



City Council Minutes February 17, 2004

The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #4
February 17, 2004
Regular Business Meeting
City Hall
7:00PM

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

EXCUSED: Alderman Quail

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

Mayor Gallagher calls the Common Council meeting to order at 7:00PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Dexter of Cedar Streets speaks with regard to NiMo and tree trimming. They inspected trees with Jim Maloney, forester for Niagara Mohawk, and one of his tree trimming men. He notes they basically walked by every tree on their route. Some trees were looked at closer than other trees. He feels Niagara Mohawk deserves a lot of credit for coming down and walking around with us. It is a tough task walking around knowing that you're in charge of the trees when they get trimmed. They are going to try to do the best they can with the older trees. One big item is on the East Side of Church St. There are no trees planted and there are no wires so trees should be planted. One of the big problems will be the trees on Hubbard St. between Elm St. and the loading dock on Hubbard St. Those are Sycamore trees. They were planted 20 years ago when the City did the street. The height of these trees is 50' to 130'. The City planted these trees. NiMo is going to do directional trimming on those trees but it will take awhile to take affect. Sometimes trimming for aesthetics is not what is best for the trees. They will start trimming again on the 23rd of February.

Alderman Michales asks if there is a list of what trees should and should not be planted. Mike states yes he has a list. Alderman Morey notes if you go down Clinton Ave. and look to the right you will notice a row of crabs that are located on the other side of the sidewalk. Those trees do not interfere with any of the wires.

Suzanne Etherington of Cedar Street addresses the subject of trees. She shows photographs of directional trimming. She speaks about trimming, choices and locations for planting trees, topping trees, etc. We are not the only community facing this dilemma. Jim Maloney from NiMo is an arborist first and he works for NiMo. When he looks at a tree he is looking at how to

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maintain the health of this tree as well as meet his responsibility. The bigger question is how we can avoid doing this every year. The commission is looking into some sort of ordinance that would rationalize the long and short term plan for managing the trees. They are looking into other municipalities for advice. There are some details that need to be hammered out. The next commission meeting will be February 25th at 4:00PM in the Mayor's Conference Room.

MINUTES of the February 3, 2004 meeting.

RESOLUTION #20 of 2004 – Approve the minutes of February 3, 2004.

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

BILLS

Bills are reviewed and received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gallagher notes they are going to tear down the old feed mill on Otter Creek Place Thursday morning. He met with the farmer's market. We are proceeding with the grant for possible relocation in the downtown area. It is probably about a year away and they are excited about it. The Mayor attended the DBA reception at Gonda Real estate. There were about 100 people at the meeting. He went to the Cortland High School Education Foundation Board meeting. They have started an educational fund at the high school to assist in the education of their students. The community round table discussion group met. In attendance were Bob Rhodes, Mary Ann Kane, and Mary Alice Bellerdini. Some of the topics covered were historical preservation and economic development.

He met with BMC to discuss marketing and their plant. He met with Ray Franco, Vice President of SUNY to continue the dialogue regarding student housing. The Lawman of the Year award went to Officer Dan Johnson. We are extremely proud of him. He attended a meeting with the newly created sports council at the college to discuss marketing of the new stadium and some of the events that are coming up. There is discussion that this might be the home of the Women's Olympic handball team.

We met with the Public Service Commission to discuss our franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable. Our agreement expires April 2004.

The Main Street music series will start on February 24th at 6:00PM at Lucky's.

The City of Cortland website is getting approximately 1000 hits per day. There is a community round table March 4th at the College. It is an update on the River Trail project. There will be refreshments at 7:45am and the meeting will begin at 8:00am.

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WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 –Alderman Faraoni

He asks everyone to drive with caution as the snow banks are quite high. Everything is quiet in the first ward.

Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

We had our first ward meeting. We discussed the noise from student housing. She asked if it is possible to post the Cities committees agenda on the website. Questions were raised about garbage and how they should be disposed of at the curb. The code states the bags may be placed in a plastic/metal container. Is this a suggestion or are the blue bags supposed to be in a plastic container. She had a call from Jack Shannon who has rental property in her ward. He has some concerns about the newly passed code with regard to the family definition.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

She is concerned about the crows. Anyone who has been down Groton Ave. knows the crows are back on Otter Creek and the college parking lot. The truck traffic on Groton Ave. is horrible. The only thing different between this year and last year are there are no potholes and two signs on each end of the street. There are several residents who are keeping lists of all the trucking companies going up and down Groton Ave. She has been in contact with Chief Nichols and they will meet to discuss options. Her daughter participated in the job shadowing program with the City and was assigned to a ride-along with the Police Department. She thanks Officer Nichols. There were a lot of different businesses that participated and she thanks them. It is a very successful program. The “no parking” signs on James Street will be moved as soon as the ground thaws. The problem is the ground is frozen and the banks are high.

Alderman Morey wants to address NiMo. Jim and John work for NiMo and they are great guys and do a good job for NiMo. Two years ago she met with NiMo with regard to Glenn St. They were not interested in clean up of this area. She and Carol Tytler have a written commitment from NiMo as soon as the snow thaws they will clean all of that out. If we get written permission from the landowners they will take out all the dead trees.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

Thanks Chris Bistocchi for taking care of some safety issues. His crews have been doing a great job. He attended the Public Safety meeting. The good news is there will be a stop sign at Pearl and Warren. This will depend on thawing. He wishes good luck to the Cortland High School bowling team. They will be representing Section 3 in the state tournament.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

Alderman Quail is excused.

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Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

She attended the Public Safety meeting and made a request to have “no parking” on one side of Washington Street because it is very narrow and in the winter when cars are parked on both sides of the street the school bus cannot get through. Public Safety approved it and wants to make it permanent “no parking” on either side of the street. She is going to write a letter to the residents of Washington Street advising them of same and asking them for their thoughts. She spoke to Tom Carman with regard to the crosswalk on Homer Ave. She brought this up to Public Safety with hopes of having a temporary sign erected but the chances are great that it would be knocked over. Flashing lights on the signs were discussed so that people would be aware of the pedestrian crossing. Mr. Carman thought that was a great idea and if there was anything the hospital could do please let him know. Her ward meeting will be February 25th at 7:00PM at 27 N. Church St.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He attended the DPW monthly meeting. It was discussed the crews were showing wear with the incredible amount of snow fall we’ve had. He feels they are doing a very good job. The Loaves and Fishes dinner dance will be this Saturday at the Moose Club. On March 6th, the Moose Club will be hosting the men and women’s bowling association Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies. Maggie Brown will compete in the state championship for basketball next week.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He attended the DBA reception and also accepted a position on the advisory board of the Community Outreach Partnership Center. He is looking forward to improving relationships between the City and the college community. He had a problem with parking on Randall Street with regard to cars blocking people’s driveway. He has contacted Chief Nichols to see what the procedure is. He also will notify the Randall School principal to let his staff know that we may be ticketing cars once the school session starts.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #21 of 2004 – Approve the travel and training request submitted by the Code Enforcement Department for employees to attend conferences required in order to retain their certifications.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item No. 2 – Consideration of a resolution authorizing 2003 year-end transfers and encumbrances.

Alderman Morey asked that Item No. 2 be removed from the agenda.

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Alderman Morey states she received the packet on Thursday and there are a lot of things in it. She comments Alderman Quail is not present and he would also like to go thru them. This is a large amount of money for them to approve with only having a couple of days to do it in. Andy is not available on Saturday or Sunday. Alderman Partigianoni asks if the bottom line will change. Director Damiano states no it will not change. Andy Damiano notes that we finished 2003 in the black. Certainly some accounts went into the red and some accounts were under spent. The transfers are to zero out the accounts that are in the red. Alderman Morey doesn't disagree but wants more time to look into it.

RESOLUTION #22 of 2004 – Authorize the adoption of the 2004 Community Development Miscellaneous Revenue Budget.

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Alderman Morey asks about the promotional brochure. She states this \$4,000.00 has been sitting here for four years. Can't we just revisit it? We committed this money for the past three years. Andy notes the initial resolution authorizing the appropriation was contingent upon the Council approving the design. The Mayor explains there was a Grow Cortland Committee that was established three years ago. It met that year and never got called back together again. The Committee was going to put that brochure out. The Committee never met again. Andy explains there is a great deal of interest to reestablish the Grow Cortland Committee. There is a prototype of the brochure but it was never presented to the Council. The Mayor is trying to get the committee back together again.

On the question.

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #23 of 2003 – Authorize the Mayor to enter into a renewal agreement with Michael Dexter to perform certain duties at the Water Works facility.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Alderman Guido remarks Mike Dexter does a great job.

Adjournment.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

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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 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2004. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN – CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER