Ryan spoke about the \$50,000 grant to help do a study on Fluorinated water with in the City. This would be a tool to help in the decision making process. The grant has to be turned in by February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He was an engineer for 30 years and worked in public water supply in Syracuse. He knows our current water is good because he gets the results and sees it. The City can apply for the grant now and if they decide to not go forth with it, the City can deny the study. There are no current grants for educating families and children. There are many communities adding and dropping the Fluoridation. Hopefully this grant will help upgrade and maintain the structure. This grant came out in October. It's unsure if the grant will be available next year.

Council Members still have many questions regarding the issue. It was suggested by Council members to schedule a special meeting, regarding this specific issue, to help educate on the pros and cons of having Fluorinated water in the City. There could be someone on both sides of the matter and there would be a list of specific questions that they would answer. All questions could be submitted to the City Clerk by the end of the week. It was agreed that the meeting would be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7PM in City Council Chambers.

**Resolution #35 of 2016** - Resolution to approve a contract agreement and funding for the Cortland Regional Sports Council.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #36 of 2016** - Resolution to execute a contract with Thoma Development Consultants to provide administrative and program delivery services for the City's recently awarded 2015 CDBG for Income Property Rehabilitation, pursuant to Thoma's response to the State's required request for Proposal Process.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #37 of 2016** - Resolution to approve the City of Cortland as lead agency for the Otter Creek Culvert Project per SEQR.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #38 of 2016** - Resolution to appropriate \$305.91 proceeds from the sale of spent brass shell casings collected during the 2015 Firearms Training sessions to Account A3120.416.03 for the purchase of additional ammunition and equipment for firearms training during 2016.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #39 of 2016** - Resolution to appropriate \$224.10 proceeds from a refund provided by Safariland LLC to Account A3120.416.03 to be utilized to purchase new smoke grenades.

Motioned By: Alderman Megivern  
Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #40 of 2016** - Resolution to appropriate \$336.00 proceeds from the sale of 6 vehicles from the City of Cortland Police Impound Lot, which have been classified as abandoned to Account A3120.206.00 for the purchase of a new police vehicle for 2016.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

**Item #9** - Discussion on creating tobacco free City property. (City Hall, Fire Station, DPW, the Armory, Parking Lots, Water Works, Community Center, and In vehicles on City Property)

This issue was raised for the health and safety of our staff and residents. Ithaca currently follows a code like this. The Police would enforce this and issue a summons. Signs would be posted on the properties. The Council members are interested in pursuing this. It is asked that Council email Ric any questions or concerns by the end of the week so we can move on this.

**A motion to go into executive session was made.**

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

**A motion to come out of executive session was made.**

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

It was brought to the table that due to the further consideration of the time frame, Council cannot meet that time line regarding the grant on fluoridation.

A straw poll was done to see if the special meeting for next week should continue.

Ward 1 – No  
Ward 2 – No  
Ward 5 – No  
Ward 6 – No  
Ward 7 – No  
Ward 8 – No

A straw poll was done to see if the Council wanted to pursue the Grant for testing.

Ward 1 – No  
Ward 2 – No  
Ward 5 – No  
Ward 6 – No  
Ward 7 – No  
Ward 8 – No

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 6  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016. 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**