



City Council Minutes August 5, 2003  
The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #13

August 5, 2003

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

City Hall

7:00PM

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

EXCUSED: Alderman Hennessy

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one to speak.

MINUTES of July 15, 2003

RESOLUTION #115 of 2003 – Approve the minutes of July 15, 2003.

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

BILLS

Bills are accepted.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor commends Chief Nichols and his officers for the job they did in a very dangerous situation. It was a risky thing they had to do and they deserve our appreciation. It was nice to be invited to the PBA clambake. The Mayor welcomed back some of the reservist at the armory. It was Delta 1127 troops that had been away for almost a year. She recognizes the Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club who did some painting on fire hydrants for the City. The volunteer firefighters and color guards were at the opening of Camp Arco. Unfortunately it rained and the kids did not get to have the parade but it was well attended. Reminds everyone this Thursday Charlie

Bertini will be entertaining downtown for the music series and this is the Brockway Truck Weekend. The Armory project is moving along. Its sounds as if we meet the criteria. If they approve the application then we will be able to receive the Armory for a nominal fee.

Andy and the Mayor had a meeting with the owner of the potential property that the City is interested in for relocating the fire station. References from the National Development Council are included in the packet. Some decisions have to be made soon as to what step we take and how we are going to proceed with it.

The new SUNY President Eric Bitterbaum is officially in town and the Mayor will be meeting with him on Monday.

Also included in the packet is Local Law No. 2, the sales and use tax. That is being laid on the table for Council consideration. The Mayor would like to set the public hearing date for Aug. 19, 2003 at 7:00PM.

Landscape and Design Report submitted Suzanne Etherington

The committee has been very active and they are proud of what they have accomplished. They have worked out a compromise with NIMO on Church St. with regard to replacement and selective trimming. They have also met with Don Chambers about the South Main St. renovation and selection of trees. She attended the conference in Utica last month. It was time well spent and she made some interesting contacts. One of the things that came up was tree management through Cornell Cooperative Extension. Her next meeting is the second Wednesday of the month in the Mayor's Conference Room at 4:00PM.

## WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

He congratulates Firefighters Richard Rogers, Colleen Price, and Robert Jensen who graduated on July 18th from the New York State Fire Academy at Montour Falls. Rogers received an award for having the highest academic average in the class. Price was second and Jensen was third. He is having a ward meeting on Wednesday Sept. 3 at the Cortland Memorial Hospital Assembly Room on the first floor of the nursing facility. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM. Tom Carmen of the Cortland Hospital will give us an update of the hospital project and other topics will be discussed.

Ward 2 - Alderman Tobin

Skunks and woodchucks are still a problem. He believes the money has almost run out and he would like to add that to the agenda (the addition of \$2,000.00 to fund removal of skunks).

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

She has code issues she will address with Andy. It has been quiet in the 3rd ward.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

He has had calls regarding the DPW brush removal. It is difficult for scheduling. Some people did not know they could call the DPW.

## Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He had a ward meeting. They talked about the fire station and its needs. The 5th ward picnic is scheduled for Sept. 13th at 1:00PM at Beaudry Park. The department heads and the Mayor are invited. We are asking people to bring a dish to pass and a beverage and he will supply the meat and the paper products. His next ward meeting is scheduled for the 26th of August at the Moose Club at 6:30PM. Thanks the Code office for handling complaints. He commends the 5th ward residents for cleaning up the ward. He wishes happy birthday to his daughter. He is working with a local agency who will be trimming the rail road tracks between South Main and Owego St. and the Sunnyfield Creek area. He also commends the Landscape and Design Committee. The trees look nice on Church St. He discusses a resident who got a permit in an R-1 district to set off fireworks. He discusses the application for junk vehicles.

## Ward 6 - Alderman Testa

He asks about the code revisions. Corp. Counsel notes the timeframe was the end of July. Amy was with Dirk putting things together. Dirk feels he has the zoning portion pinned down. We had asked him to do other things like property maintenance, etc. so we are hoping in a week or two we see something. Corp. Counsel will call him tomorrow. Alderman Testa states he has had a complaint regarding people gathering at the end of Pearne St. The neighbors are hoping for a fence or something along those lines. He also had complaints regarding the brush pickup.

## Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He had calls regarding brush pickup. Code office is working on some complaints. One was an odor problem and the other was a noise complaint. The big news is 40 trees on Hubbard St. are invested. He called the Mayor's Office and D & L Landscaping was called to assess the situation. The landscaper is confident the trees will be back next year. We have to make sure the leaves that are infested and diseased are cleaned out.

## Ward 8 - Alderman Hennessy

Excused.

## AGENDA

RESOLUTION #115 of 2003 – Authorize the addition of “STOP” signs on Hubbard Street at Garfield Street, creating a four-way stop intersection. (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission).

By: Alderman Partigianoni  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 7  
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #116 of 2003 – Authorize the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$9,056.27) from the NYS Department of State to be used to purchase computer equipment; and further authorize the necessary budget transfers. (A510 Estimated Revenues, A3347 State Aid, Codes), (A960 Appropriations, A1680.200 Data Processing, Equipment).

Alderman Tobin wants to know why we are putting the money into data processing. He states it was purchased out of the Codes Department budget. Andy explains that he wants to amend our policies on computer purchases

to require that Dave Stathis coordinate all purchases through the Data Processing Department for all City departments.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Item No. 3 – Discussion regarding a proposed local law which would prohibit the carrying of weapons in public buildings.

Alderman Tobin questions the archery programs. Corp. Counsel Suben states anything organized and authorized by the Youth Bureau falls into another category. Boy Scouts would have to get permission from the City. Alderman Quail notes this is only for City property. The Mayor explains this is for discussion and what the Council needs to determine is whether you want this to be as broad as it is or narrower. The Chief of Police is advocating for the broader interpretation. Alderman Quail does not believe you should be bringing your firearms to your place of business. Alderman Morey notes if you're going hunting, have your gun in your car, stop for breakfast, and park in a City owned parking lot you could be arrested.

Alderman Guido questions the old law. This is clarified.

RESOLUTION #117 of 2003 – Approve the travel request submitted by Jodi McLyman to attend the NYCOM Fall Training School.

By: Alderman Partigianoni  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

The Council requests Ms. McLyman present a report upon completion of training. A brief discussion ensues as to where the money will come from. Andy notes that a transfer can be made into the City Clerk's travel account once we know the final amount.

RESOLUTION #118 of 2003 – Authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Superior Disposal Service (low bidder) for garbage and recycling collection services for the period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Alderman Morey asks why there was no one local who bid. Andy states he directly mailed out bids to local companies but they did not respond. Andy notes that fourteen packets were mailed out, but only three bids were received.

RESOLUTION #119 of 2003 – Authorize the closure of Central Avenue between Church and Greenbush Streets

on August 14, 2003 from 5:30PM to 9:00PM to allow the CNY Mustang Club and Rods & Relics to showcase their cars.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Alderman Partigianoni is concerned because that is where the bus stop is. Jane Witty notes she spoke to Chief Nichols and they worked out a way to allow for the buses to come through.

RESOLUTION #120 of 2003 – Approve the Mayor’s appointments to the following Boards and Commissions:

a. Kelleyann O’Mara-Convertini to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

b. Retired Colonel Gerald O’Rourke, Board of Assessment Review.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Item No. 8 – Consideration to allocate \$2,000.00 from contingency fund to animal control fund for skunk and woodchuck removal.

Motion to allocate \$2,000.00 from contingency to be put into the animal control fund to take care of skunks and woodchucks throughout the City.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

When asked where the money is going to come from Andy Damiano states he does not know. When the budget was approved, all of the department heads were asked to cut their budget, down size programs, and eliminate positions. He objects to putting these departments through this rigorous effort then spending \$2,000.00 on what he perceives as a problem that is pertinent to the individual homeowner and not the community. The first time we came up with the skunk program was in response to a rabies outbreak. Now we are spending public dollars on private property to the benefit of the individual property owner.

Alderman Morey asks how much money have we spent on this? At what point do we draw the line? A brief discussion ensues. Alderman Quail thinks we should draw the line now. Everyone has to tighten their belts.

On the question,

Ayes – 3 (Testa, Tobin, Partigianoni)  
Nays – 4 (Guido, Morey, Faraoni, Quail)

MOTION DENIED.

Adjournment.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays - 0

I, WILLIAM J. WOOD CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF AUGUST 2003. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

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WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK