



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland March 15, 2016

Council Meeting #6

March 15, 2016

City Hall

6:45 pm

Present: Deputy Mayor John Bennett, Aldermen Michelle Mastropolo, Katy Silliman, Bill Carpenter, Carlos Ferrer, Adam Megivern, Thomas Michales

Excused: Mayor Brian Tobin

Absent: Alderman Gary Thomas

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

Public Hearing

Alderman John Bennett opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM on Tobacco Free Zones on City Property.

Erin Ladoceour— Import from Saranac Lake, SUNY alumna and now teaches there. Spoke on how she avoided areas on campus due to smoke and was relieved when SUNY went tobacco-free. Before that, she had trouble giving a cordial 'hello' to the staff who were outside the health building while they were smoking their cigarettes. Students want to quit smoking and the tobacco free law can help de-normalize smoking in the community. The ban on campus has enabled the behavior change.

Elaine Contento—Thanks the City for creating this law. Was here for smoke free parks. Had problems with smokers outside City Hall when she came to pay a bill; long time sufferer of respiratory problems. She is very happy that the City will have more tobacco free zones.

Jen Hamilton—Health educator, experienced in tobacco policy. She has worked at the Health Department for years and has a passion for the community. Feels that the tobacco-free law will make people safer. No tobacco is safe and she has programs to help people quit. Our society can reverse the pro-tobacco culture; we should not be accommodating tobacco use. She would like to thank the City for the chance to help the next generation become truly tobacco free.

Jeanette Dippo—was an RN and had a patient who was dying of lung cancer. She’s a health educator at SUNY and says it’s “Better to prevent [lung cancer] than take care of those dying from it”. It’s easier to keep good health, not just get it back. Ohio State University study found that it costs \$6000 annually to each employer for each smoker. Say there are 54 employees who smoke; potential cost to the City might be \$324,000. It just makes sense to reduce and prevent tobacco use by limiting everybody’s exposure to it.

Doug Bentley—Long time user of tobacco, after he quit was diagnosed with throat cancer, but it could have been worse if he hadn’t quit smoking. He couldn’t think of a good reason to have a cigarette. “I’ve already saved my breath when I quit, it’s time to save someone else’s breath.”

Kathryn Rhinehart and Sara Hubbard — They are on the Relay for Life at Cortland JSHS, and work with Reality Check program. The goal is to keep youth away from tobacco because of a prevalence of students smoking and using chewing tobacco. They want to help change to a tobacco free culture. Sarah spoke about how her friends smoke and she asks them not to because she’s just looking out for everyone. The Relay for Life team meets on Tuesdays to talk about ways to combat smoking.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:09 PM

REGULAR SESSION:

Deputy Mayor John Bennett called the Sixth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:09PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Comments:

Sharon Stevans—spoke on a concern with agenda item #12, list of changes, concerns over language regarding moving from a single family to a multi-family home.

William Duca—Issue with lights being on all night and shining into his window. The lights are supposed to go off at 10 pm and that has been fine for years. The new chief umpire now allows the lights to stay on. In 2012 had a meeting with the mayor, John, and Linda because lights were on till 2:45 AM and has spoken to 9 lawyers. He feels he’s gotten a “bunch of lies”. John McNerney talked with employees to ensure lights will go out. Alderman Megivern had a meeting with John to work on solving this problem. Alderman Bennett assured that the complaint has been heard and they will try to fix it. He encouraged Mr. Duca to call the City Police with any issue so that they can turn the lights off and keep a closer watch on the area.

RESOLUTION #60 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the March 1, 2016 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Mastropolo

Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Item #1 - Presentation on Big Event

Alison Barber, senior at SUNY, director of the Big Event. Every spring students take one day to clean up and help community members. Over 70 colleges have a Big Event. Cortland's will be Sunday, April 24th. Alison mentioned that there is a Face Book page to sign up. There is not currently a rain date set up. There will be no use of ladders, chairs, or electric tools by the volunteers. This is a great way for students and the community to help each other out. This day is also Community Clean-up Day in Cortland.

Resolution #61 of 2016 - Resolution to authorize the sale of miscellaneous bicycle parts to SUNY Cortland professor Kassim Kone for a lump sum of \$50.00. The Parts and will be used for his project in Africa. Donation will go to the Water Works Deer Fund.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #62 of 2016 - Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a stipulation with Natrium Products, Inc., to modify its tax assessment and settle a pending lawsuit relating thereto.

Ric VanDonsel explained that assessments change, the challenge was assessed and the proposal was approved with no refunds. The building was expensive to build due to its uniqueness.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #63 of 2016 - Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute an amended Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU Local 200 United consistent with the proposed tentative agreement.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #64 of 2016 – Resolution to approve the appointment of Jeff Gambitta to the Environmental Advisory Board for a 2-year term.

Motion by: Alderman Michales
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes—6
Nays—0

Resolution #65 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the reappointments of Stephen Pearsall to Public Safety/Dept. of Public Works Commission for a 3-year term and Kristina Gambitta to Youth Bureau for a 3-year term.

Motion By: Alderman Megivern
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #66 of 2016 - Resolution to temporarily lift the hiring freeze in order to fill the position of Maintenance Mechanic

Bruce Adams explained that a maintenance mechanic retired, so they need to replace him.

Motioned By: Alderman Mastropolo
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #67 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the Sound Device Permit for a Benefit for Gary Schmidt and Linda Stoker.

Motion By: Alderman Michales
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #68 of 2016 – Resolution to waive the \$250 fee for the Sound Device Permit for a Benefit for Gary Schmidt and Linda Stoker

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #69 of 2016 – Resolution to create the Civil Service titled position of Administration Aid full-time in the Clerk’s office, DPW, and Mayor’s office.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #70 of 2016 — Resolution to fill the position of a full time Administration Aid in the Clerk’s office, DPW, and Mayor’s office.

The pay will be split between the 3 offices. The Mayor’s office duties will be determined by the Mayor to help out other offices when needed.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #71 of 2016 — Resolution to adopt a City Policy governing the assessment of residential maintenance and improvement projects.

Alderman Silliman—housing committee wants to improve houses without raising assessment costs/property taxes.

Alderman Megivern—trying to educate and give incentives, should be more of a guide to people.

A motion was made to amend the Resolution to include: Windows, gutters, and other repairs.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

A motion was made to accept the amended Resolution

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #72 of 2016 — Resolution to suspend building permit fees through December 31st, 2016 for residential maintenance and improvements of projects of \$20,000 or less.

Chief Knickerbocker explained that this is can be for owner occupied single family residence.

A motion was made to amend the Resolution to include: owner occupied housing.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

A motion was made to accept the amended Resolution.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 1 (Alderman Ferrer)

Alderman Mastropolo — encouraged everyone to join Donate for Life because New York State is the least-registered state in the country, even though they have the highest demand for donors. Ward Meeting on April 6th at 7 PM at the Armory.

Alderman Bennett – there is a NYCOM meeting Wednesday, March 16th at 5:30 on 9 Main Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

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 15th DAY OF MARCH, 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

DEPUTY MAYOR JOHN BENNETT