



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

March 8, 2005

COUNCIL MEETING #5
March 8, 2005
Regular Business Meeting
City Hall
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Alderman Morey, Guido, Quail,
Feiszli, Partigianoni and Michales
(Alderman Terwilliger arrived after the start of the
meeting)

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Cogswell was there to discuss a problem with neighbor's metal roof
and a serious falling ice issue. Heavy ice falls off the neighbor's house and
lands in her driveway. She is looking for support to initiate a code
regarding metal roofing, falling ice and personal and property safety. She
wonders if ice stops would assist in alleviating some of the problem. She
gave pictures of the fallen ice in her driveway to the Mayor.

MINUTES of February 15, 2005

RESOLUTION #22 OF 2005 – Approve the minutes of February 15, 2005
with changes.

By: Alderman Partigianoni

Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

Alderman Feiszli inquired as to the high cost of snow removal for a single property presented by the Cortland Housing Assistance. Director of Administration & Finance Damiano replied that this bill was in turn sent to the property owner for payment along with an add-on fee and if the total is not paid, it will be included on their property taxes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

He participated in a round table discussion at SUNY Cortland regarding the Community Center down on the East End. He was one of the judges at the Sweet Sensations Girl Scout Program at the Holiday Inn. He attended the DBA meeting to discuss the parking meters on Main Street. Met with the DEC, Buck Labs and J. R. Contento at the Port Watson Street site regarding a possible spill and so far, all reports have come back negative and a report back from the DEC, that it's clear. He attended the snowcross snowmobile race at CNY Power Sports and the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Lime Hollow Nature Center. He held a mock Common Council meeting for the Youth and the Law class at Cortland High School. He met with Don Chambers to discuss the new recycling facility on Pendleton Street and with Tom Isabella, Public Service Commission in regard to the Time Warner franchise, the SUNY Cortland Government Association President and Chief Nichols to discuss a parking problem on Prospect at SUNY Cortland. He attended the Morton Buildings reception at the Holiday Inn and a presentation by Thoma Development for Downtown Property Owners for a downtown revitalization program. About seventy people were in attendance for that program. He met with the Fire Commission to get their input on their proposed needs and assessment for the proposed fire station. He attended the Sports Night at SUNY Cortland with President Biederbaum and several community members. He attended the BDCIDA meeting and the swearing in ceremony for the three new firemen at the Armory. When they return from school, he will have them at a Common Council meeting to introduce them. He met with Nancy Hansen of the Planning Commission to discuss their role in the Downtown Revitalization program. He attended the United Way meeting at the new Pioneer Farm Credit location and attended Barbara Lifton's Town Meeting

and the Business after Hours for the Chamber at Jodi's Hallmark. He met with Congressman Boehlert to discuss legislative initiatives that affect the City, in particular, the CDBG program that the government wants to cut and turn over to the Commerce Department. He also attended the NYCOM meeting in Albany with Corp. Counsel Knickerbocker and he got a report from Sue Reynolds that the website has had a 20% increase in hits on the City website. Today he and Mr. Damiano met with Don Chambers, Scott Steve and Scott Shrader to discuss the recycling program down on Pendleton Street.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

All is pretty quiet. Chris Bistocchi is aware of all of the potholes in her Ward.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

Wanted to thank Public Safety for contacting Principal Amante at Barry School regarding the parking situation in the area and letters were sent out from the school to the parents. He received some calls and he wanted to thank Chris Bistocchi and his crew for their good job despite some equipment breakdowns. Things are quiet in the Ward.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

The Ward meeting was held on Feb. 17 at the Moose Lodge. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the multi-purpose bond issue. There were concerns about the vehicles and the fences and they were supportive of the new paving program. He had several calls on crows and it is hoped that they will be leaving shortly. He wanted to thank Jim Sponaugle for taking care of some lightpoles. His daughter skated in competition and came home with a gold and two silvers. He has scheduled a Ward meeting for March 31.

Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

She attended a forum with Linda Hartsock and other community members on how to improve the housing stock in the City. There are concerns received about unkempt properties, some due to vacant landlords. Hudson Valley takes pictures of the properties and publishes them. After receiving a call regarding debris outside of a home in her Ward, she contacted the

Code Office and a violation was issued. She has received calls regarding potholes and contacted the DPW. She explained the differences in patching materials and the length of the repair, with the hot patch having the most longevity, but which can't be applied until the summertime. Her next Ward meeting will be the third Thursday in April.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He thanked the Mayor for standing in for him at the Roundtable Discussion at SUNY Cortland while he was in the audience. He said that the Community Center is being utilized more. In March there were thirty different events scheduled. He thanked BOCES for the computers that were on loan and they are hooked up to the internet. On March 9 at the Center, Mary Ann Kane, County Historian, will be there to discuss the history of the East End. Saturday night was the Annual Softball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies for the men's and women's Cortland Association's to recognize individuals for their personal achievements. They hosted Senator Seward and Barbara Lifton will be there on Friday.

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

He believes a neighborhood Watch Program will be starting up soon as a result of a gathering at the Community Center in the 7th Ward. The Code Office resolved an issue in his Ward and he thanked them. He attended a public hearing at the Cortlandville Fire Station. Area residents are still split over the greenspace plan. He attended a celebration at the New Adult Center and Senator Seward presented them with a check for \$32,000 to put toward the Center. He has been volunteering his weekends at the new SPCA clinic. He has been donating his constructions skills and hopes it will be completed by April or May. He did a ride-along with a City Police Officer to get a firsthand report on the equipment and problems with some of the equipment. He looked at their computer system and completed an eight hour shift with the officers and thanked those who helped and allowed him to do this. There were problems with a vehicle before they even left. The next Ward meeting is April 20 at the New Adult Center on Elm St. Perhaps coordinating a Neighborhood Watch meeting with the Ward Meeting and it will be publicized.

Alderman Partigianoni asked Mayor Gallagher for an update regarding the Railroad Transportation Program.

Mayor Gallagher also had received a request from John Rice, President of the Cortland Professional Firefighters Association, regarding Duke Glover's history of the fire department. The Association would like the Common Council to recognize Duke as the unpaid official Fire Department Historian after he retires. The Mayor thinks it a great idea and per Common Council request, will ask him to come to the next meeting to make a short presentation.

RESOLUTION #23 OF 2005 – Approve the motion to appoint Duke Glover as the unpaid official Fire Department Historian.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

She did receive a call from Mr. Agate of Maple Ave., regarding the dumpster and she contacted the Health Department. They are looking into it and everyone is hoping they will try to resolve this ongoing issue.

Item #1 – Discussion regarding the proposed 2005 Multipurpose Bond Issue.

Mr. Damiano said they are trying to get the final list to get to the Bond Counsel. Bond Counsel needs a list of the items to be included in the bond resolution as there is extensive work needed to be done by them to complete this. That will be considered on April 5th. They will also have to do a short form environmental impact review on the retaining wall and sidewalk paving project and make a negative declaration. A vote on the bond resolution can be done after the negative declaration. This will take place at the first Council meeting in April. There is some concern that they want to proceed with this because some items on State bid may not be available too much longer, particularly police vehicles. Other options could be to wait for next year's program or see if a second offering of additional vehicles may be made available. The alternative would be to put it out to bid and history has shown that this process never beats State bid on vehicles. Are there any items that the Council wishes to delete from the list that was presented? Alderman Quail questioned the UV light. He believes that it is a new technology, will add to the maintenance costs and won't necessarily guarantee us additional cleaner water. He likes Mr. Withey's

approach and asks Mr. Withey to address to Council. Mr. Withey said that run-off could cause a sudden increase in e-coli. His biggest concern is the past fifteen years, is the cut in manpower at the plant. This leaves a computer monitoring the plant alone for around sixteen hours a day. A delayed response time to a call for an operator may be up to an hour during the night or on a weekend, in this time 200,000-300,000 gallons of water could be out there in the system. Our equipment is very sensitive and it contacts us in a nano-second via cell phones, but there are dead zones and response time delays could be up to an hour. The Health Department is supportive of this UV system. Alderman Feiszli said that the City had not been cited for bacteria in the water and that the City could do something else that was less expensive. It was explained that UV light is an enhancement to the process that is already in place, the chlorine takes care of anything that may infiltrate past our treatment process. In around '91 or '92, we were cited for e-coli bacteria in the water. The cost is \$200 per bulb replacement charge and must be done on an annual basis as mandated by the State. Our unit will have six bulbs and the cost will be \$1,200 per year. The annual cost for maintenance and upkeep was presented to the Council as being around \$30,000 for one time electrical upgrading, electricity being about \$15,000, bulb replacements \$1,200 and \$500 of citric acid. Water rates will increase over time, but currently this will not in itself cause a rate increase. Mr. Withey was asked to name other cities that were already using a UV system. Other than Albany, he was unable to do so at this time without researching it to be sure. He feels that a combination of UV and chlorine would cover the public water supply. If approved, Cortland will be one of the earliest to use this process.

After discussion, a straw poll was taken to remove the UV system from the bond issue.

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 2

The next item to be discussed was the three workstations and chairs for Code. Alderman Michales indicated that he would like to see them expended out of the General Fund and removed from the bond issue. It was then decided that it would remain in the bond issue.

The next item to be discussed was the vehicle requests and the variations in pricing. This was determined to be variations in equipment. There was then a question regarding trucks; miles vs hours. Then it was proposed that DPW get a truck with a plow and instead of getting one for the Waste Water Department to plow the parking lot with as a trade off within the

issue. An additional DPW vehicle request could be added to the issue if there is support for it. Departments were asked to prioritize within their own requests and DPW decided that paving was more important than a pick-up truck. They also discussed a sludge hauling vehicle and a grit hauling vehicle, they are not the same vehicle. On the prioritized departmental requests, only about the top two or three items were included from each department.

RESOLUTION #24 OF 2005 – Approve proceeding with the proposed 2005 Multipurpose Bond Issue minus the UV water system.

Further discussion was held regarding carpeting and computers and their impact on the General Fund. Carpeting is a long term capital investment because it last 15-20 years and should be amortized.

By: Alderman Partigianoni

Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #25 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution authorizing year-end 2004 budget transfers and encumbrances.

Questions were asked re: the sports complex elevator and the beautification of sidewalks. These are projects that couldn't be completed, funds were already committed and the funds are being encumbered to complete them. The Covanta expenditure is in with encumbrances so it will be set aside, not used for another purpose. If it wasn't encumbered, it would have just gone into the General Fund surplus. The Council can decide how they want to spend it and then it will be appropriated accordingly. There wasn't enough in Jim Sponaugle's budget to cover the increase salary costs for the renovation of the Armory building to accommodate the fire department. This is a one time expenditure, not an ongoing expense. There was also a salary line adjustment in the DPW, which is covered within the department because the salary was not doled out to a number of different salary lines but kept in the garage line. Also increases in utilities and fuel resulted in transfers being necessary.

By: Alderman Guido

Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #26 OF 2005 – Approve a resolution authorizing the adoption of the 2005 Community Development Miscellaneous Revenue Budget.

It was asked what the increase of the Beautification Project over last year. It was about \$2,000. Landscaping at the Armory will make it more presentable. Sue Reynolds does the website maintenance for \$10,000 per year and it is not done in-house. It was initially bid out, but hasn't been in recent years. The Cortland Regional Sports Council for \$10,000 is a new addition. It was noted that Mr. McNerney reported that the impact of the CNY snowcross event on the revenue to the community over that weekend was estimated at around \$210,000. They have about 14 events planned.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #27 OF 2005 – Approval of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the documents required to accept the donation of two parcels of land currently owned by Ali Harri and Afshin Hatefi-Hofrad.

It was asked how the two men wound up with a parcel of land that was landlocked. It was noted that they subdivided a larger parcel and this piece was not sold. Snow removal and mowing have fallen to the City since the property has been abandoned. The Planning Commission did review this and recommends that the City accept the donation of the two parcels. The City is going to market the land once it is acquired, in hopes of getting some revenue on it. There is a possibility that the property on the corner could be donated to Habitat for Humanity to put a project on and the landlocked piece will be marketed to adjacent property owners.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Adjournment

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

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 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2005. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN – CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER