

January 15, 2002

A meeting of the Common Council was held on January 15, 2002 at 7:30 PM in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Mary E. Leonard
Council Members Faraoni, Tobin, Morey, Guido, Quail, Testa, Partigianoni and Hennessy
City Clerk, William J. Wood
Deputy City Clerk, Jodi M. McLyman
Corporation Counsel, James J. Baranello
Director of Administration & Finance, Andrew J. Damiano

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 followed by a salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Josephine Caratelli of 96 Clinton Avenue speaks regarding the blue bag issue. She is happy the County decided to go to recycling. She compacts her garbage into the one-dollar bag. The City has since decided to not use the one-dollar bag therefore she will have to hold her garbage for one month instead of two weeks. She asks the Council to look into this issue.

Albert Rosato of Cortland voices his displeasure with the cancellation of the small blue bags. He talks about the increase in the bags.

Steve Muka of Cortland speaks with regard to a skating rink for Courthouse Park. Recently in Homer they put out a liner and they now have ice. It is something good that doesn't cost very much. It would be good for the City's image. He believes volunteers were located last year. He feels it would be a nice tradition. He asked that this be added to tonight's agenda.

MINUTES

Council Member Hennessy asks that the minutes of December 18, be changed to read: Pg. 4. In boundaries would keep the ward, and Pg. 6 "newspaper report".

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Tobin, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2001 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor introduces to the Council her assistant Jane Witty and also a student from Wells College, Samantha Schenk. Samantha graduated from Homer High School and she is studying government from the City level. She welcomes all the Council Members to visit with her and share her experiences with her.

The Mayor has appointed Kathleen Hennessy as the Deputy Mayor. She also recognizes the efforts of the Cortland YWCA. They have been awarded from the Komen foundation a grant for their patient support program. The Komen Foundation is affiliated with breast cancer and the grant is for \$7,900.00. She recognizes the effort of the Cortland City Improvement Corp. There

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are new garbage bins downtown. It's indicated in an article in the Cortland Standard that small things make a difference and they do. The Mayor has met with the Department Heads and has asked them to begin planning. She is asking the Council Members to do the same, and to encourage the Department Heads in this area. She feels the need to do planning and budgeting early on is important. This will help for fiscal planning and also for improvements to the City. The Mayor also asks the Council Members to take a look in their wards for anyone who has improved their property so we can give them recognition.

Mayor Leonard will be having meetings with Dr. Lutz, Superintendent of Cortland Schools, the Student Government At SUNY, senior citizens, local labor individuals, people with disabilities, veterans and other business groups. The idea being to have different people come in and share their perspectives with us. Ideally it would be nice if they could come to Council meetings.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Council Member Faraoni

He is requesting a streetlight at the end of Chestnut Street. It is on the dead end and it is very dark. The sidewalk in front of Suggett Park on Madison Street is in terrible disrepair and he is requesting this get repaired.

Andrew Damiano states there is money in the bond for this.

Ward 2 – Council Member Tobin

Welcomes the new Council Members. Thanks the people who took part in the First Night Event.

Ward 3 – Council Member Morey

The birds have moved into her ward. She has concerns with regard to the tree removal taking place in the water works. Mr. Wood, an employee of the water works, assured her it was only dead trees. They were cleaning up for the Empire State Games.

Ward 4 – Council Member Guido

He has a lady that was concerned about the blue bags. She is an elderly lady who uses them. She also wanted to know if they could change the parking in front of the YWCA from 12 minute to 2 hours.

Mayor Leonard states this will be referred to the Public Safety Commission for their review.

Ward 5 – Council Member Quail

The crows are in the 5th ward. He feels a dog run should be established in the City for people to exercise their animals. He is having a ward meeting January 29, 2002 at the Cortland Youth Bureau at 7:00 PM. He feels an ice skating rink would be a nice addition to downtown.

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Ward 6 – Council Member Testa

He had a call regarding the amount of traffic and the rate of traffic traveling down Miller Street. Bob Spada didn't feel there was anything going on and traffic is allowed to go down there because of the right-of-ways. There are no lights on the Southeast corner of Hickory Park. There are a lot of people that walk and it is very dark. He is also going to have a ward meeting on February 6, 2002 at 7:00PM at the Grange.

This will also be referred to the Public Safety Commission.

Ward 7 – Council Member Partigianoni

He also had 3 complaints on the small blue bags. Mayor Leonard asks this be put on the agenda for the next meeting. He had two people concerned about tree removal. He spoke to Mike Preston regarding same. The pigeons over at the Rubbermaid building are a nuisance. Someone feeds them in this location. He has a constituent complain about the traffic trying to get from Rickard Street to Clinton Ave.

Ward 8 – Council Member Hennessy

The crows have moved out of the 8th ward. The college is also getting some of the birds in the tall trees. Any suggestions would be welcome. The free training that the State is offering is very worthwhile if anyone is interested.

AGENDA

Item No. 1 – Consideration of a Resolution designating the Cortland Standard as the official newspaper of the City of Cortland.

On the motion of Council Member Guido, seconded by Council Member Morey, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVED DESIGNATING THE CORTLAND STANDARD AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND.

Item No. 2 – Consideration of the Resolution designating the following as bank depositories for the City funds:

Alliance Bank
Key Bank of New York
Chase Manhattan Bank
HSBC Bank, USA
MBIA-Class
M & T Bank

On the motion of Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Faraoni, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVED DESIGNATING THE ABOVE BANKS AS DEPOSITORIES FOR THE CITY FUNDS.

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Item No. 3 – Consideration of a Resolution designating Andrew J. Damiano and Carol D. Sonnacchio as the signators on all accounts.

On the motion of Council Member Quail, seconded by Council member Testa, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVED DESIGNATING ANDREW J. DAMIANO AND CAROL D. SONNACCHIO AS THE SIGNATORS ON ALL ACCOUNTS.

Item No. 4 – Consideration of the Mayor’s appointment of the following individuals as Commissioners of Deeds:

- Anthony Camilli
- Jacqueline K. Henry
- William J. Wood
- Janice E. Kline

On the motion of Council Member Partigianoni, seconded by Council Member Hennessy,

Council Member Tobin asks they be separated and approved individually. The Mayor responds “No, because that is not what’s before you”.

Council Member Hennessy states that a Commissioner of Deeds is very limited.

On the question:

Council Member Faraoni	No	Council Member Quail	No
Council Member Tobin	No	Council Member Testa	No
Council Member Morey	No	Council Member Partigianoni	No
Council Member Guido	No	Council Member Hennessy	Yes

Motion is denied.

The Mayor asks if anyone would like to make another motion. Except for Mr. Wood, these were all requested by the Motor Vehicle Department.

Council Member Tobin requests to approve Anthony Camilli, Jacqueline K. Henry and Janice E. Kline who work for the Department of Motor Vehicles and approve their appointment for Commissioners of Deeds. Motion was seconded by Council Member Faraoni, voted and carried,

RESOLVED TO APPROVE ANTHONY CAMILLI, JACQUELINE K. HENRY AND JANICE E. KLINE WHO WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND APPROVE THEIR APPOINTMENT FOR COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS.

Council Member Hennessy requests that William J. Wood be appointed as Commissioner of Deeds, seconded by Council Member Partigianoni, voted,

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Council Member Faraoni	No	Council Member Quail	No
Council Member Tobin	No	Council Member Testa	No
Council Member Morey	No	Council Member Partigianoni	Yes
Council Member Guido	No	Council Member Hennessy	Yes

Motion is denied.

Item No. 5 – Introduction of a request submitted by Bill Cleary to amend the zoning of his property located at 8 Grant Street from R3 to Service District; and authorizing the referral of said report to the ZBA, City Planning Board, and County Planning Board for their review and recommendation.

Council Member Hansen submitted a letter of request. This is strictly on the agenda to notify the Common Council.

No action is requested on this.

Item No. 6 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the payment of \$440.00 to Donald Ames, the City’s official clock winder, for services for the period of 1999-2002; and further authorizing the appropriation of said fund from the Contingency Fund.

On the motion of Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Hennessy, voted and carried,

Council Member Hennessy explains the last time he was paid was four years ago.

RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF \$440.00 TO DONALD AMES, THE CITY’S OFFICIAL CLOCKWINDER, FOR SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF 1999-2002; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF SAID FUND FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND.

Item No. 7 – Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Robert M Shafer to the Water Board.

On the motion of Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Faraoni,

Mayor Leonard notes that Mr. Shafer is present to answer any questions the Council might have.

Motion to table by Council Member Faraoni, seconded by Quail, voted and carried, Council Member Hennessy and Council Member Partigianoni voting No.

Item No. 8 – Discussion regarding the recommendation of the Reapportionment Committee.

Mayor Leonard notes Trish Hansen’s letter and the map attached. The County without seeking any input from the City, and apparently the Chairman of the Legislature Mr. Harrington not returning Council Member Hennessy’s phone calls has in effect altered some wards by having some streets chopped off and split into different voting districts. The City has a different recommendation. The City does have the power to adopt a different map from that which was

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adopted by the County. The problem is that some people could end up voting in County elections in one place and City elections in another. The response to the challenge could be as late as June or July.

Council Member Hennessy explains she has received no response from her letter that she hand carried to the County. A brief discussion ensues concerning the County's ability to amend its plan and time frames within which action must be complete. The Council agrees to direct the Mayor to send a letter to the County requesting them to consider amending their action to incorporate the City's proposed changes.

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Faraoni, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:15PM.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolutions were presented to the Mayor in the time required and were approved by her.