



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

April 4, 2006

Council Meeting #7
April 4, 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 seventh Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

Public Comment

Andrea Rankin was present to speak in regard to Habitat for Humanity. They will be holding a fund raising raffle and the community businesses are supporting them.

Ed Bennedy was present to speak about his bid for the 12 Winter Street property. He indicated that he would pay the \$1,500 he bid and the house would be fixed up in about three (3) months or so and it would remain on the tax rolls and would be occupied soon by a suitable family. He did follow the process, place the bid and he asked that the Council consider all of this.

Minutes of March 21, 2006

RESOLUTION #36 OF 2006 - Approve the minutes of March 21, 2006.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman DeCarlo

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

Mayor's Report

He participated in the Superintendent search for Cortland High School as well as met with Thoma Development to discuss the parking lot improvements project and also attended the CMH Services meeting.

He met with Lloyd Purdy, designated Director of the Downtown Partnership Program. He hosted Caroline Peterson, Mayor of the City of Ithaca. He attended the SUNY Freshman Orientation Program and welcomed parents and students to the City. He met with Lindy Glennon, new Director of CAPCO. He also attended the Community Forum with Chief Nichols and the Civic Engagement reception at SUNY Cortland.

He handed out awards to community partners. Congratulations to:

Jackie Carlton, Seven Valleys Health Coalition.
Carol Navarro, Lime Hollow Nature Center
David and Dan McNeil, McNeil Development
Ces Scott, Cortland Youth Bureau

He also thanked Jim Partigianoni for participating in the Mayor's Meals on Wheels program.

Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She attended the Flood Subcommittee meeting and attended a workshop on flooding that the committee had put together. A gentleman from the DEC and Paul Yaman spoke and this will be televised on the Community Access channel. She met with Brian Mitteere from the Cortland Regional Medical Center and Wes Pettee and they spoke in regards to the Hospital's future expansion. The Hospital indicated that any future expansion of the facility will be precipitated with a public meeting in Ward 1 to talk about how they will proceed. She has also been working on the Community Clean Up Day.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

She noted that the Community Clean Up Day is a good idea. Her Ward has been quiet. She noted that Legislator Sean Clark and she are planning to have a Ward meeting in May and she will announce the date soon.

Ward 3 - Alderman Cobb

Her Ward has been quiet. There have been no crows. She has received calls regarding deer coming out through the fence.

The Mayor noted that there are two (2) fences at the Water Works. There are thirty-two (32) deer outside of the deer pen at the Water Works and there are twenty-two (22) inside. There is a very high inside fence inside of the fenced boundary of the Water

Works and that's where the twenty-two (22) deer are. They are not leaving the penned in area.

Alderman Cobb noted that she would be holding a Ward meeting on April 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Birtch Building.

Ward 4 - Alderman DeCarlo

He noted that a Ward resident moved out of some rental property and neighbors contacted him that garbage was strewn all over the street. He drove by the property, noted the situation and contacted the Code Office. The area was cleaned up within about forty-eight (48) hours by the residents.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He extended a thank you to Alderman VanGorder for organizing the Community Clean Up Day. He did receive a couple of e-mails from people who had received parking tickets for parking across sidewalks. He noted that it is illegal to park across the sidewalk for any length of time and he wanted people to know that it's important for parkers not to block the sidewalks. With the nicer weather, many more people are out walking and by parking on the sidewalk, people are forced to walk out into the streets. Other than that, his Ward has been quiet.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He referred to the e-mail that was received regarding the Main Street parking. He has spoken with Chief Nichols and is looking into it. He noted that a parking permit allowed the parker on Main Street to park in any space in a public parking lot. He also noted that the two (2) hours parking limit on Main Street, is so that customers can do business and is not meant for employees of those businesses. He also checked regarding yellow spaces in parking lots and those are designated for emergency vehicles.

He also spoke with Chief Nichols regarding the traffic light on the corner of Church and Central. A traffic engineer from the Department of Transportation Syracuse came down. It is a unique light, different from others in town. It has a five (5) second delayed walk. The Chief is concerned that with that delay, elderly people, who aren't used to that delay, step out into the road before the walk light comes on. A serious accident could occur and he would like to prevent that. It is being looked into.

He was contacted by a business on Port Watson Street. The owner of the business noted that many customers were coming in questioning him about the light that flickers on and off. Jim Sponaugle has taken care of that light.

Last week, Tuesday, he was at the DPW and he wanted to note that the new street sweeper has arrived and it is now in operation. There have also been some conversations regarding Winter Street. He also noted that on April 5, there would be a Center for the Arts meeting at 7:00 PM. On April 19, Officer Neilsen would be hosting a workshop on personal safety.

He also spoke about the Cortland County Nutrition Program's Meals on Wheels. This year Cortland County's Program received a silver award and a \$1,500 check. He thanked the Agency Director, the Manager of the Nutrition Program and all of the staff for their hard work. He had the privilege and honor to participate in this program on March 22 and he was very impressed with their organization. He went on to describe his activities during that day and he gave out the telephone number for anyone who was interested in volunteering.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He attended the Maple Fest in Marathon this past weekend. One of his constituents had entered the pancake eating contest. Family and friends went down to cheer on Cliff Kostuk, Principal at the Randall School. Cliff donated his time and proceeds to the Cancer Society Relay for Life. He placed third in monetary contributions and consumed fifteen (15) pancakes. April 21 and 22, he is doing a neighborhood clean up with Alderman VanGorder's group and is looking for volunteers.

RESOLUTION #37 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the approval of a Community Development loan (recommended by the Loan Committee) to East Coast Trading Corporation.

Linda Armstrong of Thoma Development was present to outline the particulars of this request and to answer any questions.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #38 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Thoma Development for the drafting of the South End Strategic Plan (funded by a NYS Technical Assistance Grant).

Linda Armstrong of Thoma Development was present to outline the particulars of this request and to answer any questions. She noted that they were the only respondents to the RFP request.

Alderman Terwilliger asked Ms. Armstrong to outline Thoma's business history of grant application work. Andy Damiano noted that a legal ad was placed regarding this grant application and other companies had been mailed the RFP package.

By: Alderman VanGorder
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #39 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the creation of the position "Part Time Water Distribution Maintenance Worker" in the Water Department.

Alderman Partigianoni noted that this position unofficially exists now and this resolution will make it official. Andy Damiano noted that when Tink Root retired, they had kept him on in a part time capacity with the same title he had when working full time. The City was unsure if the position would work out. Civil Service has requested that the City now make this more official by actually creating the part time position. The City is not adding an extra position and they are not changing any of Mr. Root's duties.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

Item No. 4 - Discussion regarding Community Clean Up Day on April 29, 2006.

Alderman VanGorder noted that she, her husband and Chris Gregory thought this was a good idea. It was thought to organize it in the City first and perhaps later into a countywide effort. She hoped that the other Aldermen would partner with them and organize the effort in each of their wards. They are also working on getting student volunteers and using the Armory as their home base. Key Bank has volunteered to be a sponsor and will donate T shirts and coffee and doughnuts to kick off the day. The plan is to use blue bags for the clean up collection and the group does not have enough money to purchase them. She wondered if the Council would support this effort and the City could pay for the blue bags.

It was strongly noted by all, that this is a clean up day and not an amnesty day. Residents should not be bringing trash to the Armory. The clean up volunteers would take what they collected and bring them to the Armory. Alderman Quail noted that all workers would want to wear gloves and Alderman VanGorder noted that Jim Sponaule had provided them with gloves and the Youth Bureau has donated the use of rakes. She is currently looking for the use of pick up trucks to aid in the collection and hauling of trash. The plan is to drop the filled bags at the Armory. Andy Damiano noted that if the trash was being collected at the Armory, they wouldn't need to go to the expense of the blue bags. The City would be paying the tipping fee by contacting Superior who would haul the collected trash for the City. The volunteers could use much cheaper plastic trash bags. Alderman Quail noted that the volunteers would only be cleaning from the sidewalk to the curb. It is hoped that residents would then have the incentive to clean up their own property. Alderman VanGorder hoped that there would be many volunteers showing up at the Armory around 8:30 AM and from there they would go out into their particular Wards. She also spoke with some of the Legislators and they also wanted to be involved. Andy Damiano noted that there was some funding in the budget for public information and that could be used to pay for a display ad to promote the Clean Up Day. Alderman VanGorder had spoken with radio stations and they were

going to help promote this. It was again noted, that the volunteers would be doing the clean up and that local residents were not to put bags out for them to pick up.

Item No. 5 - Discussion regarding the conveyance of the property located at 12 Winter Street.

The Mayor noted that this property was advertised for bid two (2) times. They did receive a bid, but in defense of Habitat for Humanity, they did not know about it. That's how they came in after the fact. It was noted that it was publicized. Andy Damiano also noted that a third party submitted a proposal, but Ed Bennedy was the only one who complied with the time frame of the bid. His bid was on time and the third bid was received after the fact in response to a newspaper article that was written. That offer should not be considered. Habitat, because of their volunteer work can be treated differently, than the "for profit" bidder. The Council's choices are Habitat or Mr. Bennedy's bid offer and the third offer should be disregarded.

It was noted that the Council, legally had the right to refuse any bid and had the choice to give it away (donate) to be rehabbed. Alderman Quail did note that Mr. Bennedy is going to rehab it and was not going to be selling it. It was noted that if the decision was to give it to Habitat, it would not be back on the tax rolls for about a year. Mr. Bennedy inquired what the current tax amount would be and it was noted that it was about \$600. Andy Damiano did note that once the property was rehabbed, it would be reassessed. Alderman Partigianoni had checked and it was currently assessed for \$33,200. He had spoken with Mr. Bennedy and he feels that Mr. Bennedy had followed procedure and his bid should be accepted. He does feel torn though, because he feels that Habitat and their crew would do an excellent job. It was noted that perhaps in the future, that Habitat should be contacted prior to bid placement should this situation arise again. It was noted that sooner or later it would go back on the tax rolls, but Habitat does have agreement rules that the new owner must sign and abide by, for maintenance and upkeep of the donated property. Habitat for Humanity was there to explain their program process.

Alderman Michales noted that he was on the Habitat for Humanity selection committee and he should recuse himself from the Council vote.

RESOLUTION #40 OF 2006 - Approve a Resolution to release the 12 Winter Street property to Ed Bennedy for his bid of \$1,500.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Roll Call Vote: Alderman VanGorder - Nay
Alderman Terwilliger - Aye
Alderman Cobb - Aye
Alderman DeCarlo - Aye
Alderman Quail - Nay
Alderman Partigianoni - Aye
Alderman Michales - Abstained

The Mayor thanked both the Habitat representative and Mr. Bennedy for participating in this process. It was thought there might be more properties becoming available in the near future.

Alderman Partigianoni noted that on the past windy Wednesday, that a lot of trash blew around and he asked that some residents who hadn't gotten out yet to pick up, that they make an effort to do so.

Adjournment

By: Alderman DeCarlo
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 4TH DAY OF APRIL 2006. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER