

August 7, 2001

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held on August 7, 2001 at 7:30 PM in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Tytler

Council Members Smith, Tobin, Abdulla, Lissberger, Strangeway,  
Hansen, and Hyde

City Clerk, William J. Wood

Deputy City Clerk, Jodi M. McLyman

Corporation Counsel, James J. Baranello

Director of Admin. & Finance, Andrew J. Damiano

EXCUSED: Council Member Hennessy

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one to speak.

### MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED THE MINTUES OF JULY 17, 2001 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.**

### BILLS

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

Council Member Tobin asks for clarification regarding Sweeney's Rodent Control. Director Damiano responded that there were mice in the Court Room. The scanner, antenna, and battery case was also for Buildings and Grounds.

**RESOLVED THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,219.58 BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT.**

### MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor has researched the parking garage study and explains that over the last 40 years, there have been 15 studies on that. The first was done in 1960 the last being 1995. The Mayor would like to update the most recent study instead of starting over.

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The Mayor thanks the department heads and sponsors for helping to coordinate A Day in the Park Concert. A thank you from Mark Suben for being appointed part-time City Court Judge. Mayor spoke to the State regarding the 281 design. That should be done soon and the Council will then get a copy of same. Senator Seward helped the City with the Sidewalk replacement program which is in place. It is a \$50,000. grant. \$30,000. is set-aside for residents and \$20,000. for commercial properties. The City will match anybody up to \$2,000. cap for any sidewalk repairs.

Congratulations to Alderwoman Strangeway on the birth of her new baby.

Ward 1 – Council Member Smith

He received a complaint on a junk car in a driveway, which Code is handling. A pothole and a street light on Van Hoesen St. were taken care of by Bob Spada and Mike Preston.

Ward 2 – Council Member Tobin

Thanks the Cafferty Band for their appearance at the concert in the park. He had a call regarding the 13-gallon trash bag. It appears that approx. 130 people per week have been using these bags and he would like to see them reinstated. A number of places are also out of blue bags.

Ward 3 – Council Member Abdulla

Quiet in the third ward except for the rodent problem on Atkins Ave.

Ward 4 – Council Member Lissberger

All is quiet.

Ward 5 – Council Member Strangeway

Thanks the DPW as she has not had any complaints regarding the paving on Williams Street and Church Street.

Ward 6 – Council Member Hansen

Ward meeting on August 29, 2001 will be held at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will include a tour starting at 7:00PM. We had significant rainfall on Friday causing flooding. Part of the problem is a lot of the storm sewers are filled with debris. It really causes a danger at the intersections.

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Council Member Hansen reads Council Member Hennessy's ward report, as she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She has received some complaints regarding the bike racers in the park. Apparently they hooked up to the fire hydrants. Andy Damiano explains that the group traveled with portable showers, which require the tanks to be filled. They paid the \$15.00 charge to the Water Board for the right to fill the tanks for their showers. She was very happy with the clean up by the bikers.

She also has an issue regarding a mobile home in her ward. She would like Corporation Counsel to develop some kind of an ordinance to regulate mobile homes in the community. She also noticed that the Thursday night concert in the park overlapped with the Syracuse Symphony and she hopes that scheduling next year can accommodate both. She also feels that there could be better coordination between the City, Water, and NYSEG when resurfacing the streets.

Ward 7 – Council Member Hyde

The residents in the Pomeroy/Elm Street intersection seem to be speeding and running the traffic light at the intersection. He requests police presence there.

## AGENDA

### Item No. 1 - Presentation by John McNerney regarding a proposed project to create additional playing fields.

John McNerney explains that Cortland has had field space problems that date back to the 1990's. The City of Cortland, Town of Cortlandville, and the Cortland City School District have teamed up to address the growing field space problems. It only makes sense to work on this project together. John introduces Mr. John Pilato, Town of Cortlandville. The Town supports the project and also financially is ready to make a contribution to the project. Also instrumental in the project from Cortlandville is Ted Testa. Jeff Johnson, the Athletic Director for Cortland City Schools knows first hand the field issues faced in the City of Cortland. Dr. Lutz from the Cortland City Schools has been instrumental and a Park Committee has been formed.

The Cortland Youth Bureau has 17 different leagues. This is over 106 teams that participate over the summer months. One of the larger groups is the adult softball league containing 76 teams, which play 7 days a week. There are over 1,400 boys and girls playing youth soccer. There is one existing soccer field in the City of Cortland that is a regulation size field. A big part of this project is also the Little League World Series sanctioned field. One of the requirements is to have an official Little League field. This would consist of proper fencing, dugouts, grass infield, etc.

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Three years ago Homer became a sanctioned Little League. This would dramatically improve the quality of baseball in this community.

Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP have helped us with the design, (John introduces Mr. James Trasher). This was a collaborate effort from the park committee to determine what the needs of the community were. Mr. Trasher explains the 2 sites, Starr Rd. and Saunders Rd. It was determined that 3 little league fields were needed, also several large multi use fields for soccer, field hockey, football practice, etc. These fields would all be regulation size. A brief overview of the fields is explained. The City Site would include the High School Baseball Field which would have dugouts and fences, etc. and also a girls softball field. A rough cost for the two projects would be approx. \$1,800,000.00. To get the project started, phase one would include 2 little league fields and a small and large multi use field.

John McNerney explains the grant opportunity out there for this year is from the Environmental Protection Fund. The EPF has \$8,000,000.00 for outdoor recreation. Municipalities are the only people that can apply for that funding. The focus this year is on athletic field development. The joint project between the three entities holds well when applying for grant money. The only draw back is the August 31, 2001 deadline.

Ann Hotchkins of Thoma Development explains that there are three pots of money and out of the three pots of money the City is eligible for two. The maximum award the City could ask for is \$350,000. The entity applying for this, which is the Town of Cortlandville, has to come up with one half. This does not have to be all cash. It can be the cost of the land, pre-development costs, in-kind services provided by either Municipalities in order to knock down the case requirement. These are extremely competitive grants but the fact that we are doing this in conjunction with other entities makes us lucrative. The actual award for the grant is not announced until after March 2002.

Council Member Tobin asks if the Council approves funds but the City does not receive the grant, are they still committed? Ann Hotchkins explains that it can be contingent upon getting the grant. John McNerney explains the City is looking for the Council to approve \$75,000. in cash and that would be matched by the Town of Cortlandville. A donation of \$118,000. in in-kind service would also be requested which consists of project design, land, site prep, water & electric, parking, etc. The Mayor explains the gravel from the South Main Street construction (approx. 15,000 cubic yards of gravel) can be used for the parking area.

Tom Brown, Vice President Cortland School Board, states that the school is very enthusiastic about the school project. The schools contribution will be the maintenance of these fields. This will need to be formulized at the next meeting.

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The details are not worked out yet and the school will need to see some formulized proposal.

The Mayor is requesting the Council approve \$75,000.00 to be committed to the Community Sports Facility.

On the motion of Council Member Lissberger, seconded by Council Member Abdulla, voted

Council Hansen asks where the money is going to come from? Andrew Damiano explains that the Resolution for the purpose of the grant application can state to strictly commit City funds. This could be a part of the bond issue. The funds could be available sometime in February; otherwise you could run the risk of not having enough General Fund dollars.

The Mayor is requesting that the Council approve this project because he would like to be able to apply for this grant and there is a deadline. Council Member Hyde suggests that this is something that should be done when times are good. This is a great project but we do not want a substantial tax increase next year.

Council Member Abdulla feels that this is an investment in the youth of our City. A brief discussion ensues regarding the wordage of the Resolution.

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

**RESOLVED TO ACCEPT THE MODIFICATION TO THE MOTION.**

The Motion is modified to read:

Resolution to authorize the City to go forward with the grant application in support of the project and to commit up to \$75,000.00 in cash and \$118,000.00 of in-kind services towards the Community Sports Facility.

On the question,

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO GO FORWARD WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT AND TO COMMIT**

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**UP TO \$75,000.00 IN CASH AND \$118,000.00 OF IN-KIND SERVICES TOWARD THE COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY.**

Item No. 2 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the closing of Glenn Street on August 19, 2001, from Noon to 5:00 PM in order to hold a neighborhood picnic.

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE CLOSING OF GLENN STREET ON AUGUST 19, 2001, FROM NOON TO 5:00 PM IN ORDER TO HOLD A NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC.**

Item No. 3 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the closing of Van Hoesen Street, from 6 Van Hoesen Street to its intersection with Harrison Street, on September 22, 2001 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in order to hold a neighborhood picnic.

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE CLOSING OF VAN HOESEN STREET, FROM 6 VAN HOESEN STREET TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH HARRISON STREET, ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2001 FROM 10:30 AM TO 5:00 PM IN ORDER TO HOLD A NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC.**

Item No. 4 – Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the closing of Euclid Avenue on August 18, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in order to hold a neighborhood picnic.

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVED AUTHORIZING THE CLOSING OF EUCLID AVENUE ON AUGUST 18, 2001 FROM 9:00AM TO 9:00PM IN ORDER TO HOLD A NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC.**

Item No. 5 – Consideration of amendments to sections 11-41 and 11-42 of the Code of Ordinances to facilitate the following:

- a) Eliminate the yield signs at Warren and Water Streets; and Sands and Water Streets;

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- b) Place STOP signs at the above locations (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission)

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

Council Member Lissberger explains that there is a day care facility there and this will help slow the traffic down.

**RESOLUTION APPROVED AMENDING SECTIONS 11-41 AND 11-42 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO FACILITATE THE FOLLOWING:**

- A) **ELIMINATE THE YIELD SIGNS AT WARREN AND WATER STREETS; AND SANDS AND WATER STREETS;**
- B) **PLACE STOP SIGNS AT THE ABOVE LOCATIONS (RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION).**

Item No. 6 – Consideration of a request from the Downtown Business Association for \$250.00 in funding to pay Graphics Plus for promotional posters for the Brockway Truck Show to be held on August 11, 2001.

Counsel Baranello states that if the DBA is sponsoring this program, then the City cannot donate the \$250.00. It would be a gift to a private organization. If this were something the Council wishes to do, they would need to set up a publicity fund that's part of the annual budget and contribute funds that are community in nature to not-for-profit corporations to help promote those interests.

It is agreed to pull this item from the agenda.

Item No. 7 – Consideration of a request submitted by MPK Enterprises, LLC; d/b/a Allie O'Grady's, for a permit to operate a sound device on August 19, 2001 from Noon until 8:00 p.m. (Located at 187 Homer Ave.)

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Strangeway, voted and carried,  
Council Member Hansen explains that this is a fundraiser to help a local individual pay medical bills. Its is a family event.

**RESOLVED TO APPRROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY MPK ENTERPRISES, LLC; D/B/A/ ALLIE O'GRADY'S, FOR A PERMIT TO OPERATE A SOUND DEVICE ON AUGUST 19, 2001 FROM NOON UNTIL 8:00PM (LOCATED AT 187 HOMER AVE.)**

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

**RESOLVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:30PM.**

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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.**