



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland

July 5, 2005

Council Meeting #12
July 5, 2005
Regular Business Meeting
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Alderman Faraoni, Terwilliger, Morey, Guido, Quail,
Feiszli, Partigianoni and Michales

Staff Present: Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano,
Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker
& City Clerk John O. Reagan

Alderman Quail calls the twelfth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Dexter spoke of the trees and dumpsters on Groton Avenue. He would like to complement the City Officials for the planting of new trees and the dumpsters are enclosed by a green privacy fence. NIMO has been trimming trees on Huntington Street. They did the trees as best as they could with what they had to work with. The lines had been touching the trees and the trees needed to be topped because they were hot.

MINUTES of June 21, 2005

RESOLUTION #72 OF 2005 - Approve the minutes of June 21, 2005 as amended.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
 Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

There was discussion regarding the Bell and Spina study regarding the moving of the Court to the Courthouse. The study is currently in draft form and some further requests have been made to the architect. Mr. Damiano would like the Council's approval for him to withhold payment until the study is complete. The County will only reimburse the City if the County does not proceed with the project.

Alderman Quail introduced Lori Crompton, the new Deputy Director of Administration and Finance to the Council. Lori started on June 23, 2005.

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

He wished the Mayor a speedy recovery. His Ward has had many problems with cats, skunks and woodchucks. None of these have been solved, but are being worked on. Many are using Suggett Pool and everyone is enjoying.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

The Ward has been quiet.

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

She wished the Mayor a speedy recovery and she would like to put the woodchuck problem on the agenda for the next meeting. Not as many skunk problems, but woodchucks seem to really be a problem this year. There has also been a request regarding the Annual Block Party for Glenn Street.

RESOLUTION #73 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution authorizing the closure of Glenn Street on July 31, 2005 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM for the Annual Block Party.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Feiszli

Approved: Ayes - 8
 Nays - 0

Alderman Partigianoni mentioned that he has received calls regarding woodchucks and inquired if money had been put in the budget for this. There was none put in, but will be further discussed at the next meeting regarding rules for removal.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

He received a letter from one of the Department of Transportation engineers regarding the parking problem on Tompkins Street. They are looking into that and will try to fix the problem of visibility coming out onto Tompkins. Other than that, it has been quiet.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He has addressed a number of code issues in his Ward this recently and they are fully remediated this week. On Owego Street there have been some inconsistent recycling pick-ups. Alderman Guido also noted the same and talked with DPW. He spoke with the Mayor earlier this evening and he is resting comfortably at home. He is feeling much better since his surgery, but it will be awhile before he is fully recovered.

Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

The Neighborhood Watch meeting has been rescheduled and will now be held, Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at the East End Community Center. Sgt. Carpenter will do a recap on the seminar that they attended in Syracuse, sponsored by the Attorney General's office. It was very informative. This session they will go over the rules of the Neighborhood Watch program along with updating and setting up new phone trees. The East End Community Center will be holding a workshop on July 27, 2005 at 7:00 PM regarding basic self-safety techniques taught by City Police Officer Nelson. The workshop will cover many aspects for awareness, defense and safety. Techniques will be practiced. She met with Pearne Avenue residents regarding a number of concerns with the 20 acre wooded area behind their homes between the Tioughnioga River and the railroad tracks. The concern is regarding minors trespassing on homeowners properties while getting to the wooded area. There is a lot of debris and partying going on over there. She has spoken with Linda Hartsock of IDABDC regarding

suggestions. She also is asking the status of the trestle which appears to have some structural defects. They are awaiting the Kennedy Parkway report before setting up a meeting with the Yaman Park residents. After twelve years, the foundation hole on Samson Street has been filled and she would like to thank Corporate Counsel and Code for their work on that issue.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He acknowledged that Catholic Charities is again sponsoring a lunch program which now includes Dexter Park. He has received three applications from the City Clerk's Office regarding exotic pets. To avoid confusion, applications are received at the City Clerk's office, then go to the Animal Commission, where they will be acted upon. He and the Mayor received a thank you letter from the residents on Venette Street regarding the resolution of the problem with the diesel train engines running while parked, which has now been corrected. He mentioned the self-defense course at the Community Center and the fact that the River Street resurfacing project has made the road so nice that many drivers are speeding in the area. The police are aware of this and have set up radar. The Community Center Advisory Group has set up three new events. There is a book exchange, BOCES will have an English as a second language course for interested people four days a week from 9:00 AM to Noon and there will be a dance event for all ages on August 12. The new Police Outreach hours at the Center are Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 AM until Noon. Tuesday and Thursday will be 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. He has received several complaints regarding an odor problem in his Ward. The Code office is working with the DEC trying to get to the bottom of this. Little League playoffs have started in Homer. He is envious of them. He also asked Mike Dexter if he had heard anything regarding additional trees for Dexter Park. Mr. Dexter said he would check into the availability.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He also attended the Neighborhood Watch Regional Leadership Training Session on June 28 in Syracuse. He accompanied Chief Nichols and others involved in the program. The meeting was very informative and covered many points. The State of New York and the Attorney General's Office have identified this program as a benefit to each community and they support it. He scheduled a Neighborhood Watch Program on August 3 and will make further announcements regarding location, etc. at the next Council

meeting. He had a chance to sample the BBQ chicken at the Youth Bureau this past Saturday and there will be chicken available July 9, July 16, Aug. 6 and Aug. 20. All proceeds will benefit the field trip program and the Teen Center to help reduce the cost of this program. Alderman Quail mentioned that he, also, had two 5th Ward constituents who attended the Neighborhood Watch Training program in Syracuse.

RESOLUTION #74 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution to proceed with the Leadership Cortland "Field of Dreams" project on the construction of Little League fields at the Armory per their presentation.

Catherine Bisha, Shawn Smith, Jeffrey Pheonix, Tiffanie Parker and David Darrow of Leadership Cortland were there to explain that there was a large need in Cortland for Little League playing facilities for local youths. They have worked hard with Mr. McNerney and when it was learned that the Armory land became part of the City, they did a survey of the field behind the Armory and its boundaries. Some was Armory property and some belonged to the City School's. They did a presentation for the School Board and received their wholehearted support. He is looking for an intermunicipal agreement to be made between the School District and the City allowing building of certified Little League fields on that property and having a Little League certified program. They have gone through the Charter Process. Once the Charter Process is complete, there are grants available. They were there to answer any questions regarding the proposal, parking and finances. The nearby shopping center is allowing them parking area and they hope to work with the nearby church. Tournaments are a good source of income and they hope to be able to run those. They plan to cordon off the infields and not let people park on those during other events using the properties and certain fences will be removable. Alderman Partigianoni asked about portable fences versus permanent fencing. Mr. Darrow said he felt that things could be worked out, but he would rather have portable fences than not to be able to have the fields because someone objected to permanent fencing. There was pro and con discussion regarding actual parking on the fields. It was noted that Homer has temporary fencing at their fields and there has been parking there. Cortlandville is going ahead with their Little League fields, but in order for Cortland City to be included they must build two fields. The City had set aside a sum of money (\$75,000) for the Cortlandville Starr Road Little League and sports field project, but Mr. Darrow feels that they can do the Armory fields by themselves. Mr. McNerney stated that there are currently no certified fields in Cortland and in order to participate in the

Little League World Series you must have them within the City. Cortlandville and the School District will maintain the Starr Road facility and the Youth Bureau will maintain the Armory area, which they currently already do. It will just be a little more maintenance because it will be a ball field, instead of a field. Mr. Darrow feels that annual fundraising will more than cover the cost of maintenance. They will currently be renting port-a-potties for facilities, but they hope to build a building for concessions and restrooms. The first phase will be building the fields and installing fencing. Alderman Partigianoni says that there is some plan to build outdoor restrooms at the Fair/4-H. He feels that Mr. Darrow should contact this group and perhaps coordinate with them. Everyone seems very supportive of building the fields. There was lengthy discussion regarding parking followed by discussion of fencing. Alderman Partigianoni has reservations.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #75 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution authorizing David McNeil and Karina Murphy to use the 14 Main Street property for informal musical performances.

Mr. McNeil discussed the proposal of having music downtown on Tuesday's and Thursday's at noon at the urban park located at 14 Main Street. Karina will coordinate the musicians with a small speaker system. The goal is to bring people out of their offices to enjoy the downtown area. They have kept it simple and plan to run it throughout the summer. This is the property next to the Community Restaurant. Mr. McNeil plans to set up chairs which will be taken down after each performance and stored at the Community Restaurant. There will be nothing permanent. This is being sponsored by private donors and the musicians will receive a small stipend and they will put out tip jars. Tuesday, July 12 will be the first performance date. There was a mention of picnic tables, but that will be discussed at another meeting.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8

Nays - 0

Item #3 - Consideration of a request made by Cortland County for the City to alter the existing recycling program.

The County was represented by Legislator Paul Allen and Don Chambers. They indicated that sorters, in spite of wearing Kevlar gloves, had been injured with glass. It is unclear to the City as to why a three step system to the recycling program is needed as opposed to the two step system. The resulting separating out of glass before reaching the recycling facility will provide glass that will be reused as aggregate in highway projects, it won't incur the costs to ship it and it will alleviate the potential injuries to sorters at the facility. It was questioned how Ithaca currently was doing it. There was some discussion regarding that glass could be put out on an alternative week and that could be a savings to the residents on purchasing blue bags because they would be recycling more items and putting less in the blue bags. The three sort system is one of the options and the other is picking up different recyclables every other week. A three sort system will necessitate the hauler to have an extra sort bin, but the alternative week system would make that unnecessary. The County is proposing that one week would be metal and plastics and the other week would be glass. One week would be a green or glass week and the next week would be a blue or metal and plastics week. The County system can handle glass, but glass breaks and workers can be hurt and system equipment can be damaged and glass residue can mix with other recyclables and reduce the grade of recyclable they are trying to sell, thus reducing the price they could get for the material. Council members questioned what does this do for the City. Alderman Morey was one of the City representatives who attended a meeting in regard to this and the County landfill. With the introduction of this three stream system, it is the hope that the landfill life will be increased by an additional thirty (30) years. There was discussion that some plastics were not being picked up; types three through seven. The County needs the City's help to give them enough recyclables to sell. There is question whether this will be reflected in the amount the City is charged by the County. The City thinks that keeping the present system, but doing more recycling and then seeing what the City's contractor charges for the next contract. The County does not want to introduce glass into their system, they want to provide green bins to every dwelling in the City of under five (5) units and the DEC will help subsidize the cost. The County states that they will be able to take a much wider range of glass and grinding it into dust and a wider range of

plastics. They will be looking at, over time, increasing the number of things that they can take. They feel that residents will be buying fewer blue bags and that the City, which is paying by the ton to dispose of the blue bag material, would be paying for less tonnage. The County feels that their recycling center would become more profitable. It was asked as this happened, would the County return some of that to the City? It was also asked why the City and the County didn't use the same recycling plan. The County needs the City's recyclables, but there has been no indication of what the County will do for the City. It's also understood that the County's equipment can handle glass, but they feel that it wears down their equipment sooner and reduces the quality of the recycling they will be selling. It was also indicated that Ithaca has been operating their equipment for seventeen (17) years and they haven't had any problems running glass through their system. The City contract with Superior runs through Dec. 2006 and there is no need to negotiate it now. It was asked what other townships had volunteered to participate in this and the County replied that Homer has agreed. It was also noted that private haulers were starting to bring items to them. Homeowners currently using two bins and storing them, now would need four bins. Mr. Damiano noted that the cost of the City's contract could go up if they bought into this concept and were to sort curbside. Alderman Morey stated that there would have to be a grace period while citizens learned how to participate in this new program and what if there was a three or four bay bin instead of separate bins. The trucks have only two areas to put recyclables in, so they can't handle the three stream system now. It was asked if the County could sort what's in the blue bins now. It seems Ithaca does that now. The County has been told by many facility managers, that the best thing for longevity of equipment and worker safety is to eliminate the glass in the waste stream. It was asked if the City could direct Superior trash to take the waste to the County recycling facility, we just can't make them separate the waste any other way than what's in the current contract. It was also noted that the County shouldn't invest in the green bins now, when the City was unsure that they would even be participating next year. The County would like the opportunity to educate the public regarding the use of the bins. Superior will pick up whatever is at the curb and it doesn't make any difference what color bin it's in. If it's out there, it will be picked up on recycling day and the paper will go in one side of the truck and everything else will be co-mingled on the other side, no matter how it's sorted by the homeowner. That's the way the contract was written. It was urged that the County try the two stream recycling through the center for a year and see what happens. The County was also urged to rethink buying the green bins

before the City has made a decision. The County said there was a DEC grant to assist them, they've sent out specs, but they haven't purchased the bins yet. The County would like to begin the educational process and then they would eventually get cleaner and cleaner loads coming into the recycling center. It was asked, right now, would the County take the City's co-mingled recyclables without the green bin. The County replied, "Yes", but they would like to talk more and there was some suggestion that the County would take the fiberboard and the rest could go to Tompkins County. The Council felt that Tompkins would want all or nothing, as there appeared to be some greater value to the fiberboard. It's very difficult to determine the cost or cost reduction for the City, but the County can measure the profit they can make by selling their recyclables. It's very difficult to make a decision without numbers. The County stated that they couldn't come up with any numbers because of various factors. They could come up with something hypothetical, but they'd have to have a huge caveat that the figure could be greatly affected by various factors. Mr. Damiano stated that the operation of a recycling plant is always a financial loser, what we are talking about is reducing a loss. He then asked if the landfill was a profitable operation and was told that it was. That profit should be used to help fund the next cell of the operation at the landfill. The Council wants to find out what the constituents think and if there is any savings to the City. The Council cannot reach a decision. It was asked if the County would take the recyclables the way it's being done now and if the tipping fee was a negotiable item? Then perhaps the City Council would consider the green bins. The County stated that the grant for the bins might not be there if the City waited to make a decision a year from now and that if the City didn't use them, that the DEC would not reimburse the County for the cost. It was asked when the County needed to have a decision. The County has bonded for the project, but they have to wait on the State. The County has sixty days to get their revised application done to add the cost of the purchase of the bins to the pending recycling plant grant. They do not know if or when they will get the money. The City said to the County representatives that they would give their recyclables to the County if it would accept the two stream system they currently are using. Mr. Damiano requested that the County Legislature communicate their decision on this offer in writing and then this would be before the City Council again.

No official action was taken.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
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 5TH OF JULY 200. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN-CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER