



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

February 21, 2006

Council Meeting #4
February 21, 2006
Regular Business Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Alderman VanGorder, Terwilliger, Cobb, DeCarlo,
Quail, Partigianoni and Michales

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

Public Comment

None

Minutes of February 7, 2006

RESOLUTION #19 OF 2005 - Approve the minutes of February 7, 2006 as amended.

By: Alderman Partigianoni

Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

Mayor's Report

He participated in the Table Top Emergency Drill at the County Emergency Headquarters. This was a mock emergency drill. He attended the SPCA kick-

off at Water Works and the Lawman of the Year Awards at the Cortland Elks Lodge. Congratulations to the winners Officer Chuck Niederhofer and Trooper Diane Trickey. He met with Chair of the Legislature Marilyn Brown as well as attended the Leave A Legacy program at the hospital and attended the Cortland Business Network meeting. He met with Thoma Development and Cortland Vets Club to discuss rehabbing the parking lots and attended the public hearing for the North Main Street culvert project. He spoke to the Cortland Leadership group and attended the BDC/IDA meeting. He attended Councilman Dan Quail's ward meeting.

He also attended the naturalization ceremony awarding citizenship to 39 people from 22 countries at the County Supreme Court office. He attended the breakfast ceremony for Elliot Spitzer, candidate for governor. Tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the Youth Bureau, they are going to recognize the young people who came to the assistance of Eric Neilson, when he got beat up at the Youth Bureau.

Alderman Partigianoni asked the Mayor to elaborate on the Public Hearing for the North Main Street Culvert Project. He noted that they had the plans there and the neighbors attended with their concerns and the concerns were addressed and satisfied. Alderman Terwilliger was also there. It was noted that all was well received.

Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She is still is working on her street captain program. If anyone is interested in participating, please let her know. She is still working with Chris Kradery, putting together the Ward beautification program. If anyone wants to work on that, they are going to have a spring clean up day and she couldn't make the lawman's dinner, but wished to congratulate Chuck and Diane.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

She had several calls regarding a specific house at 18 Harrington and she has spoken with Code about it, as well as many of the neighbors. It was a residential house, which is now being rented and apparently there are numerous cars on the lawn and that hasn't stopped. She is unsure what can be done about it, but the neighbors are concerned and they are afraid that Harrington is going to keep deteriorating. It's right in the middle of all of that college housing and the residents would like to nip this in the bud if they can. The Mayor noted that the issue was dealt with that day and that Code had issued many tickets in the area in the past ten (10) days.

Ward 3 - Alderman Cobb

Her Ward has been pretty quiet. She still has a couple of issues that she is working on from last time and she is diligently pursuing them. She is going to

have her first Ward meeting on April 10 at the Birch Building from 7-9 PM at Suggett Park. She invited everyone to please come.

Ward 4 - Alderman DeCarlo

He also attended the Lawman of the Year Dinner. It was pretty well attended. The recognition came as a surprise to one individual. The City should realize what they have in their police department, which is pretty terrific. On Thursday, he represented the Mayor at the Cortland/Homer Golden Eagles Hockey team which advanced to the playoffs. They did end up losing to Clinton, which was the defending State champion. They had a tremendous game and dominated the game until the last few minutes. He also attended the breakfast for Elliot Spitzer.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He wished the Mayor a Happy Birthday. He thanked the Mayor and Tom for attending the Ward meeting. A lot of issues were brought up, but most of the people were happy with the changes that are forth coming. He attended the SPCA Bright Lights ceremony and the Lawman of the Year Award Dinner. He noted that we are very blessed to have a dedicated group of law enforcement individuals in the community. The Cortland Youth Bureau and the City Police are having a recognition ceremony for several youths and he invited anyone who could make it to show their appreciation to this group of young people. He has had several discussions with Linda Hartsock and Bernie Thoma, trying to get going on the strategic plan for the South End, as far as getting that lined up. It probably won't start until April and trying to get ahead of the game.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

There was a very enthusiastic partisan crowd Saturday morning at the Community Restaurant. The DPW held their monthly commission meeting and year end finance figures were given. The big discussion was the Willow Avenue bridge replacement. The other thing was that he wished to thank the DPW crew for taking care of things during the high wind problem last Friday, in a timely and efficient manner. He attended the meeting with the Executive Director of the Seven Valley Council at the presentation at the Youth Bureau on internet predators. Resource Officer Randolph was a guest speaker and he shared the information regarding predators lurking on the internet and what a dangerous threat they bode for our teenage children. He gave out tips to reduce the threat to our youngsters. Number one, he pointed out, that parents should know what their children are doing on the computer by screening their history on the sites that they have visit. The second is that it is imperative that parents tell their kids to keep personal information private. Never reveal personal details on the internet. The third item was that parents should make sure that they and their child know the four "R", recognize, refuse, respond and report. Recognize techniques used by online predators to groom and deceive victims. Refuse all requests for personal information, refuse to keep relationships secret and refuse to meet anyone anywhere. Respond assertively by exiting the program or

turning off your computer. The fourth one is very important and that is report. Report suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you or your child uncomfortable. That's the four "R's" that parents should be aware of. The public access channel 2 is going to air this program on Feb. 21 at 8:00 PM, Feb. 23 at Noon, Feb. 28 at 8:00 PM and March 1 at 10:30 AM.

On March 6, the popular research your family history series will continue at the East End Community Center. The presentation will feature Tom Gath, Cortland High School's science teacher and webmaster. Mr. Gath will demonstrate new ways to use the latest technology to capture and bring alive your family history. There will be additional time available after the presentation for participants to share their family history and seek advice from Anita Wright from the Cortland County Historical Society. This is the fourth session and there is a lot of interest in these sessions and they are very well attended. The other big item coming up is the continuation of the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Program Volunteer Tax Assistance Program. They have trained people there to help with taxes, please call to make an appointment. On March 9, there will be an informational cancer screening program for anyone who is interested. This program and service is brought to you by the Healthy Living Partnership of the Cortland County Health Department and the East End Center. For more information, contact Healthy Living Coordinator, at 758-5523.

Improvements in the East End are continuing and maybe some of you have seen it. Beauties Custom Cut renovated his old neighborhood grocery store and barber shop. He noted that former Mayor Harry Calale's reminiscences of the local Lebanese, their ethnic customs and their contributions to the economic development of the community was interesting and well attended. The presentation was followed by an enjoyable social hour featuring Lebanese coffee and desserts prepared by the Pita Gourmet Restaurant on Main Street. He thanked Vince Minnelli for recording this event.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He also attended the Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner honoring Officer Niederhofer and Trooper Trickey for their outstanding jobs well done. He attended the Bright Lights Kick Off Ceremony at the SPCA at the Water Works. He also attended the Dan Quail's Ward meeting to hear what is going on in that neighboring Ward and City improvements that are going on down at the South End. It was a nice meeting. He has scheduled his Ward meeting for March 8 at the BOCES Career Center on Port Watson Street at 7:00 PM. Special guest speaker will be Brenda DeRusso from the Emergency Management Office and they will be discussing an early warning system coming about flooding and keeping people abreast as to the water situation.

The Mayor noted that the handout he distributed to them was an article in the Ithaca Journal praising Cortland.

RESOLUTION #20 OF 2006 - Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of the attached list of County Sheriff's Department employees as Commissioners of Deeds (Toni Seamans, Richard Baker, Roy Lewis, Marie Lewis, Billy Williams, Matthew Small and Budd Rigg) and Daniel R. Broker (Elks Lodge #748) as Commissioners of Deeds.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #21 OF 2006 - Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Maria Fragnoli-Ryan to the Cable Commission.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman Van Gorder

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #22 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution rescinding Resolution #80 of 2002; which requires Council approval of travel and training requests from various departments.

Alderman Quail noted that this was passed four (4) years ago in order to get a better understanding of where the City's training budget was being spent and to try and understand what these training sessions were. He feels that the resolution was a good one. He knows that there have been comments made noting that this is micro-management, but he feels that the concerns that were made at that point were well founded. Alderman Partigianoni noted that the Council could be made aware of the sessions that had been attended, but it was not necessary to bring them to the Council to be voted on for each training item. Alderman Terwilliger noted that a report submitted upon the attendees return was a good idea.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman DeCarlo

Approved: Ayes - 6
Nays - 1

RESOLUTION #23 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the adoption of the 2006 Community Development Miscellaneous Revenue Budget.

It was noted that Sue Reynolds, the Website manager, had agreed to a flat rate rather than an hourly one. The Mayor noted that she was doing a great job and that the City was getting about fifteen hundred (1,500) hits a day on the website.

The pictures are changed every day and the schedule of events is updated regularly. Alderman Quail noted that they had a beautification program that's run through the miscellaneous budget, and he wanted to know who ran that beautification program. Andy Damiano noted that tree and stump removal was administered by the Public Safety Commission and Mike Preston. Landscaping was really landscaping of the City entrance signs and City Hall, Courthouse Park and the Armory and that is overseen by Jim Sponaule, Director of Buildings and Grounds. Thoma handles the sidewalk replacement and tree planting programs. Alderman Partigianoni noted that the two (2) items that differentiate are the additional money for the Sports Council and the \$4,000 for the Library. Other than that it's pretty much carryover. Andy Damiano also described for new Council members, the concept of encumbrances.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #24 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution awarding the City-wide tree planting contract to D & L Landscaping (lowest bidder).

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #25 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Cortland Police Benevolent Association for the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008.

There was a question regarding the incentive of fully paid retirement health insurance, which is locking into the payment rate that the individual is at when they retire. Andy Damiano noted that the clause in question was for a ten (10) percent lock-in if the individuals retire within a three (3) year period. The financial impact, will depend on the premium and will be a significant benefit to the employee. The trade off is the savings in salaries by hiring a new individual at \$30,000 with less vacation time compared to a much higher paid senior office with more earned vacation time. There are a number of short-term benefits. It was noted that there were various incentives in other contracts negotiated with other City employee groups. Alderman Partigianoni inquired if the contract had been ratified by the Benevolent Association and Andy Damiano noted that it had been.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

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

Adjournment

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 7
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 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 2006. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER