

City Council Minutes

The City of Cortland

February 15, 2005

COUNCIL MEETING #4

February 15, 2005

Regular Business Meeting

City Hall

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Alderman Guido, Morey, Terwilliger, Faraoni, Quail,
Feiszli, Partigianoni and Michales

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

Corporation Counsel Larence Knickerbocker calls the fourth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Agate stated that he was last here at a November 2004 meeting and has been unable to come since. He had asked Alderman Terwilliger to mention the plight of Maple Avenue and the concern with the garbage dumpster issue. He came to see if anything has been checked into legally. He does not wish to have it banded by having a fence put around it. The gentleman/corporation next door to him is bringing in garbage from multiple residences and dumping it within sight of his backyard. He feels that something could be legislated or enacted that says that a resident can only dump garbage that they generate on that property, not bring it in from the entire city. What progress has the Common Council made? There is a dumpster next door to him that is full, and when it gets full, the individual puts boards in the side and puts in more. It attracts rats, crows and skunks. (shows pictures of his car parked next to dumpster) It's filthy, unhealthy and not safe. He can't wait and wait and wait for a decision to be made. Code enforcement has been there and their explanation is, yes, we can talk to him; yes, we tried to get a resolution; yes, we can take it to court, but it's dismissed. Time after time after time, it's dismissed by City Court. The dumpster is supposed to have a cover on it, but they don't put the cover on. But even with a cover, he doesn't feel that he has to accept garbage from the entire city in his backyard.

Alderman Terwilliger inquires if a dumpster must have a permit. The reply is that under the new modified code, there is a dumpster permit application that may need to be applied for. That should pertain to this situation and will be looked into. Mr. Knickerbocker says he has not seen that particular person cited for garbage, nor has he seen him in court. His guess is that when a citation is issued, the garbage is cleaned up within the time frame of the citation.

Mr. Agate wants it compared to a parking ticket being issued where a fine is paid. Alderman Terwilliger asks if a garbage ordinance was passed. Alderman Partigiani says the individual in question has a business and he has the right to have a dumpster for his business. He felt that perhaps Mr. Agate was misleading the Council, because after checking with Code, he found that the owner has the right to do this. The trash is picked up once a week by a private hauler. There should be a lid on it. Mr. Agate notes that there is also dumpster diving going on.

Andrea Rankin made two announcements. Housing Confab on Feb. 17, 2:00 p.m. at the Homer Avenue Methodist Church. She noted that they have fifty volunteers to do Habitat for Humanity, donations of materials, etc. Feb. 16 at the Cortlandville Fire Hall 7:00 p.m. there will be a hearing on the new zoning code that's being proposed in Cortlandville that involves the aquifer. There are citizens who are very concerned with this proposal. Cortland Water Department is also concerned with the aquifer in the area. She issued an invitation to the Common Council members to attend both meetings.

MINUTES of the February 1, 2005 Meeting.

RESOLUTION #17 of 2005 – Approve the minutes of February 1, 2005 as presented.

By: Alderman Terwilliger

Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None presented

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

Continues to be quiet in the ward.

Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

Quiet in the ward, as well, but she will continue to look into Mr. Agate's problem and that can be cleared up.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

Quiet in her ward, but noted that the potholes on Broadway are enormous and need to be addressed.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

Wishes girls' and boys' basketball teams playing in the sectional, good luck tonight. The lights discussed two weeks ago have been taken care of by NIMO on Tompkins Street. Thanks to Mike Preston.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

He has a ward meeting scheduled for Thursday night at the Moose Club from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss ward issues and the bond issue. He has received a couple calls regarding crows.

Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

Quiet in the ward.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

Reminding everyone of the Housing Confab and that Senator Seward will be appearing the same day at 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The list of over thirty-two street lights given to Jim Sponaugle two weeks ago was taken care of. They've finished trimming the trees on Hubbard Street and trees were not butchered. There was a Landscape and Design Commission meeting attended by three (3) Aldermen and he will have more on that later. He spoke with the Mayor and they will be scheduling a work session. He attended a DPW monthly meeting. They are anxiously awaiting the bond issue and they discussed the issue on South Main Street. Community Center now has a phone and a website. On Thursday at 7:00 p.m. there will be a housing meeting at the Center. Not that many people have been into the Center, but the hours have not been in the paper and it's his hope that after Senator Seward's visit, things will pick up. The City webpage will soon carry Center information. Mary Ann Kane will be at the Community Center on March 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

He and the Mayor attended the Law Man of the Year dinner last week. Well-deserving individuals were recognized. There was a call received regarding a repeat of last summer's reports of a certain suspicious individual. Neighborhood Watch was contacted. Received a complaint from a woman in his district regarding her serious fall on Main Street. He contacted Code Office, who will be notifying the store owner and will be followed up on.

RESOLUTION #18 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement with Michael Dexter for the performance of certain duties at the Water Works property.

By: Alderman Morey

Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Discussion ensued: This is actually the same contract and the same price.

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #19 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution authorizing the temporary addition of two (2) firefighter positions to the Fire Department’s authorized manning level. (To be eliminated upon the retirement of two current firefighters).

By: Alderman Guido

Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

No Discussion

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #20 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution awarding the City-wide tree planting contract to D & L Landscaping (low bidder).

By: Alderman Partigianoni

Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

No Discussion

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #21 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution recognizing the receipt of four (4) donations to the Youth Bureau and appropriating said donations to the appropriate accounts.

By: Alderman Partigianoni

Seconded: Alderman Guido

Discussion ensued. Aldermen noted that the Youth Bureau does a good job with their programs

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

Alderman Michales brought up the issue of crows and who is responsible for the clean-up of the crow mess in the Courthouse Park area. He noted that the City should be responsible for its share and he would like to see the City chip in at least fifty (50) percent versus what the County puts forth. Not all of the property is County property. The Sheriff's Department had some inmates do some cleanup. It is the hope that the crows will be pretty much gone in about three (3) weeks.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Faraoni

Seconded: Alderman Guido

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 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2005. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN – CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER