

July 17, 2001

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held on July 17, 2001 at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland, New York. A public hearing on the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant was held at 7:25PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Tytler  
Council Members Tobin, Abdulla, Strangeway, Hansen, Hyde, and Hennessy  
City Clerk, William J. Wood  
Deputy City Clerk, Jodi M. McLyman  
Dir. of Admin. & Finance, Andrew J. Damiano

EXCUSED: Council Members Smith and Lissberger

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT

The grant is for \$15,676.00 calling for City matching funds in the amount of \$1,742.00 to purchase a variety of equipment such as video recorders for crime scenes, upgrade fire arm qualifications, and working with the schools to come up with a plan for serious incidents.

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

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30PM followed by a salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shirley Randolph speaks on behalf of the DBA. She is chairwoman for the Brockway Truck Show that will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2001. They are requesting permission to close the street on that day. They are also requesting that the \$300. 00 fee be waived for established Downtown Food businesses and allow them to move tables and chairs onto the sidewalk.

MINTUES

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, voted and carried,

**RESOLVED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2001 AND JULY 3, 2001 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.**

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BILLS

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Hennessy, voted and carried,

**RESOLVED THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,783.14 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor wants to appoint Mark Suben as part-time City Court Judge and this is added to the agenda as Item No. 5. He thanks Council Member Hansen for filling in for him while he was on vacation. John McNerney will be at the August Common Council meeting to fill everyone in on the phases of the City joining together with the School District and Cortlandville to build more athletic fields.

Ward 1 – Council Member Smith

Excused.

Ward 2 – Council Member Tobin

He has had discussions with the residents on Halbert Street for the shoddy workmanship of the sub contractors hired by NYSEG. It appears what should be grass are weeds, the sidewalk work is very poor and the curbing is not put back the way it should have been.

Ward 3 – Council Member Abdulla

Thanks the Code Office for helping take care of a woodchuck problem on Atkins Ave.

Ward 4 – Council Member Lissberger

Excused.

Ward 5 – Council Member Strangeway

No report.

Ward 6 – Council Member Hansen

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Ward meeting July 25, at 7:00 at the Grange. She is hoping the ward meeting in August will be held at the Wastewater Treatment Plant along with a tour of the facility. Thanks the DPW for cleaning out the sewer blockages on East Main, Pearne and Harmon. The City of Cortland will be holding its auction on July 28, 2001 at 9:00 AM at the Wastewater Facility. The public can view the items one hour prior to the auction. She would like to add an item to the agenda. It would place a stop sign at the North end of Willow Ave at its intersection with Pearne Ave.

Ward 7 – Council Member Hyde

He has had many complaints with regard to the great abundance of woodchucks in the City.

Ward 8 – Council Member Hennessy

She asks if Bob Spada could be advised of the large pothole at the end of Williams St. Thanks the Code and DPW for their help on picking up trash on Pendleton St.

## AGENDA

Item No. 1 – Consideration of a Resolution designating Thoma Development Consultants to perform administrative and program delivery services for the HOME Program and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with said firm for that purpose.

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, voted and carried,

Counsel Baranello explains that this is a continuation contract and will be subject to his approval.

**RESOLUTION APPROVED DESIGNATING THOMA DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS TO PERFORM ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM DELIVERY SERVICES FOR THE HOME PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SAID FIRM FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

Item No. 2 – Consideration of a Resolution proposing that the County reimburse a host community when a property is removed from the tax rolls for the purpose of housing a County tax-exempt function.

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Item No. 2 is pulled from the agenda for a general discussion.

Council Member Hansen explains to Council Member Tobin that the County did not consult with the City when they wanted to purchase the property on Church St. Council Member Hennessy feels that there needs to be more communication between the different branches of government. We should not be working against each other. Council Member Hansen feels it is truly a money issue. A discussion ensues regarding tax exempt property throughout the County and what the real impact for these communities are. Council Member Hansen did attend these meetings at the County and she doesn't feel that message was heard. Cortlandville did pass this Resolution. Mayor Tytler talked to Steve Harrington regarding this but as you know it would not be binding on the County. It is a more complex formula if you look at the big picture and Steve is sensitive to this issue. The City makes up 40% of the County population.

Council Member Strangeway doesn't feel this would improve communications, which is what we are trying to do. Council Member Hennessy can't support it because it is not binding. She also feels that there are other ramifications like the school taxes that are not addressed by this Resolution

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Tobin, voted,

To consider the attached Resolution with the addition of, Federal Government and State Government to those government entities which would reimburse host communities.

Council Member Smith	Excused	Council Member Strangeway	No
Council Member Tobin	Yes	Council Member Hansen	Yes
Council Member Abdulla	No	Council Member Hyde	Yes
Council Member Lissberger	Excused	Council Member Hennessy	No

Mayor Tytler                      No

Motion is denied.

Item No. 3 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing a \$2,500.00 appropriation to fund the services of an animal trapper.

On the motion of Council Member Tobin, seconded by Council Member Hyde, voted

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Council Member Tobin explains that the purpose behind this is the fact the Council didn't fund the problem of wild animals in the community. The City used to have a trapper on City payroll. The person can call the police department and tell them there is a problem and this will allow a professional to take care of the problem. Council Member Hansen states last summer money was allocated for a trapper but went over budget by \$1,000.00. Council Member Tobin feels this is a quality of life issue.

The Council feels this is a good idea but agrees these are responsibilities of the homeowner. Andrew Damiano states that rats and other rodents come into homes; is the City responsible to take care of them as well?

Council Member Hyde and Tobin voting yes, Council Members Abdulla, Strangeway, Hennessy and Hansen voting no, Council Member Lissberger and Smith excused.

Motion is denied.

Item No. 4a – Request by the D.B.A. to close Main Street from Groton Ave. to Port Watson St. on Saturday, August 11, 2001 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Brockway Truck Show.

On the motion of Council Member Strangeway, seconded by Council Member Hennessy, voted and carried,

**RESOLVED THE REQUEST BE APPROVED BY THE D.B.A. TO CLOSE THE STREET FROM GROTON AVE. TO PORT WATSON ST. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2001 FROM 7:00 AM TO 5:00 PM FOR THE BROCKWAY TRUCK SHOW.**

Item No. 4b – Request by the D.B.A. for the City to waive the \$300.00 fee for established Downtown Food businesses and allow them to move their grills, chairs, and tables onto the sidewalk on this date. (8/11/01).

On the motion of Council Member Hennessy, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted,

Council Member Hennessy would like to see the ordinance changed so this does not have to be waived every time for a special event. If a list of special events could be included in the ordinance then the waiving of the fee could be taken care of.

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Council Member Hansen voting no, all others voting yes, Council Member Lissberger and Smith excused.

**RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY THE D.B.A. FOR THE CITY TO WAIVE THE \$300.00 FEE FOR ESTABLISHED DOWNTOWN FOOD BUSINESSES AND ALLOW THEM TO MOVE THEIR GRILLS, CHAIRS, AND TABLES ONTO THE SIDEWALK ON THIS DATE. (8/11/01).**

Item No. 5 – Approval of Mayor’s appointment of Mark Suben to part-time City Court Judge.

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Hennessy, voted and carried,

Council Member Abdulla asks why Mr. Suben is not present. Counsel Baranello explains that he is not present because he did not know he was going to be on the agenda tonight. Mayor Tytler states that Mr. Suben is registered here, his kids are enrolled here and he will soon take legal possession of his home. Counsel Baranello advises that he is not filling an unexpired term, the state statute preempted our local ordinance therefore his term is six years starting today. This does not run with the other Judge.

**RESOLVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK SUBEN TO PART-TIME CITY COURT JUDGE IS APPROVED.**

Item No. 6 – Request by Council Member Hansen for a stop sign to be located on the north end of Willow Avenue at its intersection with Pearne Avenue and added to Section 11-41 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Cortland.

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Hyde, voted and carried,

**RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A STOP SIGN TO BE LOCATED ON THE NORTH END OF WILLOW AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH PEARNE AVENUE AND ADDED TO SECTION 11-41 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF CORTLAND.**

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted and carried,

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**RESOLVED TO COME INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15 TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION.**

Council Member Strangeway excuses herself from the discussion.

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Tobin, voted and carried,

**RESOLVED TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 9:00 PM.**

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Tobin, voted and carried,

**RESOLVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:00 PM.**

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**MAYOR**

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**CITY CLERK**

**I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolutions were presented to the Mayor in the time required and were approved by him.**