



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

January 18, 2005

COUNCIL MEETING #2
January 18, 2005
Regular Business Meeting
City Hall
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Gallagher
Alderman Guido, Morey, Terwilliger, Faraoni, Quail, Feiszli,
Partigianoni and Michaels

Staff Present: Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano
Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker and
City Clerk John O. Reagan

Mayor Gallagher calls the second Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Dexter of the Landscape and Design Committee speaks to let the Council know that Niagara Mohawk representatives will be in town soon doing tree trimming in various areas. Jim Beadoin will be meeting with the Mayor to go over the areas they will be in. Mike Dexter outlined what areas will be trimmed and expects that the City will hear from citizens. Mike Dexter compliments Jim Murphy for working so closely with the City. Makes a point of mentioning Hubbard Street will have heavy trimming. NIMO is willing to take down some trees after contacting the owners and getting their permission and that will save the City money.

MINUTES of the January 4, 2005.

RESOLUTION #5 OF 2005 – Approve the minutes of January 4, 2005.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

BILLS

Bills are reviewed and received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor met with the Cortland Regional Sports Council. This organization was formed to attract sporting events to Cortland. They have fifteen events planned from February through August. Local business will have an opportunity to participate as either as volunteers or as sponsors. This is a huge community organization, the college is involved, the community, the Chamber, the Visitors' Bureau. He spoke with the Downtown Businessmen's Association and outlined the downtown façade program, the \$650,000 grant that was received and since that time another \$200,000 for downtown/Main Street revitalization through the Governor's office through Cortland Housing Assistance. He and Mr. Damiano met with Thoma Development last week as discussed the strategies of how the money would be distributed to the downtown business owners. Met with the new Executive Director of the YMCA, Don Kline; attended the BBCIDA meeting; was a guest of Eric Mulvihill at WXHC radio last week on Meet Cortland County; attended the Firemen's Annual Dinner at the American Legion; attended a meeting with Bernie Thoma, the Chamber of Commerce, DBA, SUNY President concerning the Community/College Partnership Program. Also attended a meeting with SUNY President Biderbaum and the college faculty, Thoma Development, Chamber, BBCIDA, and downtown property owners to discuss the probability of a SUNY Cortland locating in the Downtown Business District with proposed classrooms, offices and faculty housing. They are interviewing for 27 spots on the faculty right now. He attended a Cortland County Health Department breakfast re: the community tobacco survey and attitudes towards and behaviors related to tobacco use in Cortland County. He attended the Cortland Business Network meeting and had several discussions with the Downtown Business Owners regarding the limited two hour parking. This issue will need to be addressed.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

He attended the Firemen's Annual Dinner at the American Legion. The meal and the speakers were excellent. The Ward has been quiet perhaps due to the cold.

Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

She received a couple of calls and an e-mail, that the parking spots on Groton Avenue on the agenda tonight be removed. She also received a call to keep them. She spoke with the Groton Avenue business owners and Elk Lodge members and provided them with a copy of the traffic report and tonight's agenda for their review. She spoke with Doug Moss re: parking spaces downtown, as well and looking forward to hearing suggestions after the DBA's next meeting.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

A first, all is quiet in the Third Ward. No problems, but there is one pothole at the end of Groton Avenue.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

He had two calls from the same individual on King Lane re: people parking in front of her driveway and on her lawn when Barry School has been letting out. Police contacted and they will try to get down there. He also has had some questions about parking at the High School and has spoken with Mr. Knickerbocker about that. He has polled the people in his Ward about the removal of the parking spaces on Groton Ave. and he only had two that were in favor of keeping them.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

Fairly quiet. He is going to cancel his Ward meeting for next week because he has a business trip he needs to take. He will be rescheduling.

Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

The Ward has been quiet. She has run into people who have spoken of the Groton Ave. parking. Her next Ward meeting is going to be a 27 N. Church St., January 20 at 7PM. She read from a newspaper article re: switching plans and cutting funds in the HUD community effort. She drafted a resolution, "Whereas the City of Cortland has benefited from Community Development Block Grants and other HUD funding for many important project and whereas those projects include funds that have permitted income eligible senior citizens to repair and keep their homes, provided assistance for small businesses and aided with the development and rehabilitation of Cortland's downtown, and whereas it appears that President Bush's proposing to significantly change or reduce the funding for such programs and the way that they are administered and whereas these proposed changes would likely work to the detriment of Cortland and our city's community development efforts, now be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Cortland opposes any actions that would reduce or eliminate available funding for these valuable and important community development programs and be it further resolved that the Mayor send a copy of this resolution to President Bush, Senator Schummer, Senator Clinton and Congressman Boehlert expressing the Council's opposition for any such action by the President and the U.S. Congress." (The Mayor indicated that this would be added to the agenda.)

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He has been busy with the Community Center and attended the dinner at the Volunteer Annual Dinner at the American Legion. An enjoyable event and there were several discussions regarding the parking on Groton Ave. He attended the monthly DPW meeting. They are \$41,000 over budget, which is not bad considering the \$11,000 fuel cost increases, also the \$20,000 for machine repair. They had to get rid of a grader that could no longer be repaired. They also were

\$10,000 over budget for overtime. It should be noted that the DPW is doing a good job, but the problem was he received calls questioning the scheduling of their servicing of various areas. He indicated that some areas did receive priority treatment, such as the hospital and the schools and the fire lanes before they go to the secondary streets. It was also announced at that meeting, should the bonding be approved, that DPW is anticipating that ten (10) streets will be paved this year. Four (4) of them are high on the list in the 7th Ward. He received a complaint that his street was not good and within an hour the DPW had gotten to the street and the constituent was happy. He thinks the DPW does a good job.

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

He attended the public forum on January 11, 2005 at the County Office Building that was presented by Dr. Mary McGuire of SUNY Cortland. He wished that more of the public had attended that meeting and the public had voiced their opinions during the question and answer session. He attended the Cortland Fire Department Annual Dinner at the American Legion. It was very enjoyable and presentations and awards were given. He received some calls last night regarding the Groton Avenue parking spaces and most of them were mixed calls with other issues. He spent some of his own time evaluating the traffic light timing on Groton Avenue and Main Street, etc.

RESOLUTION #6 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Thoma Development to perform program delivery and administrative services for the FY2004 Community Development Block Grant. (Information on program outline presented by Linda Armstrong of Thoma Development.)

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Consideration of the following actions relating to the proposed East End Community Center Project:

RESOLUTION #7 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the Crown City Sports Center, LLC for the use of the property located at 46 Elm Street, contingent upon approval of Corporation Counsel.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #8 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution appropriating \$10,667 in Community Development Program Income to assist in funding the Center.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #9 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution confirming the Mayor's reappointments and appointment of the attached list of individuals to various boards and commissions.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #10 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution, Whereas the City of Cortland has benefited from Community Development Block Grants and other HUD funding for many important project and whereas those projects include funds that have permitted income eligible senior citizens to repair and keep their homes, provided assistance for small businesses and aided with the development and rehabilitation of Cortland's downtown, and whereas it appears that President Bush's proposing to significantly change or reduce the funding for such programs and the way that they are administered and whereas these proposed changes would likely work to the detriment of Cortland and our city's community development efforts, now be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Cortland opposes any actions that would reduce or eliminate available funding for these valuable and important community development programs and be it further resolved that the Mayor send a copy of this resolution to President Bush, Senator Schummer, Senator Clinton and Congressman Boehlert expressing the Council's opposition for any such action by the President and the U.S. Congress.

Motion to table this resolution until the February 1, 2005 meeting agenda.

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #11 OF 2005 – Approval of a resolution amending Section 11-66(6) of the Code of Ordinances in order to eliminate three (3) parking spaces located in the vicinity of 13 Groton Avenue.

Discussion ensued: Barbara Gage of Barsonni's Pizza made statements, answered questions and presented petitions with about 250 signatures in regard to keeping the three parking spaces in the vicinity of 13 Groton Avenue. Alderman Morey expressed concern regarding safety of both vehicles making left turns out of Groton Avenue parking area and people exiting their cars into the traffic flow. Public Safety Committee had four (4) representatives and Pat O'Meara spoke to the history and reasoning behind his committee's recommendation for the removal of the parking spaces. Alderman Michales conducted his own survey of the traffic and timing of the traffic lights in that area. He feels there is a definite problem with the timing of the lights at the Groton Ave. and Main St. intersection and safety. Alderman Morey asked how many accidents have occurred in this area? Pat O'Meara said there had been intersection accidents, but did not know of any resulting from the parking along the section of Groton Ave. in question. It was stated that a study should be done in regards to the ability to make left turns out of that parking lot.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7 (Faraoni, Terwilliger, Guido, Quail, Feiszli, Partigianoni, Michales)
Nays – 1 (Morey)

Executive Session

On the motion of Alderman Terwilliger, seconded by Alderman Faraoni, voted and carried.

RESOLVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER.

On the motion of Alderman Terwilliger, seconded by Alderman Morey, voted and carried.

RESOLVED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INTO THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

I, JOHN O. REAGAN, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2005. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN – CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER