



City Council Minutes June 17, 2003
The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #10

June 17, 2003

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

City Hall

7:00PM

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

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

7:00 Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Change on Port Watson St.

There was no one to speak; therefore the public hearing was closed at 7:01PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Witty introduces Ms. Stephanie Passeri of Cortland Junior/Senior High and representatives from her 8th grade Team 3 English classes. Every year they participate in the YWCA Women's essay contest. This year the topic was "First for Women". She acknowledges Mayor Mary Leonard as the first women Mayor.

Some of the students spoke and told who they wrote about, Amelia Earhart, Senator Hillary Clinton, etc.

They presented a copy of the "First for Women" book they compiled with a dedication to Mayor Mary Leonard for being the first women Mayor. They thanked the Mayor for being an astounding role model to the youth of Cortland. The students thanked her for everything she has done for the City of Cortland.

Steve Muka of Evergreen St. read in the paper there was going to be a discussion surveying the public with regard to fluoridation. He is very much against fluoridation. He has questions that should be answered by the Council before doing the survey. You would have to decide what number of people either for or against would determine whether you would take action. He poses some questions for the Council such as City insurance for possible health problems, Water that is already fluoridated, and would the City be liable for damages, etc.

MINUTES of May 20, 2003

RESOLUTION #90 of 2003 – Approve the minutes of May 20, 2003.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #91 of 2003 – Approve the amended minutes of April 15, 2003.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

BILLS

Alderman Quail asks about Superior Trash.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor thanks the people that were there from Ms. Passeri's class. It was an honor and she did not expect the dedication. The Dairy Parade was a lot of fun. The Mayor got to ride on the antique truck. Deputy Chief Whitsett is retiring and she expresses her appreciation for his long years of service and dedication to the Police Department and the City of Cortland. One of our advisory board members, Betsy Boyden, was honored today at the Rotary luncheon as Rotarian of the year. Last week she appeared on a talk show that was held by public television in Syracuse called "Our CNY". It was a call-in show and she was very surprised that people did not know where Cortland was. She talked about the activities that Cortland is planning. It is helpful to remind people how close in proximity Cortland is to Syracuse.

She went on a tour of the recycling facility in Liverpool that is now being used for the Cities recycling. We received the first installment from NIMO for the tree program. The facilities study is moving ahead. The Cavelli building is down. There is a pile of rubble that will soon be gone. This was ordered to be down by July but the weather helped us and made it come down sooner. The cost of the demolition is passed on to the property owner. If the property owner doesn't pay it becomes a lien against the property owner.

The senior games were here last week. We have not had any confirmation on the Armory as of yet.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

The first ward is in good shape.

Ward 2 - Alderman Tobin

He thinks we need to make a positive comment about the Cortlandville Town Board. They denied the gas station in support of the aquifer.

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

She has received calls about the repaving on Forrest Ave. because of the way the water flows it floods their basement. She wants to know if this is going to be corrected. She thought it was a shame the planters were vandal-

ized. There is still a problem with the trucks on Groton Ave. She had a few calls on the brush pick up. The people can drop it off on Franklin St. seven days a week. If there is a lot of brush, call the DPW and they will go out and take care of it. Alderman Morey asks the Youth Bureau to clarify their message on their answering machine as far as games being cancelled. Alderman Partigianoni states John McNerney is not responsible for other fields. He cannot speak for them.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

He has had some talks with the railroad company about the train cars. They have been moved out of the neighborhood. They told him it was a petroleum based product and it was safe to store in the cars. According to HAZMAT it is not considered a hazardous material. He asked if this was going to be a yearly occurrence and they really couldn't say. He feels this is something we should look into when we are revising the Code of Ordinances. He doesn't feel a residential area is a place to store a petroleum product and certainly not near a school.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He had his litter pick up day for his ward. They worked almost 3 hours. It was a lot of fun and work. He thanks some of the people that helped. There are pictures on the website. He hopes people will pick up their own trash especially cigarette butts. Congratulates the Firefighters who were promoted to Captains. He chaperoned the Cortland Elementary select band to Dorney Park in Penn. They played in a competition and won their group. He went to the Dairy Parade. He was contacted by Suzanne Etherington from the Landscape and Design Committee. She forwarded a request for her to attend a conference in Utica on July 19, 2003. The cost of the conference is \$60.00 and the mileage is 85 miles each way. He was wondering if the money received from NiMo could be used for that purpose. This committee has no budget.

RESOLUTION #92 of 2003 – Approve Suzanne Etherington to go to the conference from Brown to Green: Urban Forestry and Economic Development. (This will be paid for from the travel line for the Common Council budget).

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Alderman Quail asks about the Corp. Counsel contractual line. He states there is about \$3000.00 left in contractual. Corp. Counsel notes we will have another bill from Central New York Zoning. We are very close to wrapping this up. A brief discussion ensues regarding line items. The Mayor notes Corp. Counsel is not spending money or hiring people. We have to defend ourselves when we have labor matters.

Ward 6 - Alderman Testa

He attended the Dairy Parade. He has had calls regarding brush removal. Some of his constituents were concerned about recycling. They thought because the goods were thrown into one big bin it meant we were not recycling or paying for something we weren't getting. They are now satisfied. He has had calls about some lights on Morgan Drive that are not coming on. He is glad the building on Groton Ave. is down. He has had a complaint about drainage on Sampson St. when we were getting all the water. It runs down the end of the street. He has called the DPW and they will look into it.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

The St. Anthony's festival was a huge success. The Empire Games were made possible by all the volunteers. He had some inquiries about a doggy pot at Dexter Park. This is going to be installed next week. Beaudry Park will get one also. With regard to the mulch pile, there is no danger with spreading disease. He had the speed detector in the 7th ward. He would like a stop sign installed. Public Safety will address the issue and make a recommendation to the Council.

Ward 8 - Alderman Hennessy

Her next ward meeting will be Monday, June 30 at 7:00PM at City Hall. On Sunday, June 29th there will be a reception for Warren Eddy who will be retiring after 40 years. This will be an amnesty day so if you have any overdue books, today is the day to bring them back.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #93 of 2003 – The Common Council assumes lead status for the SEQRA process for a zone change request for 170-174 and 182 Port Watson St.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

The SEQRA is reviewed.

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

RESOLUTION #94 of 2003 – Authorize the change in zoning for the property located at 170-174 and 182 Port Watson St. from Industrial to General Business.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #95 of 2003 – To grant the permit request submitted by the American Cancer Society to operate a sound device at Davis Field (SUNY Cortland) from 7:00PM on June 20, 2003 to 10:00AM on June 21, 2003.

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #96 of 2003 – To grant a permit request submitted by Family Connections to operate a sound device at New Beginnings, a local church located on Denti Way on July 5, 2003 from 11:00AM to 8:00PM.

By: Alderman Hennessy

Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #97 of 2003 – Permit the closing of the municipal parking lot adjacent to Market Place Mall from 1:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates for the purpose of holding a downtown jazz concert, “Cortland Main Street Music Series,” and food/beverage vending:

June 26, July 10, July 25, August 7, August 21 and September 18 (tentative).

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #98 of 2003 – Permit the closing of Euclid Ave. from 9:00AM to 6:00PM on July 9th for the annual Euclid Ave. neighborhood picnic.

By: Alderman Testa
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #99 of 2003 – Authorize the appropriation of \$1,012.15 from the contingency fund of the 2003 Miscellaneous Revenue Budget in order to purchase trash can liners and lids for the trash receptacles in the downtown area.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #100 of 2003 – Authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Stearns & Wheeler, LLC to undertake a Sewer System Evaluation Study. (To be funded by a grant from the EPA).

Alderman Hennessy states there is a lot of Inflow and Infiltration in the sewer system and because of the level of flow that the plant is rated for, they want to keep everything out of the system that is not coming from the waste. Infiltration from the ground water is putting us over the limit when we shouldn't be.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #101 of 2003 – Authorize the Mayor to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with CSEA Water Department Unit 655801 for the period January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2005.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #102 of 2003 – Authorize an amendment to Section 100-4 (B) (1) of the Code of Ordinances in order to delete references to the Uniform Code which are no longer pertinent.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #103 of 2003 – Authorize the transfer of \$2,000 from account A 1990.100 (contingencies) to account A3120.415-01 (police contractual) to fund the services of nuisance wildlife officers to trap skunks and woodchucks.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Alderman Partigianoni would like woodchucks included. Alderman Morey states the \$150.00 cap per family may not be enough. Alderman Quail agrees. Alderman Faraoni feels the blue bags are feeding all the animals in the City. Somehow we have to educate the public to put their blue bags in a trash container and not to be put out before garbage day. They agree to not set a cap.

RESOLUTION #104 of 2003 – To amend Resolution #28 of 2003 in order to change the wording from “hiring a stenographer to transcribe the minutes of January 21, 2003” to “hiring a stenographer to complete comprehensive minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2003”.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #105 of 2003 – Reappointment of Diana Jeffalone of 1 Brentwood Drive in Homer, New York as Commissioner of Deeds for Sunfirst Federal Credit Union.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item No. 13 – Consideration of a Resolution directing the Director of Administration and Finance to survey Water Department customers on the issue of fluoridation of the City’s water. (Alderman Tobin)

Alderman Quail does not want to piece meal this. How are we going to approach this? What rules are going to be in place? He wants a comprehensive plan. The Mayor states that perhaps someone at the college could help with the study. Alderman Partigianoni feels this is going to be very insignificant and not scientific. Alderman Morey feels we are not surveying the people that drink the water. We are surveying the tax payers and people that pay the water bill.

On the question.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Denied: Ayes – 1 (Tobin)
Nays – 7

RESOLUTION #106 of 2003 – Approve the appointment of Pete Cappadonia to the Assessment Review Board.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Alderman Testa asks about the feasibility study and sales tax. The Mayor states we will be having a meeting in July. Andy and the Mayor have both been in contact with the County. The new Administrator has been contacted and he knows they City would like to sit down and discuss the matter.

Adjournment.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

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 17th DAY OF JUNE 2003. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK
