



## City Council Minutes April 16, 2002

The City of Cortland, New York

**COUNCIL MEETING #7**  
**April 16, 2002**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**  
**CITY HALL**  
**7:30PM**

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

**EXCUSED:** Alderman Hennessy

Staff present: City Clerk, William J. Wood, Deputy City Clerk, Jodi M. McLyman, Corporation Counsel, Mark Suben, Director of Administration & Finance, Andrew J. Damiano

**READING OF THE POEM "PEACE" BY KEOMARS JAVID**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Allison Clark of 70 Tompkins St. reminds everyone about Festivus which will be held April 20, 2002 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the County Office Building. Please tell everyone you know.

Trina Preston of 9 East Garfield St. speaks in opposition of the crematorium. She explains she went to a ZBA meeting. She feels she was not given a chance to voice concerns. They all have children, she is concerned about property values, and hearses coming in and out are a big deal to the residents. They fully intend to take this as far as possible. She feels they were treated unfairly. She hopes there can be some agreement reached on this.

Ronald and Jennifer Robbins of 13 Groton Ave. speak in opposition of removing the 3 parking spaces in front of 13 Groton Ave. He states there is already no parking from 3:00 – 6:00 and by removing those spaces is not going to help the traffic pattern. No one has approached them. Has there been any type of reports or has anyone counted cars?

Jack Gosse of 8 E. Main St. speaks in opposition of removing the 3 spaces. He is not speaking on behalf of the Elks Club, only for himself. Everyone in the City is always looking for parking spaces. He doesn't feel those spaces slow the flow of traffic. The light on the corner services 3 active lanes. The people that use those spaces are older people and visiting members of the Elks Club.

Mary Contento of 12 Peaceful Drive states she came before the Council four years ago to ask the City to update their zoning maps. Now in light of the crematorium this has caused the neighbors to be disillusioned. They don't feel this should be in the City. The street is narrow. It is light industry but it wasn't always. This is what happens with outdated zoning.

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Robert Neville of Oakcrest in opposition of the scrap yard at 119 Pendleton St. He owns property in the area. For years this business was done inside the building. After it was acquired it was rented out to people doing mechanical work inside the garage. Now he feels this is an eyesore to the City. The piles are 15 feet high, old tires, rodents and mosquitoes. He doesn't think the City wants to clean up this junkyard for \$5,000,000. It is dry now but the creek that runs through it takes all that water and dumps it into the Tioghnioaga River.

Ed Goehler of 11 Groton Ave. speaks in opposition of the removal of 3 parking spaces on Groton Ave. He owns the building in front of the spaces and feels customers use those spots. He cares about this issue, as do the above speakers. No one has consulted us regarding this. He has stood down on the corner at 9:00am, noon, 5:00pm and 6:00pm and timed the light. Its 9-1½ seconds. Only 4 cars can get through there. It doesn't matter if the cars are parked there or not. By taking away the spots is not going to change that.

### **RECOGNITION OF OFFICER WILLIAMSON**

Mayor Leonard notes he was part of the rescue of the little boy in the river. She and the audience gave a round of applause. Officer Williamson states the boy is doing better. Also with the rescue effort was John Gailor and Capt. Karl Grantham of the City Fire Department.

### **MINUTES**

Approve Common Council minutes of April 2, 2002.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes -7  
Nays – 0

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Leonard congratulates the Firefighter of the year Duane Pierce. He was involved in the rescue attempt of firefighter Brad LeFever. Thanks Mrs. Contento's class at Barry School for inviting them to come visit them. They asked the Mayor all kinds of questions like what her favorite color was as well as other City topics. She encourages everyone to go to Festivus on Saturday. It will be a great time. The Ukrainian scholars will be here on Sunday. The downtown committees are very active. There has been a lot of discussion about the Empire State Games. The Mayor has a video in her office if anyone would like to watch it. The senior games will be here as well.

Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

He has had calls regarding potholes but they will be taken care of shortly. The dogs are being let go in the parks. Owners are not cleaning up after their dogs. There are a lot of children in that park and dogs not on a leash could be a problem.

Ward 2 – Alderman Tobin

All is quiet.

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#### Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

Thanks Jim Sponaugle for having the light on Sands Street fixed. Thanks the Code Office for putting up more signs on Kappa. There is no ward meeting this month. Many Code complaints regarding student housing. She will submit a list to the Code Office as well as the Mayor's Office. There is a 5-ton limit sign on Groton Ave. If that sign is true there shouldn't be any agricultural trucks on Groton Ave. There are huge potholes. The street is not equipped to handle this. She asks if Corporate Counsel could look into this. Backing out of the driveway is also hazardous. She feels we need a plan and relook at zoning in Cortland.

#### Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

He has had a lot compliments on how nice the water works looks. He also has potholes in his ward. He had a complaint regarding the brush on the railroad spur that runs from Delaware to Tompkins St. It is getting thick and there are rodents.

#### Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

He has a ward meeting at City Hall on April 23, 2002 at 7:00PM. The next meeting in May will be on Wednesday night the last week in the month. Thanks to Keomars Javid for reading the poem. Thanks to Code and Jim Sponaugle for taking care of many issues in his ward especially speeders on Pendleton. The City Police issued over 22 tickets in two days on Pendleton Street. Encourages everyone to attend Festivus. Tomorrow is the Water Board meeting at the Pump House. Discusses recyclables. The maple festival was great. He attended the Beatle Mania concert at the High School. It was fantastic. People seem to be leaving their trashcans and recyclables out for days. Please bring them in.

#### Ward 6 – Alderman Testa

Trash bags are an issue. A few calls on the Contento property. It is running about 50/50. If it is going to be there, have controls. Attended the police commissioners meeting. There have been new restrictions implemented for taxicabs. The Styrofoam is still being discussed and where it can be disposed of.

#### Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He has been deluged with calls on the crematorium. He asks what needs to be done to update the Code? Corporation Counsel is reviewing this and if anyone has an idea, please write it down and submit it. The Mayor states that the Code doesn't watch what is going on now. It is conflicting and contradictory. He asks Amy Bertini if she could answer some of their concerns. She assures them yes and to call the Code Office. The pigeons and birds are still at the Marietta building. Corporation Counsel is also working on this. The streets are a big issue. He has talked to Bob Spada and he needs more money in his budget. We should be doing more than the 10 streets scheduled this year. We have to allocate money for that budget. He notes the properties in the 7<sup>th</sup> ward that need action taken on them.

#### Ward 8 – Alderman Hennessy

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Excused.

AGENDA

**RESOLUTION #39** of 2002 – To suspend the licensing procedure asking for a detailed site plan, a long form environmental assessment form and identification of surrounding parcels and their usage to be completed within a reasonable period of 30 days.

The applicant will be responsible for complying with this request. He is not supposed to be operating without a license but he has been operating for 12 years. The Mayor explains that if he doesn't answer the questions then you can ask Counsel to pursue injunctive relief or something else down the road but it only seems fair to give him a chance to answer the questions being posed. It wasn't his fault that this happened the way it did.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes - 7  
Nay – 0

Item No. 2 - Consideration of a Resolution amending Sec. 11-66(6) of the Code of Ordinances in order to eliminate three (3) parking spaces in the vicinity of 13 Groton Ave.

Jeff Stockton, the chairman of the Public Safety Commission, speaks to the Council. We know the business owners oppose the removal of the spaces. As a Public Safety Commission, their job is not to look at the parking issue itself. He feels if the spots are removed, it will improve the flow of traffic. At the last meeting, we suggested the State do a traffic study. One idea would be to move the parking spots from the Southside to the North side of the Street. We have to look into this. The timing of the lights may also be another option.

**RESOLUTION #40** of 2002 – designate OCM BOCES as the low bidder to provide natural gas to the City and further authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with OCM BOCES (as the Administrative Participant for the NY School & Municipal Energy Consortium) for such energy purchasing services.

Alderman Quail has looked into the natural gas pricing and it's 20% higher than it was in February. The prices are lower in September. Jim Sponaule states they put a bid package together and submitted it to six or seven companies. One of the companies was Mirabito. BOCES was being supplied natural gas from Enron. They had to find another marketer. Mirabito bid on the BOCES contract and got it. This rate will not fluctuate. The contract will run from Feb. 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003. At that time, we will negotiate again. As far as electric, the contract runs from Feb. 1, 2002 to January 31, 2003. There is not a lot of savings with electric. A brief discussion ensues regarding the termination of the contract, Enron, and quantity of gas used. The more people in the consortium, the better the rate. Director Damiano states we are pretty close to keeping within the budget.

By: Alderman Testa  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

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Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nay – 0

Item No. 4 – Discussion regarding possible acquisition of a sound system for the Council Chambers.

The Mayor asks if it is possible to get a try out before we invest money in it. Jim Sponaugle will check on that. The price is for 8 microphones, 2 people for 1 microphone. He explains where they will be located. This does not come with a cassette recorder but it comes with a jack to plug a cassette recorder into it to tape an entire meeting. It will be a lot clearer to understand. There could be a maintenance contract provided. There are many different kinds of systems. Jim will get a shopping list together so the Council can pick and choose what features they want.

**LOCAL LAW No. 2** for 2002 – Establish New Ward Boundaries is placed on the table.

**Adjournment.**

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Aye – 7  
Nay – 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 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2002. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.**

**WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK**

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