



## City Council Minutes April 1, 2003

The City of Cortland, New York

### **COUNCIL MEETING #6**

April 1, 2003

### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

City Hall

6:55PM

**PRESENT:** Mayor Mary E. Leonard  
Alderman Faraoni, Tobin, Morey, Guido, Partigianoni, Quail, Testa, and Hennessy

Staff present: City Clerk, William J. Wood, Corporation Counsel Mark Suben, and Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Leonard opens the public hearing on the proposed zone change on Kennedy Parkway from an R-1 to an R-4 at 6:55PM.

Brian Buttner, the architect for the project, notes this is consistent with the development of Kennedy Parkway. James Yaman is also present and concurs with Mr. Buttner's comments.

There was no one further to speak; therefore the public hearing is closed at 6:57PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Kline of 12 Arthur Ave. speaks with regard to the trees. The trees improve the look of the street and hide the wires. He notes in Ithaca they are much more careful on their tree trimming.

Fran Uhlir of West Main St. speaks with regard to the cultural events in the City of Cortland and at Cortland State. He notes the Council should attend and encourage their friends and neighbors to attend the events on the hill and support the students and the college.

Alanna Gothard of Port Watson St. speaks with regard to NYPIRG and the bottle bill and asks the Council to adopt a resolution regarding same.

Brendan McGovern of Rickard St. speaks in favor of the bottle bill. He also urges the Council to pass the resolution.

Gary Isaacs of Clinton Ave. speaks in favor of the bottle bill. He is lobbying on campus for this bill. This will help bring revenue to the County. He names various agencies this bill will benefit.

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Sara DeGennaro of Elm St. speaks in favor of the bottle bill. She urges the council to adopt this resolution.

Rubin Catinchi of Elm St. speaks in favor of the bottle bill. He also reminds everyone Festivus is coming up and urges the public to attend.

Matt Barone of Hill St. speaks regarding Festivus. It will be April 26 from noon to 5:00PM. He lists some of the events that will be held and encourages the public to attend.

Mike Dexter of Cedar St. is representing the Landscape and Design Committee. They have met with NiMo and he hopes they can be on the agenda for the 15<sup>th</sup> of April to give a presentation to the Council. The article in the newspaper states the trees will be getting a light trimming. This was not his (Mike Dexter's) idea after coming out of the meeting. The Landscape and Design committee will not be making the decision. They will recommend to the Council who will ultimately make the decision. He asks for support from the community with regard to the war effort. It doesn't matter if you're in agreement, but be in support. Fly your flags.

Steve Broyles of Helen Ave. addresses the Council. He hopes the Water Board will pursue aquifer initiatives. The Water Board should work in conjunction with the area schools to develop a curriculum for water quality investigations in the City and County. Leak detection, water conservation, and future threats to water supply, update equipment and plans to remove contaminants. He will be happy to serve the community as a Water Commission member.

### MINUTES of March 4, 2003

**RESOLUTION #46** of 2003 – Motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2003.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Alderman Quail asks the Clerk about his participation and review of the minutes. Clerk Wood states Jodi creates the minutes. Clerk Wood takes all the notes at the meeting.

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nay – 0

### BILLS

Alderman Guido wants to see a cap on mileage. He feels \$102.00 is too much to go to Albany. Misc. bills were reviewed. Alderman Morey notes the difference between the Clerk's registration and the Mayor's registration for the NYCOM meeting.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

The facilities study representatives are available to have a work session with the Council on April 15, 2003. Mayor Leonard offers sympathy to Alderman Guido and his family. His father was a great contributor to the community and participated in so many things. She recognizes John Gaylor for receiving the Firefighter of the Year Award. There was another firefighter involved; therefore, she would like to recognize Firefighter Carl Grantham. She swore in 6 new

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firefighters, one being the first women firefighter. YWCA essay contest for Women's history month held their award ceremony. The State swim meet was at SUNY. The Youth Bureau had an open house on Saturday. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton also attended the event.

Our Charter requires that each year the mayor report to the council on the state of the city. At our last meeting, I reported to you about some of our financial concerns in light of the state budget and the pension contribution crisis. You are aware that the end of the quarter marks the date that certain market conditions would be used to calculate contributions. That is one of the yearly benchmarks for measuring sales tax receipts, an important city revenue source, as well. Since we don't know yet what the pension contributions will be, or if the suggestions of Comptroller Hevesi will be adopted by the state legislature, we continue to have uncertainty about what the impact on Cortland will be.

People are feeling gloomy and worried about the war and the economy. The long winter, that doesn't seem to end, has taken a toll too. So, tonight, I would like to touch briefly upon some of our accomplishments and highlights, And provide you and the community with a more detailed review of our status when we have some additional financial information. Also, the department heads have provided me with their reports and those are available for review.

Some highlights of the past year:

With SUNY Cortland, we hosted the Senior Games and co-hosted the Empire State Games. It was a chance to showcase our community, the new stadium, and Cortland did itself proud. All of our departments participated in some way in making the event a success, and there was a lot of hard work.

There was an event downtown just about every weekend over the summer and into the fall and there were many opportunities for tourism as well as for Cortland residents to enjoy the community.

We had the Celtic fest, Pumpkinfest, and the inaugural Music on Main Street concert. Again, the city worked with many other community members on these activities.

SUNY students invited us to Festivus and the student government representatives have continued to work with the city, attending code revision meetings and the college community forum.

We have undertaken an extensive and thorough review of our zoning and related ordinances and I'm grateful to the many community members who have taken the time to participate in the working group. With clear and enforceable codes, we can make sure that people understand what is expected of them in the maintenance and use of their property and that there is a speedier and more effective enforcement of the codes.

We banded together to try to protect the trees on Church street and in the process brought the landscape committee back to life to address beautification issues on an ongoing basis.

Lastly, I'd like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of our city employees, especially with respect to their efforts at bargaining in good faith and with the good of the community in mind. It

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was a significant accomplishment to reach agreement with the PBA on the elimination of the blanket indemnification clause. The firefighters were proactive in their approach to negotiations and certainly showed an understanding of the pressures the city faces. In fact, I have been contacted by union representatives suggesting that we do some brainstorming about ways we can address this current fiscal pinch. Assuming the council approves the proposal tonight, we have reached a short term agreement with the water works and DPW bargaining units that will allow staff to work outside of rigid categories and pitch in when different jobs need doing. We accomplish cross-training, a more complete work force, and a level of job security with that arrangement.

On the horizon we have the task of bringing our facilities up to date, in particular our fire station. And we have to keep working on our preparation to address the fiscal pitfalls ahead.

A positive attitude and a prudent approach to the problems and challenges that lie ahead will keep the state of our city strong.

### WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

Chris Farkas has asked to be put on the agenda for May 6 to brief the Council on the Landscape and Design committee.

**RESOLUTION #47** of 2003 – To pull item no. 6 from the agenda until a quorum can be found.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays - 0

Ward 2 - Alderman Tobin

No report.

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

She attended the meeting at City Hall with regard to the County and City working together. Welcomes the new firefighters and congratulates John Gaylor. She is looking into using the water board property as a walking trail. She would like this on the May 6<sup>th</sup> agenda. She discusses tree trimming in her ward.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

Thanks everyone for all their support to him and his family with regard to the passing of his father. It has been a great comfort to them. He agrees with Mr. Uhlir and urges the community to attend some of the SUNY functions. He also attended Festivus last year and he hopes everyone will take advantage of this.

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#### Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

Thanks the Code Office. There are a number of places in the Community that do not have gravel or macadam driveways. They have mud. He wants the apartment owners to take a lead on this. The pet owners need to take responsibility for their dogs. Please clean up your mess. Thanks Assemblywoman Lifton for attending the Youth Bureau anniversary. He spoke to Assemblywoman Lifton regarding mandates and oral health issues. He has been attending the Code meetings. He would like to recognize some long time city residents who recently passed away, John Opera, Cecile Span, and Peter Dintino. He asked about an update with the South Main St. project. His next ward meeting will be April 22. Thanks Alderman Morey for a job well done and taking the lead role in getting the traffic changed on Groton Ave.

#### Ward 6 - Alderman Testa

He has gotten some complaints regarding speeding and small children. Please be careful. He has been attending the Code review also. He attended the Youth Bureau open house. He toured the Armory. The next ward meeting will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Grange.

#### Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He attended the fireman of the year award. He also attended the St. Joseph's dinner at SUNY Cortland. The cable commission will be holding their annual public hearing at 7:00PM on April 8<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

#### Ward 8 - Alderman Hennessy

She agrees with Mr. Uhlir. Carousel was a very fine production. She has had calls from people living on Bartlett Ave. It is a residential area that backs up to a business district. There is not a lot of relief for this. Thanks Karen Mastronardi and Joanne Wickman for coming tonight to speak with regards to communities that care.

### AGENDA

#### Item No. 1 - Communities that Care will speak at the next meeting.

Karen Mastronardi states several years ago Mayor Bruce Tytler called together people in the community to talk about youth substance abuse problems. We were also researching a long term nationally validated program that had been proven to have a better outcome for youth. Joanne Wickman notes this program is a process where we start with the identification of a problem and move carefully toward appropriate responses. Communities That Care is an operating system much like windows is an operating system. It allows things to work together. It is not designed to become an independent agency. They discuss the process and targets for the organization, community risk factors, research currently being done, protective factors, etc.

**RESOLUTION #48** of 2003 – The City of Cortland is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funds from the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Block Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2003, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, to authorize the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign said

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application on behalf of the City, and upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the City of Cortland.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Tobin

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #49** of 2003 – to approve the closing of Pomeroy Street from the corner of Central and Pomeroy to the South end of the handicapped parking lot on Pomeroy Street in front of the Pomeroy Park Apartments on June 8, 2003 from 6:00AM to 10:00PM for the St. Anthony's Festival.

By: Alderman Partigianoni  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #50** of 2003 – Approve the Mayor's appointments to the Youth Bureau Advisory Board: Nola Peacock and Alecia Frost.

By: Alderman Guido  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #51** of 2003 – Approve the Mayor's appointment of Kenneth Wickman to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #52** of 2003 – Authorize an amendment to Article XI, Section 11-101(A) of the Code of Ordinances deleting Groton Avenue from the Truck Route System.

Alderman Morey thanks the Mayor, Andy Damiano, Mike Preston, Chief Nichols, and Chris Bistocchi. She asked the DPW to sweep the sidewalk and they did. They have come through in trying to make it as tolerable as possible.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8

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Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #53** of 2003 – Authorize budget transfers in order to fund the recently adopted contract with the PBA. (Transfer from Account A9030.800, Social Security: \$88,740.00) Transfer to A3120.101 (Salaries 51,355.00) A3120.102 (Longevity 26,250.00) A3120.107 (Shift Differential 4,000.00) A3120.108 (Detective on Call 595.00) A3120.109 (Officer in charge 1,600.00) A3120.110 (Firemans Quail. 440.00) A3120.408.01 (Uniforms 4,200.00) A3120.408.03 (Uniforms 300.00)

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #54** of 2003 – Authorize the adoption of the 2003 Community Development Miscellaneous Revenue Budget. (See attachment).

A brief discussion ensues regarding the brochure and encumbering the funds for same.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #55** of 2003 – Declaration by the Common Council to assume lead agency status for the SEQR process with regard to a zone change for 15 and 17 Kennedy Pkwy.

By: Alderman Testa  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

SEQR is reviewed.

The Council determines the action will not result in any significant environmental impact.

**RESOLUTION #56** of 2003 – Approve the zone change from R-1 to R-4 for lots 7 and 8 (15 and 17) Kennedy Parkway.

By: Alderman Testa  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

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**RESOLUTION #57** of 2003 – Approve the agreement between the City of Cortland CSEA Local 1000 AFFCME/AFLCIO various employees of the Cortland Water Department, Cortland DPW, and Cortland Youth Bureau.

Director Damiano acknowledges Mike Milligan for his help in negotiating this agreement.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Leonard declares the month of April 2003 has been designated by the Youth Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity as Fair Housing Month.

**Adjournment.**

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays - 0

**I, WILLIAM J. WOOD CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF APRIL 2003. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.**

**WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK**

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