



## City Council Minutes May 20, 2003

The City of Cortland, New York

**COUNCIL MEETING #9**  
**May 20, 2003**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**  
**City Hall**  
**7:00PM**

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

**EXCUSED:** Alderman Faraoni

Staff present: Corporation Counsel, Mark Suben, City Clerk, William J. Wood, Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano, Chief Jim Nichols, and Buildings and Grounds Supt. Jim Sponaule.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Dexter of Cedar St. speaks with regard to NiMo and the trees. The man from NiMo was very sensitive to the situation. NiMo also said the 10 trees from Elm St. to Central Ave. did not need that much of a trim. That is like a 360 from where we were last year. We did accomplish something. NiMo wants to work with the City. Mike notes he is trying to bring someone in that knows more about trees so they can help us plant the proper trees. We are going to replant trees.

### MINUTES of May 6, 2003

Alderman Morey asks for a correction on page 3. This author had noted her reason in the last sentence in the paragraph above as this was the sequence of the tape.

**RESOLUTION #83** of 2003 – Approve the minutes of May 6, 2003.

By: Alderman Partigianoni  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

The minutes of April 15, 2003 will be approved at the next meeting. There are also other meetings that have not been approved.

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## BILLS

Alderman Partigianoni questions the SPCA payments. Director Damiano explains one is to act as an animal control officer the other is housing the dogs.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

The Superintendent of Public Works asks that the Mayor announce as of May 12, 2003 that the DPW will not follow the previous lawn debris schedule. They will pick up on rainy days and light schedule days. The purpose is when there is good weather; the DPW can work on things that need more attention. The Mayor offers congratulations to the graduates of SUNY Cortland and TC3. She also thanked President Taylor for his active role in our community. He participates in a lot of things and she wants to thank him for his support.

There was a wonderful senior citizens event today. One of our City employees mother won the award for "Senior Citizen of the Year". Doug Withey's mom was the recipient of that award. The Mayor has a Proclamation from the Zero Adolescent Pregnancy Program recognizing that May 2003 is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month in Cortland.

There have been some efforts underway between the farmer's market, DBA, the Chamber, and representatives from the agricultural community. We are trying to come up with a way to enhance the market and shopping downtown. June 7th is the opening of the market and we are trying to come up with some events to showcase that day.

Three of our firefighters have been promoted to Captain. The Mayor congratulates Tom Casterline, Tom Owen, and Morgan Jones. The Youth Bureau is having its "Youth of the Year" event this Thurs. at 7:00PM. The Mayor offers congratulations to Jim Sponaugle who was recognized by the Cortland Rotary and is a recipient of the "Pride and Workmanship" award. It was a really nice event. This recognizes the people that make things run and that's what Jim Sponaugle does for the City of Cortland.

## WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

Excused.

Ward 2 - Alderman Tobin

Thanks the Code Office for getting involved and cleaning up 106 Maple Ave. Thanks the police department for taking care of some problems. He recently gave Mr. Suben some information on the administrative code and he would like to see that directed toward legislation. Mr. Suben asks if he wants him to draft a piece of legislation. Mr. Suben would like to research this further as it is from the City of SanDiego which is slightly bigger than Cortland.

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

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She received some phone calls regarding brush removal. The DPW will pick it up. She received calls regarding trash left behind from the college students. The Senior Games are June 10th thru the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Dairy parade is also June 3rd. Congratulations to Jim Sponaugle.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

Welcomes Mrs. Megivern's law class. He congratulates SUNY Cortland graduates and women's softball, men's lacrosse, which lost a heartbreaker on Sunday, and the baseball team. Thanks the Code office for their help.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He attended the volunteer firefighter's dinner on Sat. It was a good time. Enjoyed the chicken B.B.Q. from the Youth Bureau. He has had calls regarding loud and speeding motorcycles. Thanks the Code Office for getting 46 South Ave. cleaned up. Next ward meeting is next Tuesday, 6:30 to 7:30 at the Moose Club. They will be discussing the facility study, litter pick up day, and also the dog park.

Ward 6 - Alderman Testa

He attended the volunteer firefighter dinner. The food and band were good. Walked around with the landscape committee. They have done a very good job. He hopes this continues in the future. Congratulates Jim Sponaugle. He is not going to have a ward meeting this month because it falls on the last Wednesday of the month and he is participating with the zone review. Congratulates the men's baseball team and the men's lacrosse team, and women's softball team. Cortland State had a great year this year.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He attended the senior reception. The Planning Committee met and they approved the zone change for Port Watson St. Mr. Pace is concerned with the mulch at the DPW. If the tree is diseased, then the mulch will also be diseased. The St. Anthony's Day celebration is June 8, 2003.

Ward 8 - Alderman Hennessy

Her ward meeting is next Tuesday at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers. They will be discussing the facilities study and also Marilyn Brown will be there to talk about the new Administrator for the County. She congratulates Jim Sponaugle on his "Pride in Workmanship Award". It was very well deserved. Barb Withey was named Senior Citizen of the Year. She was very active in Cortland County. She has 6 children, 16 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. They also have a senior essay contest and an elementary school essay contest where the essay involves a senior writing about what they have learned from children they know and the elementary school students write about what they have learned from an older person that they will never forget. It was very entertaining. The Cortland School district was very well represented in the prize winning. She received calls about cats. It's the time when the weather gets warmer and the cats are outside more.

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AGENDA

Item No. 1 – Presentation of a report by the Animal Committee.

Ashley Ellefson speaks for the committee. A copy of his statement is attached and made a part hereto.

**RESOLUTION #84** of 2003 – Authorize the creation of two additional Police Officer positions. (To be funded by the office of Court Administration).

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Testa

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #85** of 2003 – Approve the changes of titles for certain Water Department personnel as a result of the reclassification study completed and adopted by the Civil Service Commission.

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Alderman Guido asks if this will change the salaries. Dir. Damiano states this is strictly renaming their job to be more accurate of the work they are doing.

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #86** of 2003 – To accept low bidder for the supply of natural gas to the City and further authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with the entity chosen.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Jim Sponaule explains the process.

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #87** – Approve the request submitted by John and Colleen Ostrander (Easy Street) to operate a sound device on August 9, 2003 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

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Item No. 6 – Discussion regarding the feasibility of constructing a dog park.

Alderman Quail states he has had a number of people request this. If you go on the internet there are approx. 600 dog parks that are now functioning. There is one in Onondaga Park in Syracuse. He would like the Council to take a look at this. He notes there are “dos” and “don’ts” and if you type in dog parks there are about 30 links. The Mayor asks if he has a sponsor in mind. Alderman Quail states no. He states you can charge per visit. Alderman Morey asks if it would be economical to use a portion of the City Park and place time restrictions on it. Alderman Morey brings up a disease that could be present. Questions regarding staffing, times, money, sponsors, etc. arises. Alderman Morey is concerned about the liability. The Mayor also thought maybe the Youth Bureau Advisory Board could comment on this.

**RESOLUTION #88** of 2003 – Approve the re-appointment of Mary Jane Corey to the Cortland Housing Authority Board.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Testa

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Alderman Morey notes with regard to Resolution #72, the State and Local Aid and Economic Stimulus Act of 2003, she is in favor of it.

Item No. 8 – Cops in school program.

Chief Nichols explains the application. This application recently became available to the City of Cortland. We are proposing that we pursue a grant to place a full time police officer in the City School system. We have an outstanding school system in this community. This effort is to enhance this. We provide a terrific amount of resources to the school system. For over 50 years the Cortland Police Department has had a full time youth division officer assigned from the police department. It is Sgt. Bill Carpenter at this time. We have so far responded to over 90 calls involving the school system. The idea behind the school resource officer is to build a mentoring program between the police, school staff, and the community to solve issues and prevent problems that may occur. Auburn has an established school resource officer. And they believe this builds a repore with the school system and staff to solve issues and prevent problems from occurring. As of now the Homer School system, Dryden, and Marathon have school resource officers. Broome County Sheriff’s dept. also has school resource officers. They praise the program for the positive effect it has on the community. There is a \$125,000 grant available. This is to cover the cost over a three year period. Our obligation is the fourth year. We must maintain the position for four years. We would place a senior officer in the program and hire a new officer. We would like to partner with the Cortland School district to offset the cost to the City of Cortland. We have met with Dr. Lutz, Mrs. Riley, and Principal Dowdy. They are all in favor of this program. They have discussed this with their board in the past and have received positive statements from the board. We need to make a decision tonight so we can move forward and the school board can make a decision and Thoma Development can prepare the grant.

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We currently provide a patrol force to the City schools. This means we are taking police officers off patrol and sending them into schools. We participate in "You and the Law" program, Halloween safety and bike safety, health fairs, search classes, follow up on incidents that happen at school locations, bus stops, etc, we participate in school issues involving principals, councilors, social workers, CPS, and safe school programs. This idea is not because we have breeding issues. This is to enhance the repore we have. Here is an opportunity to fund a full time police officer at a reduced cost and to create an opportunity to put officers on the streets rather than responding to the school system. This will free up two police officers, the youth division officer and the patrol officers.

The cost over the course of four years would be \$50,000. Right now we are not counting on any contributions from the school system. We would like to partner with the school system. If this were to happen then it would cost us around \$11,000 and \$13,000 per year. This would be a uniformed police officer on the school ground on a daily basis. We have equipment available. We would still have the youth division officer assisting on major problems. The officer must commit 75% of their time to the school system. We are not at full capacity. He has an officer retiring June 25, 2003 so there will be two vacancies. Chief Nichols feels we can manage the money issue.

**RESOLUTION #89** of 2003 - To approve the application for the grant, "Cops in School Program", and to fund the cost of that program should we be successful in the application.

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Adjournment.**

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7  
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 20th DAY OF MAY 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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