



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland April 5, 2016

Council Meeting #7

April 5, 2016

9 Main Street, Beard Building

7:00 pm

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

Excused: Alderman Gary Thomas

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

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Brian Tobin called the Seventh Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:05PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was held at 9 Main St due to National Grid doing emergency work at City Hall.

Public Comments:

Debbie Gross—Euclid Ave has children who play in the street with a basketball hoop, ramps, etc. It's a danger to the children but the parents seem to not care.

Jen Hamilton—from Tobacco Free Cortland. Asks the Council to review and revise the Tobacco-Free on City Property Law to include all property, not only 25 feet limits. Potential areas between sidewalks and property may be questionable with the way it is currently proposed. There are also no consequences listed for breaking these laws. It should also include Water Works, Court house Park, and electronic cigarettes.

Tom Gobel—against fluoridation! He doesn't want his water to look like chocolate milk.

Mike Dexter—applaud Jen Hamilton for her efforts in combating tobacco use in Cortland. Says she did a great job with the Water Works. Applauds the Police Dept. for watching over the Water Works and the activity that goes on over there.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1— there is a Ward meeting at 7 pm on April 6th at the Armory. John McNerney will be there to talk about the park, playground and upcoming events. John Troy will be there to speak about the new jail. The plowing damage problems have been corrected, thank you DPW.

Ward 2— a reminder that people should make sure they are getting rid of trash in timely fashion, and pick up trash in yards as the snow melts. There was a successful meeting of the Housing Committee. Very excited for the Big Event, they are still accepting job sites. Trees from the City will be free. They will choose the correct tree for your area and teach you how to take care of it. There is a survey found on the City's website for recommendations for the downtown area. Caution of theft around the ward and reminder to keep windows and doors locked when possible.

Ward 4—there have been a number of calls about the Big Event and an excellent outcome of volunteers to work it. Senator Seward has pushed SUNY Aid program through, thanks to Mack Cook Cortland and Oneonta will each receive \$200,000 for being SUNY municipalities. This will be a pilot program.

Ward 5—Thanks to John McNerney for installing lights at Beaudry Park parking lot. There will be a joint Ward 5 and Ward 8 meeting at the end of May.

Ward 6—working on the issues on Euclid Ave as Ms. Gross presented during public comments. If there are any pothole problems, please let us know so we can let DPW know.

Ward 7—Meeting at 7 pm at Community Center on April 6th. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month. The downtown survey closes on April 15th and there will be a presentation of the findings on the 20th at 9 Main St.

Ward 8—the issue on Bartlett Ave has been resolved. There was a meeting with the owners of 55 Main Street. The meeting went well. Possible renovation tour of the building will be at a later date. Wickwire project is progressing nicely.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Big Event has almost 600 students volunteering, which is more than last year. Job sites are needed to accommodate all of the volunteers. Thanks Mike Dexter for warning signs about the ducks coming and going at Water Works. Tom O'Mara was recognized for 30 years of service on the Police Commission.

Chief Catalano – There are 3 commissioners on the commission. Tom was on the Commission for the last 30 years and acted as Chairman for the last several years.

Ric VanDonsel – update on lawsuit of landlords against the City on the Rental Permit Law; Judge Rumsey ruled in favor of the City 100%. There were several days of litigation, discovery and a lot of

exchange of paperwork. The Code office is doing a good job on the local permit law and getting good response from it.

RESOLUTION #73 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the March 15, 2016 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Proclamation: Mayor Tobin read the proclamation April is Fair Housing Month

Item #1 – Consideration of a Resolution to approve the Local Law on Tobacco Free Zones on City Property.

Motion By: Alderman Bennett
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Aldermen Megivern and Silliman expressed concerns that could lead to possibly amending the law before it gets approved. They would like it to include electronic nicotine delivery devices and to clarify where people can and cannot smoke.

A Motion to table this item was made by Alderman Ferrer, seconded by Alderman Silliman.

Tabling Approved: Ayes—7
Nays—0

Resolution #74 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the Special Event application of Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 30th at the VFW.

Norm Stitzel said they will be updating their PA system and also honoring Captain Phelps, SUNY Cortland alumni who was Killed in Action. This is a nice way to recognize the Armed services.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #75 of 2016 – Resolution to approve the Special Event application for Toys for Tots run on Sunday, May 15th on Court Street.

It will start out leaving Main St and ending at the Legion on Tompkins. Court St will be closed down for a short time while 150 motorcycles are riding through. Last year they provided for 1200 kids in Cortland County.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Abstained: Alderman Ferrer

Resolution #76 of 2016 - Resolution to authorize the use of the parking lot between the Marketplace Mall and the VFW on the following dates: 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29 for the Downtown Music Series.

Alderman Silliman expressed that this is a great tradition in Cortland that has gone on for many years.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #77 of 2016 – Resolution to approve the Street Closing permit for the Van Hoesen ‘Porch Fest’ on August 28th, 2016.

Molly Andrejko spoke about the event. It is a free community event that began in Ithaca. She and her neighbors had the idea to bring it to Cortland. Harrison to Chestnut Street will be closed for families to attend, walking from house to house for entertainment, games, and music. It will run from 12-5 PM and there will be a donation station to benefit the Youth Bureau music program. Many of the surrounding neighbors that will be affected directly have been notified, there are a few more that she is trying to reach out to. Currently, there have been no issues.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes—7
Nays—0

Resolution #78 of 2016 - Resolution to waive the \$250.00 fee for amplified music for ‘Porch Fest’ on August 28th, 2016.

Molly said they want the fee waived since they are only private citizens, and any donations they get for the event would have to go straight to the amplified music fee. They are going to try their best to ensure the music in which an amplifier will be used will still be as quiet as acoustic music.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #79 of 2016 - Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit to Meredith Bensen for chickens.

There will be four chickens, all hens. The chickens are Jersey Reds and Mrs. Bensen’s husband is building the “Taj Mahal” of chicken coops. They will be using the eggs for food.

Motioned By: Alderman Michales
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #80 of 2016 - Resolution to accept and appropriate various donations.

Thanks to those who donated.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #81 of 2016 – Resolution to appoint Bill Starr to the Fire Commission for a 3-year term and the reappointment of Bonnie Heath to Fire Commission for a 3-year term.

Thank you for volunteering your service.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #82 of 2016 – Resolution to appoint Patricia Hansen to the Police Commission for a 3-year term.

Thank you for volunteering your service.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #83 of 2016 — Resolution to authorize the issuance of a bond in the amount of \$2.3 million dollars for upgrades to the Water Plant.

Mack and Mayor Tobin explained this is Round 2 of the process to gain the grant. The EFC grant was applied for in order to obtain a new air stripper, and change the way the water is chlorinated. There will be a good chance of getting the grant if the package is completely put together.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Megivern

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #84 of 2016 — Resolution to authorize the publication in the City’s official newspapers, the Estoppel Notice pertaining to the issuance of \$2.3 million dollar bond for upgrades to the water plant.

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Mastropolo

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #85 of 2016 — Resolution to authorize the issuance of a bond in the amount of \$3 million dollars for the South Side Drainage Project.

The goal is to fix the problems on Fox Hollow, Sunny Field, Pendleton St. Constituents are very happy with this.

Motioned By: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #86 of 2016: Resolution to authorize the publication in the City’s official newspapers the Estoppel notice pertaining to the issuance of \$3 million dollars in bonds for the South Side Drainage Project.

Motion By: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded By: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes—7
Nays—0

Resolution #87 of 2016: Resolution to adopt the 2016 Miscellaneous Revenue Budget.

Mack Cook explained this budget is allocated from past settlements, but the allocation has now waned. Several of the items that have been funded out of this money have been moved to General Fund and historical support. In the 2017 budget, the council will be free from 30 year obligations in which they cannot seek any new money. New programs will be able to be funded for this.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes—7
Nays—0

Resolution #88 of 2016: Resolution to approve the solicitation of proposals to study the feasibility of a two-way Main Street.

Alderman Silliman said there was a recent survey where people said they were for it. It is confusing to people from out of town who wish to enter onto Main St. Alderman Bennett discussed past studies were done on parking, but not on the two-way Main Street. Alderman Carpenter stated this study will take into consideration traffic patterns, traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, increased commercial activity, and reventilation of Main St.

Motion By: Alderman Silliman
Seconded By: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes—7
Nays—0

Item #17 - Discussion on setting a date for a public hearing on Declaration of surplus property.

This includes the landlocked parking lot on Central Ave. The date was set for the next Common Council meeting on 4/19 at 6:30 PM.

Item #18 - Discussion on setting a date for public hearing on amending the Local Law on Fire Lanes.

This is to address some concerns for current fire lane areas that are marked but cannot be ticketed for. With doing this, the Police and Code officers will be able to ticket people for parking in these areas. The public hearing was set for the next Common Council Meeting on 4/19 at 6:40 PM.

Mayor Tobin asked if Council would like to set a date and time for the Tobacco Law. A second tobacco law Public Hearing was set for the next Common Council meeting on 4/19 at 6:50 PM.

Item #19 - SEQR on the upgrades to the Water Plant project. No negative impact found.

Item #20 - SEQR on the South Side Drainage Project. No negative impact found.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

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 5th DAY OF APRIL, 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