

March 20, 2001

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held on March 20, 2001 at 7:30 PM at the Board of Education Office at Cortland High School, Valley View Drive, Cortland

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Tytler
Council Members Smith, Tobin, Abdulla, Lissberger, Strangeway, Hansen, Hyde and Hennessy
Deputy City Clerk, Jodi M. McLyman
City Clerk, William J. Wood
Corporation Counsel, James J. Baranello
Director of Administration, Andrew J. Damiano

Mayor Tytler called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM followed by a salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Al Rosato of Pomeroy St. complains regarding the Code Office and the fees they are charging him to take down his chimney. The Mayor will look into the specifics of his case and will get back to him.

The ABC Committee speaks regarding the success of the clinic to spay and neuter the stray and farrell cats in the City of Cortland. One hundred and thirty seven cats were spayed last weekend. It was certainly a success, but there were almost \$5,000. in expenses. The ABC Committee is asking for \$1,500. (the original amount that was previously asked for) to continue this program.

Jeff Slack speaks regarding the 281 expansion. He feels it is short sighted and in 10-15 years it will have to be expanded again. What plans will there be so that the business district as well as residential district can live peacefully together in this area. He feels there is something wrong with this project and he asks the City to get more involved in it and look further ahead to the future of Cortland. He also agrees with Mr. Rosato. He feels the Code Enforcement Office is overzealous.

MINUTES

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2001 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.

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BILLS

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,471.40 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor would like to set up a meeting to discuss the comprehensive guidelines. The meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2001 at 7:00PM at the Public Safety Building. Linda Hartsock, Tom Gallagher and Paul Slowey should be invited to this discussion.

Mayor reads a proclamation for the Fair Housing Policy and the American Library Association.

Mayor reads statistics regarding the web site. Approximately 5,000 hits a month from 62 countries. The community section has been hit over 4000 times, real estate has been hit almost 2000 times and hundreds of people have downloaded vital statistic forms from the City Clerks Office.

The Mayor explains the disrepair of the fire station and he would like the Council to know that he intends to ask for some funds to conduct an engineering study on the cost of a new station vs. what has to be done to this station. The City is also looking at a joint venture between the City Police and County Sheriff's Department in terms of sharing resources.

Ward 1 – Council Member Smith

Welcome to Gene Cilento from the DOT. Council Smith is very concerned with this expansion. Mr. Smith questions the study regarding the Polkville bypass over to Rt. 13. If this project is only good for 15 years, then we shouldn't do it. We have a lot of residential homes, trees for buffers, and fences for privacy. If the sidewalk is put into place they will literally have to walk around the block to shovel their walk. He wrote a letter to Marty Luster and Senator Seward regarding the CHIPS money. The response was not a favorable one.

Ward 2 – Council Member Tobin

The Cortland census figures were released yesterday. For this community it meant a negative 5.4% in population loss. It probably means a negative \$70,000 in State aid per

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capita. Which basically is a 1.8% tax increase unless we find other ways to absorb this loss. We should lobby the State Legislature to help the upstate communities. Many of the residents on Arthur Ave. would like to see some form of celebration with regard to St. Patrick' Day or an Irish Festival. The website, in error, does not have the complete comprehensive plan published. The members of the apt. owners association suggests that odd/even parking in Cortland be looked at as to whether it is good or bad.

Ward 3 – Council Member Abdulla

The CHIPS funding is a big problem. Anything that we can do as a Council we should get behind and do.

Ward 4 – Council Member Lissberger

We have a problem at Water St., Sands St. and Warren. There is a daycare at SUNY, right on that corner, and they feel the Yield signs at that intersection are not sufficient. They would like to replace the Yield signs with Stop signs.

Ware 5 – Council Member Strangeway

Everything is quiet in the 5th ward.

Ward 6 – Council Member Hansen

Annual reports were received and she would like to thank the Dept. Heads for all the hard work that went into them. She has a ward meeting at the Grange next Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The business showcase was a success.

Ward 7 – Council Member Hyde

At this time of year we have problems with potholes. The abandoned house on Crandall St. is still a problem and he has been receiving complaints.

Ward 8 – Council Member Hennessy

Due to the length of the agenda, she will pass on her ward report this week.

AGENDA

Item No. 1- Presentation by DOT Department of Transportation regarding the proposed Route 281 Reconstruction project.

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Mr. Gene Cilento explains they are looking at widening the road from the existing Rt. 13 Y intersection up to the I81 access road area. The first meeting was in June of last year. We believe this will last 20+ years. As it stands right now the DOT is looking at widening to 3 lanes from West Main with a center turn lane. They are still proposing a sidewalk mostly on the Eastern side up to Wheeler Ave. They have decreased lanes from 12 feet to 11 feet, 8-foot shoulders instead of 10. There will be new drainage and curbing. There are many environmental issues due to the sole source aquifer. Mr. Cilento explains the bypass through Polkville was a study that was done by the County not the State. It was proposed but never materialized because of the cost. It was estimated back in 1976 to cost around \$20,000,000.00. It was also looked at again before this project but was dismissed because of cost and traffic. He hopes to have another public hearing before the end of this year. The reason for the sidewalks is because the Federal Government is paying 80% of the project. The cost is estimated at \$15,000,000. They are paying \$12,000,000. plus. They want to promote pedestrian traffic as well as vehicular. A discussion ensues regarding the sidewalks, traffic and the information sheet. There will be no night work. There will also be flagman on the smaller streets going out onto 281. The project won't begin until late 2003 at this point.

Item No. 2 – Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with D& L Landscaping for the 2001 tree-planting program.

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH D & L LANDSCAPING FOR THE 2001 TREE PLANTING PROGRAM.

Item No. 3 – Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Robert N. Reyngoudt to the Youth Bureau Advisory Board.

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVED CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT N. REYNGOUDT TO THE YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD.

Item No. 4 – Discussion regarding a proposal to fund an SPCA cat spay/neutering program in the amount of \$1,500.

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Council Member Hyde feels this a program that will work and the ABC Committee spayed 44 city cats last weekend. A lengthy discussion ensues regarding how many spayed cats were stray, the cost of spaying the animals, the rabies shots that were given.

On the motion of Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Hyde, voted

Resolution to give the SPCA \$15.00 for every cat spayed or neutered not to exceed \$750.00 at this time. The money will be appropriated from the contingency fund to the police department line that covers the SPCA contract.

The cost to actually spay/neuter the cats was \$40.00 per cat which included the use of the equipment, supplies, vaccine, antibiotics etc. The vets donated their time. The SPCA is asking for reimbursement for their actual cost.

Council Member Smith – Yes	Council Member Strangeway – No
Council Member Tobin – Yes	Council Member Hansen - No
Council Member Abdulla – No	Council Member Hyde - Yes
Council Member Lissberger – No	Council Member Hennessy - Yes

Mayor breaks the tie voting No.

Motion is defeated.

Council Member Lissberger encourages the public to make donations to this exact program of the SPCA. He feels it is a worthwhile organization. Perhaps a dedicated fund would help the SPCA.

Item No. 5 – Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Rev. Thomas Margrave to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVED CONFIRMING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMEN OF REV. THOMAS MARGRAVE TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

Item No. 6 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the encumbrance of FY2000 funds in order to complete budgeted purchases or projects.

On the motion of Council Member Strangeway, seconded by Council Member Hansen, the Resolution was introduced.

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Council Member Tobin asks why the year-end adjustments to the budget aren't being done. Andrew Damiano states that the transfers are not ready at this time. They will be ready before the next council meeting.

On the motion to table by Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Hyde, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE MOTION TO TABLE IS CARRIED.

Item No. 7 – Consideration of a Resolution in opposition of the Governor's proposal to reduce CHIPS funding which is contained in his proposed budget.

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, voted and carried,

Mayor Tytler did write the Governor a letter and asked why he chose to reduce the funding by \$35,000,000. when we all know the infrastructure is so vital to the state. NYCOM has looked at this issue and they have recently issued their annual report on the State of the Cities stating their concern. Council Member Hennessy urges everyone to write a letter. Council Member Smith would like to place petitions in public locations.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO REDUCE CHIPS FUNDING WHICH IS CONTAINED IN HIS PROPOSED BUDGET.

Item No. 8 – Consideration of a request from Cortland High School for authorization to place two signs on certain traffic poles. (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission).

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted and carried,

The top of the sign will be 13' off the ground. The traffic control device poles exist at the base of the hill. They want to attach an arm to the existing pole. The sign is a 3' x 4' sign. The school is hard to find and the present signage is very small.

RESOLVED THE REQUEST FROM CORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PLACE TWO SIGNS ON CERTAIN TRAFFIC POLES BE APPROVED.

Item No. 9 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing an amendment to Section 11-63 (a) (1) of the Code of Ordinances eliminating the parking restriction that is presently in effect

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on the southwest corner of Greenbush Street at Central Avenue. (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission).

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, the Resolution was introduced,

The council is unclear as to where this is and who asked for this request therefore a motion was made to table by Council Member Lissberger, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLVED TO TABLE THE MOTION.

Item No. 10 – Presentation from a representative of COPC regarding their request for funding in order to complete a Consolidated Plan for the Cortland area.

Pulled from the agenda, as there was no one to speak on this item.

Item No. 11 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the transfer of \$8,500 from the Contingency Fund to the Building & Grounds Department in order to do emergency repairs to the Main Fire Station.

On the motion of Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted and carried, Council Member Lissberger voting Nay.

Council Member Tobin states that this has to be done. The \$8,500. should be enough money as \$7,000. was originally recommended.

RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$8,500 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO ACCOUNT #A1620.200 IN ORDER TO DO EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE MAIN FIRE STATION.

Item No. 12 – Discussion regarding proposed amendments to the fee/fine schedule.

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted and carried,

The proposal raises the fees from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and some to \$20.00. This would be effective on May 1, 2001. If the ticket supply is so great perhaps they can use a pen to change the fine. The reason for the reduction from \$20.00 to \$15.00 was basically for the business owners.

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On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Hennessy, voted and carried, to amend the Resolution to read,

RESOLUTION APPROVED ACCEPTING THE PARKING FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2001.

Corporation Counsel explains the Local Law in effect restricts how you set the rates for blue bags. If the cost is currently exceeding the formula then we should be lowering the cost under our own Local Law.

Council Member Lissberger states that the blue bags are working because the rate covers the cost. It wasn't supposed to be a moneymaker. He is appalled by the suggestion to raise it when there is no justification for it.

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Hennessy, voted and carried,

RESOLVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:30 TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE.

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Tobin, voted and carried,

RESOLVED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:45PM.

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Hyde, voted and carried,

RESOLVED TO RETURN TO THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING.

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED AT 9:45PM.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolutions were presented to the Mayor in the time required and were approved by him.