



## City Council Minutes The City of Cortland November 15, 2016

Council Meeting #21  
**November 15, 2016**  
25 Court Street  
6:30 PM

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

Excused: Alderman Gary Thomas

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

### **Public Hearings:**

1 - Alderman Bennett opened the Public Hearing on adopting a Local Law changing § 289-6 B (3) of the Cortland Code of Ordinances by increasing maximum allowable pH of sewage discharge from 10.0 to 12.2 at 6:30PM.

No one was present to speak on the matter.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:32PM.

2 - Alderman Bennett opened the Public Hearing on the 2017 proposed budget for Wastewater Department at 6:35PM.

No one was present to speak on this matter.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:36PM.

3 - Alderman Bennett opened the Public Hearing on the 2017 proposed budget for Water Department at 6:40PM.

No one was present to speak on this matter.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:41PM

4 – Alderman Bennett opened the Public Hearing to reduce the speed limit on the length of Graham Ave from Groton Ave to Prospect Terrace to 20 MPH at 6:45 PM.

Jo Schaffer was present to speak on the matter. She expressed that the students do not cross safely due to running to catch a bus or just trying to get to class. Visibility is not good up there especially when the buses are parked to pick up students. She feels that the whole hill should be at a reduced speed because it is a school and it would be safer for everyone.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:48PM

5 – Alderman Bennett opened the Public Hearing on the 2017 proposed budget for General Funds at 6:50PM.

No one was present to speak on this matter.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:51PM

6 – Alderman Bennett opened the Public Hearing on prohibiting parking on the entire South Side of Warren St. West of Pearl St at 6:55PM.

Jo Schaffer was present to speak on this matter. She read a letter from her neighbor Vincent Picerno. They both feel that there should be no parking on the street due to how narrow it is. It is a 20ft wide street. Currently cars park there 7 days a week all hours of the day. Trucks back up to the fence and use the truck to jump the fence. Vehicles try to make a 3 point turn and end up on the resident's lawns due to no room to turn around.

Paul Newbauer was also present to speak on this matter. He would also like to see the street be no parking on either side. The residents that live there are the ones affected by all the cars parking down there.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:03PM.

#### **REGULAR SESSION:**

Mayor Brian Tobin called the twenty-first Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:04 PM.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **Public Comments:**

No one signed up to speak.

#### **Mayors Report:**

Mayor Tobin spoke about the last line in the Pledge of Allegiance. People should listen to others and try to understand where they are coming from. Not everyone feels the same way about topics. We try to find the best solution for everyone when an issue comes up whether it impacts one person or a bunch of people.

#### **Proclamation:**

Mayor Tobin read the Proclamation – Small Business Saturday (November 26, 2016)

Mayor Tobin also spoke about the annual Tree Lighting event that will take place on November 26, 2016 at 6PM. There will be milk, cookies and Santa. Everyone was encouraged to come down to City Hall and partake in the festivities.

**Resolution #261 of 2016** - Resolution to approve the November 1, 2016 Common Council Minutes as presented.

Motion By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Mayor Tobin asked for Council’s approval to add an agenda item at the end of the agenda. All agreed.**

**Item #1** – Consideration of a Resolution to waive the vacant building fees for 10 Winter St.

The property is in disrepair and the owner wants to put it into occupancy in January. Corporation Counsel asked that the Resolution be amended to say suspend fees and add a time limit.

Motioned By: Alderman Bennett  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

**Resolution #262 of 2016** – Resolution to suspend the vacant fees for 10 Winter St until March 1, 2017.

Motioned By: Alderman Ferrer  
Seconded By: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Item #2** – Set a date for a public hearing on Local law “Tobacco Use on City Property”

The Public Hearing will be December 6, 2016 at 6:50PM

**Item #3** – Set a date for a public hearing on Local Law to amend section 220 of the City Code regarding the clean-up of former methamphetamine lab properties.

This is to help with the safety of those living in dwelling units. It will be the landlord’s responsibility to pay for the required clean up.

The Public Hearing will be December 6, 2016 at 6:55PM

**Resolution #263 of 2016** – Resolution by which the City of Cortland establishes Standard Work Days for elected and appointed officials, will report the following days worked to the New York

State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the record of standard activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the Clerk of this body and posted to the public for a minimum of thirty (30) days.

Mayor Tobin	17.25 Days
Alderman Megivern	6.08 Days
Alderman Ferrer	1.08 Days

Motioned By: Alderman Silliman  
Seconded By: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #264 of 2016** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to hire 1 Police Officer.

This is to offset a portion for the COPS Hiring Grant that the City was awarded.

Motioned By: Alderman Carpenter  
Seconded By: Alderman Ferrer

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Mayor Tobin asked what the Council wanted to do in regards to the proposed budgets. It was discussed that they shall be voted on at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned 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 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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**