



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

July 19, 2005

Council Meeting #13
July 19, 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
and City Clerk John O. Reagan

Alderman Quail calls the thirteenth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:05 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Schrader, Cortland County Administrator, was present. He was directed by the Cortland County Legislature to address the Council and answer any questions they might have in regards to the recycling proposal that is before them. He knows that there were three (3) questions asked at the last Council meeting. The answers to each of those three (3) questions are unknown, yet we are still appealing to the City's best judgement to enter into this agreement to three stream recycling. It was asked why his answers were unknown. As far as reduction of the tip fee, he replied, "We believe that there is an economic benefit to the entire County and that the City does not need to have a better entity as far as the three (3) stream as opposed to two (2) stream, it is operational in our best interests to continue to do a three (3) stream process."

Alderman Guido asked, "Operational, in what effect, because as we understand it...for example, you have hired sorters, you have gloves so that they don't get

hurt and also we checked with other counties and their belts and their equipment would stand up without a problem. And, so far, you are saying “No” to everything we have said. Also, my constituents that I have talked to, do not want the three (3) stream.” “The other question that was asked was, would you take our recyclables in the current two (2) stream mode that they are being taken in and that answer is, “No”?”

Mr. Schrader replied, “That is correct”.

It was then asked if this went to the whole Legislature. Mr. Schrader replied that they went to the highway people. It was again, reiterated, that the Council asked that it go before the whole Legislature. Mr. Schrader stated that if it didn't get through Committee, it wouldn't go to the whole Legislature. The Council stated, that if the Committee said “No”, then it's “No”.

Alderman Morey asked how many people were on that Committee. Mr. Schrader replied, “Seven”. Alderman Morey then went on to say that she wanted to clarify one (1) thing to start with, but she had several other things. First of all, that Tom was quoted as saying that you have been working on this for seven (7) months and you have not worked with the City, at all, on this, except for three (3) meetings which were done in the last three (3) months. She felt that it was very misleading, that Mr. Schrader/County was misleading the public. In fact, she personally did not care for Mr. Schrader's threats that they were going to invoke Home Rule and they were going to force us to take, uh, give you our recycling. The City is not going to take that lying down and her question to him, personally, was, “Were you directed by the County to say that or were those your own words?” Mr. Schrader stated that he was speaking for himself. Alderman Morey asked by what authority did he have to do that. His reply was that he was the County Administrator. Alderman Morey said that as County Administrator, she thought it was ill advised that he threaten the City. She asked, “If you want to work with us and we talked to you three (3) times, when you haven't been dealing with us for seven (7) months. We have spoken three (3) times. You, as the County Administrator cannot give us one (1) number, not one, not a zero, not a ten, not a twenty; no number, to show us any figure at all what the City would save or what this would cost the City. So as the County Administrator, I think that is a pretty poor job of trying to sell the City in three (3) meetings, not seven (7) months, what the plan for the County recycling is.

Mr. Schrader said that there had been three (3) instances that he was aware of that that number had been provided to you. Alderman Morey asked if anyone

present had that number. Mr. Schrader said that he would repeat it again. Alderman Morey asked, "What is that number?"

Mr. Schrader said that the number is somewhere between 5 and 50 thousand dollars, which would result in a quarter percent reduction, theoretically, in the City taxpayers' pockets. Now if this Council wishes not to enter into this agreement and save a quarter of a percent on their taxes, that's up to the Council.

Alderman Morey said that this was the first time that anyone here had heard this number, but she would like to see this number, in writing, on paper and she would like to see how Mr. Schrader breaks this down. Because she personally sat in three (3) meetings with Mr. Schrader and this number was not provided.

Mr. Schrader told her that she was asking for a floating number, which can't be provided. Alderman Morey asked, "Then how do you know there is going to be a savings?" Mr. Schrader replied, "We can give estimates, that's all we can do. We don't know how much the City is going to generate in recycling, we don't know how much the three through seven plastics that are being thrown away in these blue bags being put in the landfill in violation of our permit, we don't know these answers. We can only do this by analyzing as we are doing it."

Alderman Morey asked him, "Well, how do you expect us to vote or to support a recycling campaign or system with the County, when we are not getting any information. I mean, I don't call this viable information. This is nothing tangible. I can't take this the way...we can't renegotiate our contract, without it costing us. We can give you figures and have given you figures on how much it would cost us to change the system we have now. We've provided the County information in tangible numbers. All we get from the County is a real nice plan and it is a real nice plan, I don't disagree with that. We can't see where it's going to save the City any money. It's going to inconvenience the City residents because now they are going to have to hold on to half of their recyclables for an extra week. Maybe we can get by that, but we need to know if this tax burden is going to fall on the residents of the City of Cortland. That's what we need to know and in the three (3) meetings we've had, which has been in the last three (3) months; maybe, we have not gotten that. The County has not sat down and asked us what our thoughts are, if this is a plan that we would.....nothing, we found out at the end. This is what we are doing, we want you on board and if you're not on board, we're going to threaten you."

Mr. Schrader said, "There have been three (3) meetings where this has been discussed, where we've asked for your input. We met with your hauler in conjunction with your Administrator. Those meetings have taken place."

Alderman Morey replied, "And it's been your way or no way. You started addressing us tonight with three (3) unknowns."

Alderman Guido asked, "Does this all go back to because you can get bins for/through a grant, because that's exactly what we thought last time."

Alderman Morey stated, "I believe that they need us for the grant to get your fifty percent back on the project from the State. This really has nothing to do with bins."

Mr. Schrader stated, "That's not true. We will be getting fifty percent back on the construction of our recycling center, regardless."

Alderman Morey asked, "Then why do you want our recyclables, so bad?"

Mr. Schrader stated, "Because it will save the County's taxpayers, dollars."

Alderman Morey asked, "Then what will it cost the City's taxpayers, period?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Nothing. Nothing."

Alderman Morey asked if she could have that in writing and Mr. Schrader replied, "Absolutely".

Mr. Schrader went on to say, "If you utilize the schedule that is being proposed, where you alternate the pickup of containers, it costs the City residents nothing and saves them up to a quarter percent on their taxes."

Alderman Morey said, "Okay, well I might be reading into that, but are you suggesting that you will pay our haulers the difference to change our contract and sort and do all that?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "There is no change in the contract required. The hauler has agreed to pick them up on a staggered weekly basis at no cost to...."

Alderman Guido said, "But that's not what we want, staggered."

Mr. Schrader said, "That's what's being offered...."

Alderman Quail, "But even staggered, the odds of it being perfect are slim to none. You're going to get ninety-eight, ninety-nine percent of the people to comply and you're going to have that one or two percent that's not going to comply. So does that make a difference?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "A huge difference. A huge difference in staff. We believe that we can take your recyclables, separated...."

Alderman Quail, "What if we don't get above twenty (20) percent compliance?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "But still the staffing won't be an issue. However, if you ask us to take your recyclables in two stream, we'll have to increase the amount of staff we have at the facility, which defeats the whole purpose of receiving your recyclables."

Alderman Quail asked, "But if the City taxpayer doesn't want that and they don't want to be inconvenienced, what are we supposed to say to them? Are we supposed to say, no we're gonna, we're gonna.....is this going to cost us more money? It is going to cost us more money, Scott. We can say it isn't, but it will."

Mr. Schrader replied, "I don't see how. When you've got a hauler that's out there....."

Alderman Quail replied, "Because if we say we're going to give you enough trash, uh, enough recyclables in the three stream to make it profitable, I don't see where that's going to make a difference. Because we.....we're....., it's going to take you years to get to an acceptable level of recyclables to make this worthwhile."

Mr. Schrader replied, "I don't believe that to be true. We're certain our facility can handle three (3) times the amount of recyclables we're handling right now. However, yours, I believe, is somewhere in the neighborhood of twenty thousand tons (20,000) not counting the three through seven, would be a significant increase to this facility and make it that much more viable to try, I don't want to say, to turn a profit per se, but at least break even. I can tell you that for every day we don't break even, it's costing the City taxpayers dollars."

Alderman Quail asked, "So why don't you just take it in the two stream, the way it is right now and sort it and see what the cost is?"

Mr. Schrader stated, "Because it's going to cost that much more in staffing to separate."

Alderman Feiszli asked, "How much are you paying in staffing right now?"

Mr. Schrader stated, "We have a contract with, ummm, the J M Murray Center for I'd say a rate of \$6,500 a month."

Alderman Morey then asked, "So how much more would it cost you?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "We would have to do the analysis once we got into it."

Alderman Morey replied, "Well, when you weren't guaranteed that the City was on board, wouldn't you have done the analysis, if this didn't go through with us? Or, were you just, your path was, okay, if the City isn't on board with us, we'll just enact home rule bill, we'll just take the recyclables and force them to comply."

Mr. Schrader said, "Again, if we do nothing, the facility does not have the ability to make money off the City's recyclables. We don't need to ask that, because we not getting the recyclables. But if you're giving them to us in the two stream, we're going to have to add staff. I'm going to guess we're going to probably need two or three more sorters. Which is probably going to be about two or three thousand a month."

Alderman Faraoni said, "We were told here at the last meeting, that Homer was on board and I understand they're not."

Mr. Schrader replied, "Homer is on board".

Alderman Quail asked, "Homer is on board? You're positive?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Absolutely."

Alderman Morey asked, "Scott, is that Village or Town?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Village."

Alderman Partigianoni asked, "Scott, I have one concern. I don't know, it seems to me, from what I gather from the assessment, that the City really doesn't want three bins and multiple pickups like you suggest and if we don't want it and when comes time for a new contract, it's very conceivable, we do have to pay more money. Is that true, Andrew?"

Mr. Damiano asked Alderman Partigianoni to restate his question.

Alderman Partigianoni asked, "If when we renegotiate the contract, when we do..."

Mr. Damiano replied, "The contract won't be renegotiated, it will be rebid."

Alderman Partigianoni replied, "I'm talking about when the new contract comes up."

Mr. Damiano replied, "It'll be rebid, not renegotiated."

Alderman Partigianoni said, "Then it's possible it will cost us more."

Mr. Damiano replied, "It's impossible to predict the results of a bidding process, but if you're asking someone to do more, it requires more labor....."

Alderman Partigianoni said, "Well, that's what I'm trying to say."

Mr. Schrader said, "But then again, we aren't asking them to do more, we're asking them to do exactly what they are doing now."

Mr. Damiano said, "That's not necessarily true. There's more monitoring of the recycling stream at the curb side. Every time they have to stop and leave a note explaining why the recycling has been rejected, that takes time. Now if I'm representing a hauler and I'm bidding the contract, I'm going to take into consideration the number stops I have to make and the delays caused by this third stream of materials. So it could negatively reflect in the numbers that come back to us in the renewed contract. It could and as I said, it's hard to know, it's a bidding process."

Mr. Schrader replied, "As it stands now, Superior has agreed to do this without any additional cost to the City."

Mr. Damiano replied, "They have agreed to do what the City directs them to do."

Alderman Guido said, "I guess what you're not understanding, Mr. Schrader, is that the people in the City, so far, that we've know of, do not want this. They don't have a place for another bin. They don't want to know which week they've got to put out and which week they don't have to put it out. They don't want it and you're forcing it upon them, is that what you're saying?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "It is going to be my recommendation and has been my recommendation, and will continue to be my recommendation, that the County Legislature impose a flow control rule."

Alderman Morey asked, "And you have in this whole County, with this City and all the towns and villages, the only one you have on board is the Village of Homer."

Mr. Schrader replied, "It's the only one that has curbside recycling."

Alderman Terwilliger stated, "I don't understand why the benefits haven't been discussed with the City beforehand. I don't think anyone here wants to be shipping our recyclables to Tompkins County. I mean, it doesn't make any sense. But because you're forcing us to accept how you set it out...none of this was negotiated before the center was even built. I mean, we could have talked about this streaming thing a long time ago, but it was just assumed that we'd hop right on board with whatever was done. I mean, you had to be thinking that we'd come back, but none of that was negotiated with us. It's all just been thrown in our lap now."

Mr. Schrader said, "Well, there were certainly some assumptions made. The assumptions made were that the City would return to the previously provided recycling program."

Alderman Quail said, "The two cycle or two system."

Mr. Schrader said, "No."

Alderman Quail said, "We didn't have a three cycle system."

Mr. Schrader said, "Yes, you did."

Alderman Quail stated, "But we paid for it. So now if it's not going to cost us anything and you want to pay the extra to have our hauler pick it up in three

cycles, like they did before, why don't you give us a figure on that? You pay for that."

Mr. Schrader replied, "Can we have permission to negotiate with your hauler on this?"

Mr. Damiano and a number of Aldermen, replied, "No."

Alderman Morey stated, "You're not doing a very good job negotiating with us. Why would we want you to negotiate with our hauler?"

Alderman Feiszli asked, "Scott, when you designed this plant and you visited with other facilities and municipalities, what other municipalities are doing the system that you are proposing?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "The facility down towards New York City that's doing three stream and I don't know the name offhand."

Alderman Feiszli asked if he could get the name for her.

Mr. Schrader stated that he believed Onondaga County is doing three stream recycling.

Alderman Feiszli inquired if it was with the two bins and alternate weeks.

Mr. Schrader was unsure of the alternative weeks.

Alderman Feiszli asked, "Where did the alternative weeks come from?"

Mr. Schrader stated that, "That was designed to make sure that the City didn't have to incur any additional costs."

Alderman Feiszli asked, "Where did the idea come from?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "It was developed at the County."

Alderman Feiszli stated, "So it's not a system that's, to your knowledge, has been used by other counties."

Mr. Schrader replied, "Not to my knowledge, no".

Alderman Morey asked, "Didn't this get held up in the Legislature or isn't there an amendment that says unless the City was on board, they wouldn't go with the proposed cost for the purchase of the bins? And what did you decide? Are you not providing the bins for whoever is on board, the Village of Homer, because we're not participating?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "The Village of Homer will receive bins."

Alderman Morey asked, "My question was, did you purchase them already?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "No....."

Alderman Quail said, "I'm not sure where we are going to go right at this meeting. I think that we should have further discussions. I think there are probably a number of people that want to have further discussions. I appreciate your coming, Scott, but I don't think we're going to make a decision here tonight."

Mr. Schrader said, "I just have to say that the clock is ticking and I've been directed by the highway committee to draft a local law that imposes flow control and present it to them at the next meeting."

Alderman Partigianoni asked, "May I just ask one quick question? Loaded question Scott, you're going to have to forgive me. Why am I hearing, more than once, this is not state of the art and far from it. We could have done a better job. Can you comment on that?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Sure. Certainly, if we had the volume that Recycle America has, we could've made this state of the art and by state of the art, I would define that as having an automatic sorting system. Certainly we don't have the volume that could justify the huge expense that that equipment would cost. So doing a quick cost analysis, it was determined that the best way to do that would be to hire laborers to do the sorting as opposed to the purchase of that piece of equipment."

Alderman Feiszli asked, "Have you done the calculations as far hiring additional persons, I know we were talking about the wear and tear, I still haven't gotten a number. I don't know if you have that as far as the replacement for the belt, but, what with hiring an additional person to sort our system just the way it is right now, co-mingled, how much more or less is it going to cost a lot more based on the money you anticipate on making with the recyclables?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Like I said, we would probably have to hire two or three more sorters. So you are looking at between twenty-five and thirty-six thousand dollars a year in addition in staffing to handle two sort."

Alderman Feiszli said, "And you're anticipating around fifty thousand from the City?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Depending on the volumes, it could be anywhere between fifteen thousand and fifty thousand. And again, you have to consider that the rate of return on these recyclables fluctuates with the market. So, it could fluctuate anywhere between fifteen and fifty thousand dollars. But if we make it two stream, there's additional power requirements, there's additional wear and tear. There's Workers' Comp issues, which while we don't directly have to pay those, we'll certainly be paying them through increases in contract. So those are considerations we have to take into account."

Alderman Guido asked, "Do you know how much a belt does cost?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "I don't know that off-hand. I know that Don Chambers is looking into that right now."

Alderman Michales asked, "Let me ask this, Scott, is there a system out there right now that will separate glass before it gets to the belts?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "What they do is negative sort it before it gets to the belts."

Alderman Michales stated, "Do you have a magnet? So the only question right now is cardboard, plastic and glass."

Mr. Schrader replied, "That is correct."

Alderman Michales replied, "Okay".

Mr. Schrader stated, "We are anticipating once we have caught up to, if you would, to sort paper into it's different components, boxboard versus cardboard versus newspaper versus mixed office paper and so on and so forth, because there are different rates of return on those commodities if they are separated."

Alderman Quail asked, "So, it is a commodity, correct?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Yes."

Alderman Morey asked, "Would you agree that all these decisions were made without any input from the City?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "No, I wouldn't. We have met with the City on numerous occasions."

Alderman Morey asked, "Was the City a participant in any fashion in your three (3) stream or in the way that recycling was going to be set up or was there any input that the County used from the City to do this?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Yes."

Alderman Morey asked, "And what was that?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "The citing of the recycling center was done with the City's input, because if it were up to me, it would be up at the landfill, right now, where we'd be able to save on operational costs....."

Alderman Morey said, "We are talking about the stream, not the location of."

Mr. Schrader replied, "Well, I think the recycling center is a component of the recycling stream. The answer to that is yes."

Alderman Quail asked, "So did you come to us, asking for our approval to site the recycling center there?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "Yes, absolutely."

Alderman Quail inquired of the Council, "Did we approve?"

Alderman Quail replied, "I don't remember." Mr. Schrader said, "Absolutely." Mr. Damiano said, "It was a former Mayor, right, that got involved."

Mr. Schrader stated, "It was a letter sent and a letter received."

It was thought that it never went before this Council.

Alderman Morey said, "There wasn't anybody in this City that participated in this cycle and in the two bin and none of that?"

Mr. Schrader replied, "I would agree with that. And again, certain assumptions made on the County's part; that basically were, that you would return to the previous system prior to the fire, which was a source separated recycling system."

Alderman Quail said, "We've talked for twenty-five (25) minutes now on this subject and, again, I think, I appreciate your coming, Scott, but I don't believe that we're going to make a decision tonight and we'll have further discussions on it."

Mr. Schrader replied, "Okay, if you have any further questions or anything like that, you know how to reach me, so."

Alderman Quail thanked him.

MINUTES of July 5, 2005

RESOLUTION #76 of 2005 - Approve the minutes of July 5, 2005.

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None presented due to the Mayor's illness. Alderman Quail and Mr. Damiano visited him, he is up and about, but still in pain and wishes he could be here tonight.

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

All is quiet in the first Ward. It's been too hot to do anything.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

In the second Ward, she has been talking with Doug Kenyon, who lives at 6 Arthur Ave. He has had a problem with his sewer line which has broken since they replaced the water lines on his property contracted through the Water Department by Tim McBride. They are looking into it to see if the City Water Dept. was the cause of his sewer line breaking and we are going to negotiate with him on that to help him with the cost, if indeed, the City was responsible.

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

It's been pretty quiet in the Ward. She has had some questions about loud motorcycles and actually talked with the Police Chief today. She has a couple of other concerns, but she will get with the departments that she needs to take those up with. She asked Mr. Damiano if he could tell where we are on the Dry Creek/Otter Creek FEMA funding request that he sent out.

Mr. Damiano replied that he received a call from one of the three agencies that he sent requests to. One said that they thought they could send a representative in August to do some field work. So far, that's the only one.

She would also like to remove Item #5 from the agenda, which is the discussion regarding the problems being experienced with woodchucks and skunks. It's more involved than she thought and she needs more information and will get back.

There was discussion regarding rescheduling a work session regarding residency. Mayor Gallagher would like to participate. It was agreed that because of his recovery they would tentatively schedule it for the second meeting in August, August 16 at 5:30 PM.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

He received a letter from George Ducette, a traffic engineer for the State Department of Transportation and they completed their study on parking issues on Tompkins Street adjacent to Pashley Drive. They are going to be removing several parking spaces and moving parking back, away from the entryway to try to improve visibility for people coming out on Tompkins Street. This has been an ongoing issue and this will be done before college begins their next session, hopefully. He also received an e-mail from a lady living off Broadway regarding speeding issues. This has been an ongoing problem and Chief Nichols and his

department has been very good putting the radar indicator up there and it does seem to slow folks down, when it's there. Chief Nichols has contacted he and Alderman Morey regarding a public meeting on Aug. 10 at 6:30 PM at the Water Works to discuss the speeding issue and some solutions. Everyone is welcome, but this will mostly be a Broadway issue. The other question he received was regarding the curing of the concrete floor in the fire station.

Mr. Damiano said that they won't do another moisture test until mid-August. This humidity is not helping a whole lot and two humidifiers have been placed in the basement and fans are running continually. It's been aggravating.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He has been dealing with several code issues. He really appreciates the work the Code Department has done for him. He asked if Counsel Knickerbocker re: the Northcliffe/Pendleton Street retaining wall. He wanted to know if there was any news.

Counsel Knickerbocker replied that the title issue has been resolved on it. Currently the landowner owns it and that's who we have to negotiate with it.

Alderman Quail asked if when something could be done and if there were any dollar figures or designs.

It is believed that Chris Bistocchi has a design and cost estimate and he will be contacted.

He also has a South Main Street business that complained regarding the placement of a fire hydrant in front of his business and he would like some leeway in regard to that. He is having a Ward Meeting next Tuesday, July 26, at the Youth Bureau at 6:30 PM. There will be an update on City happenings also a discussion regarding Neighborhood Watch. A questionnaire has been put together that will be going out to his constituents.

He would like to add an agenda item, on Jeff Davidson. He would like to ask a resolution to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Davidson, to the Landscape and Design Committee.

Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

The Community Center could use a donation of some air conditioners. Public Safety did allow them to use a portable microphone to be heard over the noise of the fans for their meeting. Alderman Partigianoni announced that he had just come from there and there was an e-mail regarding a donation of one. One thing about having a large group of people from different streets, it has gotten to the point that the group needs to split up with the Block Captains. They are going to talk about them having their own meetings, instead of her organizing them and then continue with monthly informational Ward meetings with speakers and videos and safety walks. She also spoke of the trestle on Front St. and the railroad company will be fixing the rotten wood by late this summer, the rest is fine. There are also a lot of kids that trespass to party by that trestle and the rail company is possibly looking into putting up a fence or planting bushes with thorns. There was also talk with National Grid of putting in a flood light in the area and it would shine underneath the trestle. All they need is City authorization and it could be placed in about three (3) weeks. There was discussion of a creation of a new data base for the Fire Commission re: the number of calls and reasons. Public Safety, Code and DPW have been wonderful responding and she thanked them.

She would also like to place an item up for discussion, could the agenda which is either e-mailed or mailed, be sent out earlier, so they could look into things. There was discussion outlining various reasons why and it was decided to make this an agenda item for the next meeting. Alderman Partigianoni said that the e-mailed agendas are available as early as Thursday afternoons prior to a meeting.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He attended Catholic Charities luncheon at the Cortland hospital. He visited with two honored guests, Congresswoman Barbara Lifton and Senator Seward. There was an update regarding the Public Safety Commission and his Ward. The meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. He did receive a few calls regarding the traffic on River Street. The other thing on the Traffic Commission is that there was budgeted \$18,000 in the bond issue and part of this was for replacement of three (3) traffic lights, two Pomeroy and one on Elm/Greenbush. They are the three oldest lights in town and they will have new control boxes so that there is an all red time on them for the safety. This will be a big improvement and seems like it would help with accidents.

It was also noted by Alderman Morey Feiszli that even though the agenda was available on line, there was no supporting packet material available for reference until the actual packet was received.

He wanted to note that there was a huge sports week coming up. We have the most prestigious New York State Softball Championship that we will be hosting in the City with twenty-seven (27) teams this weekend.

The Cortland American Legion Baseball Tournament is this weekend. And starting Saturday, the Homer Little League, which we are involved with, will be hosting the eleven year-old State Weedsport qualified for New York State. He received a letter and a packet from Julie Churchill and she said her father would be so pleased if the Beaudry Building is now a Community Center and she wanted to thank all the people for their hard work and dedication for making it possible.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He shared Dave Darrow's phone number with the 4-H representative. He did a presentation at the last Council meeting re: the two ball fields. We are hoping that the two groups can work together on some lavatory plans over at the fairgrounds and there may be a third group involved.

He referred a constituent to the City Police Department concerning some parking problems and they are looking into it.

There have been several concerns and questions regarding exotic pets. He was asked to "Okay" a snake permit and as a result a meeting was held to brainstorm this. This was as a result of the police issuing four (4) tickets on Main Street. He reviewed the minutes from the worksession. There was discussion regarding what is an exotic pets and if birds should be included or not. He said that this is what the Committee was going to look into. There was a statement regarding how many layers of rules, legislation and regulations needed to be enacted. He felt that the Committee would be able to come up with recommendations. There was further discussion and Alderman Faraoni explained how the Committee had been handling applicants. The City is not going into homes.

He has scheduled his next Ward meeting for August 3 at the Community Center on Elm Street. There will be a Neighborhood Watch update as well as City issues. He will be setting a date for the Neighborhood Watch group, where a

City police officer will walk them through the areas and point out concerns. It is planned for the second Saturday in August. He also hopes to incorporate one of the Code Officers to accompany this group. He plans to be there as well as Marilyn Brown, County representative for the 8th Ward.

ITEM #1 - Presentation by Kay Zaharis on the status of the Cortland Free Library's budget.

She had sent out a budget sheet and she thanked them all for their operating funds for this year. She reported on expenditures to date. New York State Retirement was up three times what it was before. Health Insurance went down for employees because of a new policy. It's costing the employees more, but it's helping the library. They spent \$5,300 on books, but actually they spent over \$20,000, but they came from the Trustees. Periodicals are lower because she has reduced the number considerably on unpopular subscriptions. Book binding costs have gone down because she is not sending damaged books out to be rebound and is relying on interlibrary loaning. This saves on postage, also. She also found a new bindery in Ithaca as opposed to the one that was located in Michigan. Ithaca picks up and delivers for free, saving on postage. The insurance includes building and boiler insurance. They joined the OCM BOCES consortium for gas heat and it's supposed to be at a lower rate. Their billing cycle is different than the Library's so the catch up month of April on the cycle makes it look like a big expense. She's hoping that by next year, with things evened out, it will be lower. Repairs have been electrical or boiler emergencies. They haven't done that much, but they are establishing priorities, because there is a lot to do. Technology is over because of a computer purchase, the jump start to putting their collection on line as part of their automation project. Community programs are coming out of Trustee's money and about 400 children are participating and this is not part of the budget being presented to the City. They didn't get quite the amount of money they had requested because they got a bit less from the City and Virgil. They also have two students from Cortland Works, helping out for the summer. She is also using workers from the TC3 workstudy program, both programs pay the students, but it doesn't come out of the Library budget. There are also a lot of volunteers. That's how they have been spending their 2005 budget.

There has been an ongoing cleaning out of the collection project. The collection is about 60% on line and the clean out has made it possible to get more on line. This automation project will cost about \$70,000 and they have applied for many grants and they have about \$40,000 already paid for. They hope to be up and running with the whole project in early 2006. She showed a timeline of the work

that had been done to date. She thanked the City Council for all of their support.

Alderman Morey thanked her and said she was doing a wonderful job. She also wanted people to know that the computers at the Library were being utilized non-stop by patrons. It isn't just the number of books going out the door; it's the art gallery, the computers, the programs, etc. The Annual Book Sale brought in about \$2,200. She thinks this is less because they are now doing more, like the one during the sidewalk sales and the Pumpkin Festival. The Library will not accept textbooks or condensed books or magazines, but will accept donations of useful books especially gardening, crafts and paperbacks.

It was noted that she was very creative and the Library is a vibrant place. There are 23 users per hour calculated on their computers. They are also looking for ideas for programs.

RESOLUTION #77 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution to accept the Mayor's appointment of Sharon Stevans to the Cable Commission.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #78 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a \$250 donation from NYSEG and the appropriation of said funds to account number A3410 405 1 (Fire Department/Equipment).

Alderman Morey thanked NYSEG for their donation.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #79 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with K. Teter Consulting in an amount not to exceed \$15,500 for engineering design and construction administration services for

improvements to four City parking lots (Community Development funding) with an input committee.

There were questions regarding how this project came about. Linda Armstrong was there to hand out materials and answer questions. This is not paving and refurbishing parking line striping. Rich Cunningham has done a lot of research on downtown revitalization and what brings people downtown and when we discussed doing a downtown project, a parking component made some of the applications more competitive. He noted the lack of signage was a component, that landscaping made them more inviting and they looked at doing some paving. They have applied for some funding for the Clinton Ave. lot which is small, but needs paving and the courtyard at 14 Main St. At one time it was thought that the Farmer's Market would go there, but they decided against it. Their first application was turned down, but they worked with HUD and got some money for Groton Ave. and there was a scaled down project done in the courtyard. Then GOSC had additional funding not utilized by other cities and they received money after the courtyard project was already done. So one of the projects they are now looking at doing is the Youth Bureau parking lot. This came about by doing research, what was needed, how much money was available and they held public hearings and talks with City representatives. It was asked if other city groups participated. She was unsure as she did not write the grant, but they did have public hearings and many entities were invited and over fifty (50) people came to the first hearing. There was some question about the large sum of money for landscaping and how that would affect snow removal. There also appears that the paving is cracking and the striping is fading, was there any Community Development money for resurfacing or blacktopping or striping or is it just landscaping. Clinton Ave. will be resurfaced, some of the improvements that have been included in the grant were as a result of talks with Chris Bistocchi. This is landscaping that is not necessarily with flowers and trees, but removing some of the timbers, putting in fencing, putting in groundcover, etc. Our parking lots are not in great shape, but they were trying to make their grant application competitive and they thought adding a sum for parking lot improvement would help. Alderman Feiszli asked that with the grant money being used for the material costs and the City providing the labor wouldn't you agree we could get a lot more for our money? She feels that the parking lots should be resurfaced and restriped and signage added and that's more important than landscaping. Ms. Armstrong agreed. She is hoping that's how Clinton Ave. will go, but she has yet to speak with Chris Bistocchi in this regard. She isn't sure regarding the Youth Bureau, because she isn't sure if \$29,000 will pave and stripe that lot. She doesn't know what the cost of asphalt is and again, we are talking about DPW doing the work. That's a project that

has to be flushed out. But they need to get started on this and there is latitude to make some changes, but they need to get a committee together and get this started. They need to get a landscape architect and an engineer on board. The Teter's are good because he's an engineer and she's a landscape architect. This project is mostly for a landscape architect, but if an engineer is needed, he's there. This may affect the cost proposal. There is some latitude with the grant funds, but they have to protect the flavor of the application because these projects are monitored.

Alderman Feiszli is meeting with the group that has the downtown parking permit program and she has also contacted the Landscape and Design Commission and they would be thrilled to be a part of this, including the Downtown Business Association. She has looked at the proposal for engineering and there is nothing to compare to this. There was only an ad placed in the Cortland Standard and there was only one (1) bid. Is this acceptable?

Ms. Armstrong stated that if you went through the process and only got one. There might not be another landscape architect in the area and they would like to get going on this project.

Alderman Feiszli asked if they needed to be bonded and licensed and Mr. Damiano indicated yes. It was asked who else was used at the Groton Avenue lot, but they were for planting flowers and trees.

Ms. Armstrong said that this is doing plant specifications, preparing a spec book, bidding, construction supervision, bidding oversight. There will most likely be a number of bidders that will provide the plants and labor. It looks like the City has until December of 2007 to complete the entire project, including facades, improvements and parking.

There was some questions whether the project could be done in a month and a half. But Linda Armstrong felt that that was fairly typical. She felt that you would want insured companies doing this work, not volunteers.

Alderman Michales asked if this should be done all at once or in phases. Linda Armstrong answered, "All at once". Because of the late start and getting the architect on board and forming a committee, she's not sure the work can be done this year. So they may have to do it all next year and GOSC needs to receive reports every six (6) months on progress. It would be great in the December 2005 report that they are able to say that they have done something

with the parking other than hire an engineer. Rich Cunningham was the grant writer on this project. It used to be that no money was given for downtown projects, but now that the State has taken over, there is some funding. They have never done a downtown project before. They are trying to make the City better to keep businesses here, compete with malls, improve facades and make it nicer for tenants and shoppers.

Alderman Feiszli feels that more should be done with paving and less for making things pretty. Linda Armstrong says that the grant is not so much for paving, but for beautification to enhance Downtown. In the strategic plan for the downtown it was noted that the upper floors of the downtown businesses were under utilized, the signage wasn't consistent and it was difficult to find parking. This strategic plan was cited over and over again in the grant application trying to get things funded. If we go back now and say that we are not going to do the things in the plan and focus on paving in one lot, they could say no. Would you like to get a committee together and get ideas for doing a number of things in a number of parking lots? Two public meetings were held inviting the public and all the downtown businesses and fifty (50) attended. The big discussion was the façade program and the parking component was improvements to municipal property. People who shop downtown, need to park downtown. These plans are for buffering, to dress up the parking areas. More input is needed. Alderman Feiszli would like to know who to contact to create an input committee. The Mayor's office will coordinate it. Who is going to maintain the buffer areas? It is hoped that the Youth Bureau will maintain theirs and perhaps others will do the other areas. Perhaps the committee will come up with a solution.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 1 (Alderman Feiszli)

RESOLUTION #80 OF 2005 - A resolution to approve the following exotic pet permit applications, which have all been recommended by the Animal Committee.

- A. Sarah Barnes - two (2) ferrets - 155 ½ Central Avenue
- B. Henry Smith - python - 17 Central Avenue, Room 11
- C. Andrew Seager - ferret - 3 Hubbard Street

Alderman Faraoni was on the committee and all three were approved and the signature of the head of the committee is on each one and all the appropriate people were called. The first thing to do is go to the City Clerk's Office and get an application. That application goes to either the Mayor's Office or Chris Farkus, who is chairman of the Animal Committee. Once the applications are received, a meeting is called and they check with landlords and neighbors and acquaintances and it's determined if the animal is well cared for and treated well and that is done before they recommend it to the Council. If they find anything wrong, they do not recommend it to the Council for approval. Once it is approved, the applicant goes to the City Clerk and obtains their permit for \$5. No housecalls are made.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #81 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Davison to the Landscape and Design Commission.

He has been contacted and is anxious to participate in this commission.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

A spectator, Leland Taylor, came forward to thank the Council for all of the work that they do. He wondered if after listening to the County Legislature representative, if they could call a meeting with the Council with the City members of the Legislature and inform them about this issue (recycling). According to Mr. Schrader's statement, he said that the County Legislature wasn't going to vote on this issue at all. The Council replied that they had met with County representatives.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Terwilliger
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 19TH DAY OF JULY 2005. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER