



## City Council Minutes January 7, 2003

The City of Cortland, New York

**COUNCIL MEETING #1**  
**January 7, 2003**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**  
**City Hall**  
**7:30PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Mary E. Leonard  
Alderman Faraoni, Tobin, Morey, Guido, Partigianoni, Quail, Testa, and Hennessy

Staff present: City Clerk, William J. Wood, Corporation Counsel Mark Suben, Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one to speak.

### MINUTES of December 17, 2002

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

### BILLS

Received.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Leonard thanks the DPW for a job well done. There was a guilty verdict in the frat house fire. The Mayor was concerned about the comments made by the defense attorney with regard to the City of Cortland's Police and Fire Depts.

In the future, Garry VanGorder and David Yaman would like to approach the Council regarding parking scenarios. Thoma Development is working on the Community Block Grant application. The focus is on downtown.

The Mayor had asked the Council what they would like to do regarding the sign donation. Alderman Quail feels the cost would be more. The Council agrees to have the Mayor write a letter thanking the donor but the City is not in a position financially to do that. Alderman

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Hennessy notes it is a very generous offer. The Mayor discusses the contract Cortlandville has with the City's recreation department. There has been a set fee for non-residents to use our facilities. Over the past year we felt an increase was appropriate. When we contacted Cortlandville to tell them of the increase, they stated they were still only going to give the City \$9,000.00. Andy has contacted the Town Board and told them while we're negotiating this, we will continue to provide service. The Council should decide if the City wants to continue to provide service at the lower rate or stick with the increase.

Last year we did alternate meeting locations. With the new sound system this may be difficult but if there is any requests please pass them on to the Mayor's office.

## WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

Thanks the First Night Committee for the wonderful job they did and the DPW for the great job during the two storms.

Ward 2 – Alderman Tobin

He supports the Cortland Fire Department. The language used by the NYC attorney was highly inappropriate. The DPW has done a great job. He wants to add to the agenda a discussion to lay on the table an act to create a City Water Department, which is owned and operated by the City of Cortland, and to establish a local law so the Council can vote on it at the next meeting.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

Thanks the First Night Committee. She received an interesting call from a constituent that received a call from the Code Department stating her sidewalk had not been shoveled. Alderman Morey thought that was odd because her husband had shoveled the sidewalk for this individual. She went by the property and the sidewalk had been shoveled. The Code Department did make an error and they corrected it. The Code Office has been flooded with calls about people not shoveling.

She had someone ask about the walk signal on Main and Court St. It takes a long time for the walk to come up. Public Safety will look into this.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

Thanks to all involved for approving the street light on his street. Everything has been quiet.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

Wishes Mr. & Mrs. Cochran, (also known as Mr. & Mrs. Santa) a healthy retirement. Thanks to Mike Dexter for the good job on the lights. January 9, at 4:00 pm is the public safety meeting and one of the topics is the visibility problem on Pendleton St. and Northcliffe. Please feel free to attend the meeting. First Night was a success.

Ward 6 – Alderman Testa

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He has had calls about the snow but the DPW has been doing a good job. The First Night ceremony was a success. He has received calls about the crows. He thinks we need to do something with the crows like sterilizing them or we are going to be like other communities. This is going to be a big problem. He also asks about the feasibility study. The Council has not seen anything yet. This is taking much longer than anticipated. He would like to see the Council's time changed to 7:00pm.

**RESOLUTION #1** of 2003 – Resolved to start the Common Council meetings at 7:00PM.

By: Alderman Testa  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays - 0

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

Crows are a big problem. The State engineer corrected the lights by the Holiday Inn. He changed the timing and sequence. His constituents are saying it is better.

Ward 8 – Alderman Hennessy

First Night was a nice event. The fireworks were impressive. She has received a lot of calls with concerns regarding the snow and the secondary streets, which are still snow covered. This is going to be an ongoing problem. She attended a tenants association meeting at 51 Port Watson St. The tenants are very concerned about snow removal on the sidewalks in that area.

## AGENDA

**RESOLUTION #2** of 2003 – authorizing a Community Development Loan pursuant to the recommendation of the Loan Committee.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Tobin

Mr. Wayne Allen will be opening up a bistro on the corner of what used to be the Upper Crust. The loan committee met and looked at the menus and his background and this is going to be a real exciting project for him. The Mayor hopes he has a great deal of success in the immediate future. He is looking to open in the spring.

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #3** of 2003 – designating the Cortland Standard as the official newspaper of the City of Cortland.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Tobin

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Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION # 4** of 2003 – Consideration of the Resolution designating the following as bank depositories for City funds: Alliance Bank, Key Bank of New York, Chase Manhattan Bank, HSBC Bank USA, MBIA – Class, M& T Bank.

By: Alderman Guido  
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #5** of 2003 – designating Andrew J. Damiano and Carol D. Sonnacchio as the signators on all accounts.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #6** of 2003 – Reappointment of Wilma VanDee as Commissioner of Deeds.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #7** of 2003 – Confirmation of the appointment of Suzanne Etherington and Theresa Quail to the Landscape & Design Commission.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #8** of 2003 – approve the request submitted by the Youth Bureau for two employees to attend a course on basic sign language.

By: Alderman Testa  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Alderman Faraoni asks the Council if anything under \$100.00 should really come to us. He thinks Andy can take care of this. Alderman Tobin states it only takes 5 seconds to pass it.

On the motion of Comm. Faraoni, seconded by Comm. Hennessy, voted,

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Anything under \$100.00 Andrew Damiano would automatically take care of.

Alderman Morey has to agree with Ken. The whole point of this is to know where the City employees are going. Alderman Partigianoni feels the Council spends too much time on trivial matters. He states the City has a \$13,000,000. budget and we shouldn't be wasting time on \$20.00.

On the question.

Alderman Faraoni, Partigianoni, and Hennessy, voting Aye. Alderman Morey, Tobin, Guido, Quail, & Testa voting Nay.

Motion defeated.

On the original question,

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

Item No. 8 – (Add on, Tobin) Discussion on the implementation of the Home Rule Bill.

Alderman Tobin notes most of the Law seems to be in place but some language needs to be added. The powers and duties of the Water Board need to read, "subject to Common Council approval", under "C" needs to read "Common Council approval". Section "D" should read, "Any discussion involving the water department superintendent shall require Common Council approval". Alderman Tobin would like this accepted and placed on the table in its amended form.

Alderman Quail knows where this is going but is not sure if this is the right approach. Alderman Morey feels we should not treat the Water Department differently than the other departments. A brief discussion ensues regarding policy issues, operational issues, and the role of the water commissioners. Alderman Testa feels personal matters for this department should be the same as any other department.

The Council agrees to schedule a public hearing for January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers. The local law to create a City Water Department, which is owned and operated by the City of Cortland, is placed on the table.

Alderman Partigianoni does not disagree with this. This makes sense and it should be this way. He is not doing this because of fluoride.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations.

By: Alderman Testa  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

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Motion to come out of Executive Session and into the regular scheduled meeting.

By: Alderman Guido  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #9** of 2003 – to approve the agreement with SEIU Local 200B.

By: Alderman Guido  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni  
Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Adjournment**

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**I, WILLIAM J. WOOD CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 7th DAY OF JANUARY 2003. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.**

**WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK**

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