



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland February 16, 2016

Council Meeting #4
February 16, 2016
City Hall
6:45 pm

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Aldermen Michelle Mastropolo, Bill Carpenter, Carlos Ferrer, Adam Megivern, Thomas Michales, John Bennett, Gary Thomas

Excused: Alderman Katy Silliman

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

Public Hearing

Alderman John Bennett opened the Public Hearing at 6:50 PM on amending the parking regulations in the area of Madison Street and Halbert Street.

Mark Comerford spoke in favor of this. He lives at 16 Halbert and thinks the signs are a great idea but was hoping they could be up year round and not just when school is in session. The parking on the street is an issue year round garbage trucks, ambulances, and fire trucks have difficulty in the area.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:55 PM

REGULAR SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Faye Welch stated she has lived on Sunnyfield Drive for 24 years. There is a lot of property damage from the flooding. This all started in 2008 when the high school filled in the natural wetland for a parking lot. The swamp used to contain the run off from the hillside, now there is continuous flooding on Fox Hollow, Sunnyfield, and Jackson Dr. Why didn't the City and DPW consider the ramifications of this? It became worse once the turf field was put in at the high school. Her garage and driveway have suffered damage from the constant water flow.

Tracie Johnstone stated that people have spent thousands of dollars on their property damage due to the flooding. When the City allowed Cortlandville to link into the water/sewer system, there have been more water saturation in the ditches going down Pendleton St. She feels that the City and Cortlandville need to work together to help find a solution to this problem.

Eric Riccardi lives at 1 Fox Hollow and the flooding has been an issue for 10 years. The existing piping can't handle the water flow coming from the high school. Three sides of his house are surrounded by water. He currently has 2 sump pumps in his basement to remove the water. He has gone to many City officials several times to get some answers/help with this issue but has gotten nowhere. His property value has decreased 50% due to the flooding and damage that has been done. He is glad they have an Alderman that will speak up for his constituents.

Beau Harbin spoke in favor of fluoridation. He read a statement from community general regarding the effectiveness of fluoridating water within the City. He would like the Council to consider discussing fluoridation.

Robert Strobeck spoke on behalf of the flooding issue. He resides on fox Hallow. He has complained about the high schools parking lot and turf field they put in. The water comes up out of the ground not just on top. It is a great neighborhood and the people have been dealing with this for 10 years. He would like the City and DPW to help solve this issue.

Mayor's report – Would like to recognize Maxine Butler for her 29 years of service with the City. Maxine was a crossing guard for Smith School on Wheeler Ave.

Chief Catalano – Wants to also thank Maxine for her service and present her with a certificate. The police department has enjoyed her service through the years.

Maxine Butler – Would like to thank her parents and the kids and most of all the parents of the kids for having the faith in her. She truly enjoyed her job and it meant a lot to her.

RESOLUTION #41 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the February 2, 2016 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo
Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Proclamation – Mayor Tobin read the Paint the Town Purple proclamation for the week of May 1st -7th.

Mayor Tobin stated that he does plan on having another meeting with the people regarding the flooding from the high school area.

Item #1 - Presentation on Paint the Town Purple.

Presenter was not at the meeting so it will get put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Resolution #42 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the Food Cart/Concession application for Pig Vicious BBQ to be parked on Court Street in front of Brix for the Chill-A-Bration event on Saturday February 27, 2016 from 11AM-4PM.

Alderman Michales expressed that the businesses downtown invest in the City and this has been a City law for some time now. Some owners don't like the food trucks downtown. Food trucks need a permit and permission to park in front of a business.

Alderman Thomas stated it started years ago with hot dog carts. Everyone was putting hot dog carts on the street, so they implemented the law to help control it.

Alderman Megivern stated that this is attached to an event and that the law needs to be revisited regarding food trucks/carts.

Joey Mannard is the owner and he explained that his truck is 32 feet long and will be parked on West Court Street in front of Brix Express. He has received permission from the owner to park there. He will be giving out a sample of chili and have his other foods available for purchase.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 2 (Thomas, Michales)

Resolution #43 of 2016 - Resolution to waive the \$300.00 Food Cart/Concession application fee for Pig Vicious for Saturday February 27, 2016 from 11AM – 4PM for Chill-A-Bration.

There is no fee to join in the celebration. There is about 20 vendors in the event. Joey just wants to get people aware of his business and try to get some more customers to come out to his location in Cortlandville. He would pay the fee if he was allowed to park down there more than just for this event.

Motion By: Alderman Mastropolo
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 4
Nays – 3 (Thomas, Michales, Ferrer)

Resolution #44 of 2016 - Resolution to award \$18,125 in remaining 2014 Microenterprise funds to three applicants as an increase in original awards approved by Council on January 19th in accordance with the recommendation of the City's Microenterprise Review Committee in the amounts outlined in a Memo from Thoma Development Consultants dated February 9, 2016.

Originally there were 4 applicants and one withdrew their application. The money that would've gone to them can now be distributed to the other applicants. This does not come out of tax payers' pockets, it comes from federal government grant money.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #5 – Presentation on what services Thoma provides to the City.

Rich Cunningham explained that Thoma is a Community Development Consulting Firm that specializes in planning, grant writing, and grant implementation. They currently serve customers throughout the Central NY, Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions. The City of Cortland is their biggest customer. Thoma has a Comprehensive Contract with the City of Cortland to do grant writing for housing and economic development, management of some City programs, and function as the City’s Fair Housing Office. In 2015, Thoma oversaw the renovation of over 40 City housing units, assisted 8 businesses to establish or expand (creating over 20 jobs), and secured over \$1.6 million in grant funds.

Resolution #45 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the Sound Device Permit in the amount of \$100 for multiple events for Cortland Beer Company with amplified music every Friday or Saturday during the months of April through October (weather permitting) from 6pm to 10pm.

Motion By: Alderman Michales
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #46 of 2016 - Resolution to appropriate \$1,920.00 proceeds from sale of ammunition to Account A3120.54106.03 to be utilized to purchase replacement ammunition for training and duty purposes.

Motioned By: Alderman Thomas
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #47 of 2016 - Resolution to appoint Karen Leahy to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Thomas)

Resolution #48 of 2016 - Resolution to appoint Christella Yonta, Allison Veintimilla, and Gemma Reinfield to Cortland Youth Bureau Advisory Board for a 3 year term. (Mayor Tobin)

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Thomas

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #10 – Discussion on becoming Tobacco Free Zones on City property.

Alderman Megivern had some concerns about people turning to nearby properties to smoke and then littering of cigarettes on other people’s property. They will need some where to go to smoke.

Alderman Bennett stated that it is currently in the law that there is no smoking within 25 ft. of the entrance. The littering and smoking on other people’s properties became an issue up on the hill when the College went smoke free. He suggest the City deal with issues as they come up.

Aldermen Ferrer, Michales, Mastropolo and Carpenter agree that there should be a designated spot for smokers to go so it doesn’t affect the neighbors. The question would be, who would have to clean the designated spot?

Ric VanDonsel spoke with the Chief of police and they will enforce any law that council approves. Littering is against the law and police will be watching for that as well. He will contact the health department for more information that might help. There are programs out there that employees can use to help quit smoking if they chose to.

Item #11 – Discussion on City Council Committees.

Mayor Tobin explained that in the past council members were on different adhoc committees and would report back to the council on topics. There have been Facilities, Personnel, Finance, Audit, and Housing committee. Aldermen Ferrer and Bennett are interested in being on the Finance, Personnel, and Audit Committee. Aldermen Carpenter, Bennett, Mastropolo, and Michales are interested in being on the Facilities Committee. Aldermen Silliman, Michales, Thomas, and Megivern are interested in the Housing Committee.

Item #12 - Discussion on monies in the 2016 budget allotted to Neighborhood Improvements.

Mayor Tobin explained there is \$40,000 for neighborhoods in the budget this year. It’s \$5,000 per ward. Council members should talk amongst each other to see if they want to put the money together towards a project or if each ward wants to use it within the ward. It needs to be on public property.

Alderman Mastropolo has had a couple things come up from her constituents regarding things within Ward 1 to put the money towards. One of the things they would like to see is more signage within the Ward. There is a Welcome to Cortland sign missing as you enter the City from Homer on Homer Ave.

Alderman Thomas mentioned it would be a good idea to look into dog waste station around the city for people walking their dogs. It holds bags for people to use and a container to throw the bags away after.

Item #13 – Discussion on Councils establishment of its rules and regulations.

In the past Aldermen Bennett and Michales put together a list of current concerns regarding Aldermen that were not representing their constituents/wards and were hard to get ahold of. Corporation Counsel will try to find the draft of expectations of Aldermen and share the information so it can be reviewed and revised.

A motion to go into executive session was made.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

A motion to come out of executive session was made.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

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 16th 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.

RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN