



City Council Minutes May 7, 2002

The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #8
May 7, 2002
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
CITY HALL
7:30PM

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

7:20 PM Local Law No. 2 of 2002 Establishing New Ward Boundaries

Elsie Ferro of 15 Denti Way spoke in opposition of the new ward boundaries. It doesn't seem very well thought out that they would move 499 people out of the 5th ward to justify balancing it for 135 people. It makes no sense to add Clayton Avenue and the North side of Tompkins Street to the 5th ward simply to balance the equal registration numbers for each ward.

Tom Michales of 22 William Street asks if everyone is in agreement with the new boundaries? Census figures tend to change. He feels people will be confused regarding who their representatives are County and Citywide.

There was no one further to speak; therefore the public hearing was closed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ashley Ellefson of 23 Chestnut Street hands a copy of a letter with regard to the stray cats. He feels they are a nuisance and hopes that something can be done.

Tom Michales of 22 William Street speaks regarding the lack of grass planted by the contractor after the construction project on William Street. The seed is not coming up as it should.

Chris Farkas of 23 Crandall Street speaks regarding the stray cat population. There are stray cats and then there are cats that roam but are pets. His suggestion is cats that are owned by people should have a collar with a name and address. If they get picked up by the SPCA then they should get a warning the first time, second time make it a fine. As for the stray cats, they should be exterminated. You can't catch them. They are mean and are wild animals.

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Bill Allen of New Woodstock speaks regarding a letter he sent to the Mayor. He just received notice that the letter could not be found. He has made another copy of the letter. He has a complaint regarding the treatment he received while waiting for the Mayor. When he complained about waiting and wanted to file a complaint with the secretary, he was told their names were not his business. The Ethics Committee meetings are open to the public. He would like someone from the Ethics Committee to look into reconstructing the minutes.

Sandy Price of 1189 Church St. appreciates the Mayor's Proclamation regarding National Brain Tumor month.

MINUTES

Approve the amended Common Council minutes of April 16, 2002.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Leonard reads the Proclamation regarding the North American Brain Tumor Coalition. Mayor thanks Mr. and Mrs. Price as well as Mrs. Richards for coming. The Mayor attended the Zonta Women of Achievement Luncheon on Sunday. The honoree was Kathleen Tavarone who for many years was extremely active in the Cortland Education System. May is also proclaimed as Teen Pregnancy Prevention month in the City of Cortland by ZAP which has been very successful in reducing the number of Teen Pregnancies. Cortland High School held its Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame Ceremony. The Mayor has a book for everyone to view. Mayor Leonard congratulates Chris Farkas on the Achievers Award by the State Senate. Associated Press has also nominated Eric Reinhardt for an award.

This month is Student Employee Recognition Ceremony at SUNY Cortland, which is an opportunity where the school recognizes the students who work on campus and off campus. She attended the National Day of Prayer breakfast last Thursday. Tuesday May 8 at 9:00AM in the Mayor's Conference Room she is going to announce the kickoff of the Neighborhood Award Program. She had mentioned this earlier in the State of the City Address and now that Spring is here she would like to get this taken care of. The Intermunicipal Cooperation Group had its first meeting. They will be meeting in Homer this month.

The Empire State Games is going full tilt. There is a new website that has all the volunteer information.

SPECIAL GUEST

Victoria Hayes, who is the Special Assistant to Carl McCall, is present. She welcomes any comments or questions.

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Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

Thanks Skip Chapman for the Editorial “A Walk in the Park”. It was in the April 22nd edition of the Cortland Standard. He is having a ward meeting with guest Tom Carmen, President of Cortland Memorial Hospital. The meeting will be in the hospital cafeteria Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 PM.

Ward 2 – Alderman Tobin

Mayor wishes Mr. Tobin happy 50th birthday. Street repairs are an issue in the second ward. Festivus was a wonderful event put on by SUNY Cortland students. We should give them a plaque. He also received calls regarding loud music that same week. It would be a wonderful thing to have the student housing signs come down during the Empire and Senior Games. The Mayor has talked with Corporation Counsel regarding this issue and he is working on this.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

She attended the Volunteer Fire awards dinner and also the paid Firefighter dinner. She wants to thank them. She wants the community to recognize the dedication of the volunteers as well as the paid firefighters. There is longevity in our Fire Department and they should all be commended. Groton Avenue was also torn up and grass seed put down but nothing is coming up. She is having a ward meeting the last Tuesday in May. She would like to put this on the agenda that the bills be discussed. This will be put on as an administrative item. She has someone on Ottercreek who would like more than one tree from the program.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

He also feels the individuals should be recognized for Festivus. Mayor Leonard will invite John to the next meeting.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

He had a ward meeting held on April 23. He covered issues from the Contento’s scrap yard, speeding, potholes, etc. One of the concerns is the tissue wrapping from the pizza places. There is a no parking spot in front of the pizza place on South Main St. It says “No parking” on the pavement but there is no sign. Complaints on dogs messing in Beaudry Park. Attended the water board meeting. Fluoridation is an issue that will be coming up. He attended the 1890 House Fund Raiser and the paid firefighter dinner. There are some very dedicated people there. He had two calls on cats.

Ward 6 – Alderman Testa

He has had calls on potholes and speeding especially on Miller Street. This is referred to the Public Safety Commission. He also attended Festivus and the Fireman’s dinner. He attended the Police Commission meeting. Andy SanJule designed the logos for the new Police cars. He attended the 1890 House event.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

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Congratulates Chris Farkas and Rita Wright for the Governor's Award from Governor Pataki. He also attended the Fire Department dinners. He had a ward meeting and thanks all the public officials that attended to answer questions. Potholes are a problem. The sunken manhole covers are also a problem. The pigeon lady received a letter from Corporation Counsel asking her to stop feeding the pigeons. Also notes the I.D.A. hired a professional consultant, Ken Teter.

Ward 8 – Alderman Hennessy

She thanks Alderman Quail for taking calls on her behalf while she was on vacation. She had a ward meeting April 22. There were a number of concerns regarding the scrap yard and about what it might mean for the future of the City to have that type of development in town. There have been several complaints regarding this. Her next ward meeting will be Monday, May 13 at City Hall at 7:00PM. The block leader for the neighborhood watch on Cedar Street will be speaking. She attended Communities that Care Orientation meeting for Mayor Leonard. This looks like a very interesting program that concentrates on reducing problem behavior in teenagers. Festivus was a great success. They did a wonderful job. She attended the Agency on Aging Advisory Council meeting this morning. It is not only Empire State Games but Senior Games will be here June 6th thru the 9th. If you would like to attend the dinners and such you can contact the Agency on Aging at the County Office Building.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #41 of 2002 – Resolution authorizing the organization Reality Check to hold an outdoor dance at CAPCO, 32 North Main Street, on May 31 from 9:00PM to 11:00PM; and, waiver of the \$250.00 permit fee.

Erica Riccardi from Reality Check with regard to the dance the organization would like to hold. She is hoping 200 people attend. Alderman Tobin is concerned with the age group, which will be in violation of the Cities curfew. Is it possible to change the hours from 7:30PM to 9:30PM? She explains the one reason they are looking for 9:00PM to 11:00PM is because the outdoor dance doesn't really attract too many teens until it gets dark. They don't like to dance in the light. Alderman Morey asks if other than the security person, will adults be present. She is concerned for safety. There will be adults chaperoning or basically 1 adult for 40 students. This will all be held in one area. The youths can come and go. Chris Farkas explains that logically, the area they are in is quite closed off. They are going to be confined in that space. Alderman Tobin asks if the fee can be waived because it is a non-profit organization.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #42 of 2002 adoption of Local law No. 2 of 2002; in order to establish revised ward boundaries as a result of the 2000 Federal Census.

By: Alderman Testa
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

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Alderman Morey asks if an application with the State had been filed asking if the census was going to hold up. Alderman Hennessy states that she doesn't believe there has been a determination made on that. This map assumes that our objections will be upheld. If they were not, then we would have to change the map because the census numbers wouldn't agree. Alderman Hennessy states that she supports a plan with very minor differences with the plan approved by the County Legislature. These small changes would not affect the numbers in each ward but would preserve neighborhoods with greater similarity of interests intact. The legislature is unwilling to make any changes and the election office needs a decision in order to prepare for the next election. Approving the legislature's plan prevents requiring people to vote in two different polling places in the same election. Alderman Testa agrees we don't want that.

Roll Call Vote:

Alderman Faraoni	Yes	Alderman Quail	Yes
Alderman Tobin	Yes	Alderman Testa	Yes
Alderman Morey	Yes	Alderman Partigianoni	Yes
Alderman Guido	Yes	Alderman Hennessy	Yes

Item No. 2 – Presentation by Sara Knobel of the SPCA regarding stray cats.

She feels the SPCA is there to save lives. She knows there is a problem. Thirty percent of the stray cat population is in the City. We allow people to bring stray cats to the SPCA because they do not have the manpower or vehicles. Sara feels the stray and neuter program will help the cat problem. This will in turn lower the population because they wont be multiplying. A committee is formed consisting of Alderman Faraoni, Morey, Mr. Ellefson, and Mr. Farkas.

RESOLUTION #43 of 2002 – Resolution designating Stub's Tree Service as the low bidder for tree and stump removal services; and further authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement with the company for such services.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #44 of 2002 – Resolution authorizing an amendment to Section 11-63 H (i) (j) of the Code of Ordinances in order to eliminate the parking permit program in the Port Watson Youth Center parking Lot.

Alderman Hennessy explains that more people would park there rather than parking downtown for extended periods of time. The permit is free but people don't know that.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

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RESOLUTION #45 of 2002 – Resolution authorizing an increase in wages for elections inspectors from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per hour, and machine custodians from \$20.00 to \$22.00 per machine.

Alderman Faraoni states this will bring it in line with other towns and villages.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Tobin

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item No. 7 - Discussion regarding bills.

Alderman Morey asks why the bills for NYCOM have not come in? She also asks why no bills have come in for the Mayor's Office with regard to the gatherings she's hosted. The Mayor states she has paid for them out of her own pocket. Alderman Faraoni asks why?

Alderman Hennessy explains the Council used to vote to approve the bills. Alderman Testa feels the Council should ask questions and approve or disapprove the payment of bills. Alderman Morey feels the Council is obligated to the constituents. Andy Damiano explains that the Charter does not call for the Council to approve the expenditure of funds. The Council's sole financial responsibility is to adopt the budget. The Council agrees to put them on the agenda for discussion.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss a personnel matter.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes –8
Nays - 0

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Adjournment.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

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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 7th DAY OF MAY 2002. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK
