



City Council Minutes August 6, 2002

The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #13

August 6, 2002

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

City Hall

7:30PM

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

EXCUSED: Alderman Hennessy

Staff present: City Clerk, William J. Wood, Corporation Counsel Mark Suben

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Hull of 17 N. Church St. speaks regarding his snake that he hopes the Council will grant a permit for. He has a red tail boa and a small python. They are of no danger to people. He passes out pictures of the cages and the snakes. He handles the snakes daily. He states the likelihood of it getting out is very slim. A brief discussion regarding the permit process ensues.

Melissa Farkas and Nicole Riley speak with regard to the event they would like to hold at the Rotary Shelter in Sugget Park. The event is going to be sponsored by Reality Check. It will be on August 22, 2002 at 6:00 to 8:30PM.

RESOLUTION # 68 of 2002 – to place Reality Check request on the agenda.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays - 0

James Jackson of 12 Madison St. is applying for a permit for an iguana. He was not aware that he needed a permit. He did not bring any pictures. He is very tame. He does not go in the cage very often and pretty much just walks around the house. He has had the iguana for 3 months. He lives in an apartment building. Kids can pet him. He will get to be about 5 or 6 feet. He will live to be about 10 or 15 years old.

Alderman Faraoni would like to make the motion that these kinds of pets be sent to the animal committee before it comes to the Council.

August 6, 2002

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Alderman Quail states the committee was set up originally for cats. Alderman Faraoni states the committee is for all animals. Alderman Testa feels we should deal with it now.

The motion will be amended to state that future applications for wild animals will go to the animal committee.

On the question.

RESOLUTION #69 of 2002 – Resolved future applications for exotic pets or wild animals will be handled by the Animal Committee before coming in front of the Council for approval.

MINUTES

Approve the amended Common Council minutes of July 16, 2002.

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays – 0

BILLS

RESOLUTION #70 of 2002 – Resolved to strip the payment of the City Clerk's annual NYCOM meeting registration until a future date.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

A brief discussion ensues regarding the payment to the computer support person.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor states how wonderful this past weekend was. She thanks the City staff for doing an outstanding job. The Department Heads and all the people working for them. The details and the things they did were incredible. Everyone had a wonderful time. The sidewalk sales were a success. Thanks to the DBA and Garry VanGorder from the Chamber of Commerce and the local organizing committee. This weekend the Brockway Truck Show will be downtown. Marietta had a ceremony today to acknowledge and to celebrate the opening of the new facilities. There was a ground breaking 187 days ago. Congressman Boehlert was there and he is very excited about working with Cortland. Marietta invited the neighbors, which was very nice. There have now been 2 cases of West Nile Virus within the City limits. Both involving birds. She spoke with Audrey Lewis and we should be taking precautions such as pools with

August 6, 2002

standing water, insect repellent, old tires. They have also applied larvicides to the City's catch basin. If anyone knows of a site that is a problem or a breeding ground, please call the Health Department.

The facilities study is underway. There was a preliminary meeting with the engineers, architects, and a number of City employees and other representatives to discuss how the process is going to work. There will be surveys passed out, interviews with the Department Heads, etc. The time frame is pretty short. They are hoping to have a report to give to the Council possibly late September.

There is some information in the packets regarding rental signs. Corporation Counsel has not received an application at this time from the Contento's. He has received a site plan by fax but no application.

City Clerk Wood briefs the Council on some potential problems that the Clerk's Office will be experiencing due to the new hunting/fishing licensing program provided by the DEC.

Janet Steck speaks regarding the Cultural Council. She discusses the cultural needs for the City of Cortland. She feels people are not aware of what is available culturally in Cortland. There has been a Cultural Resource Guide printed in hopes to help make residents aware of the various clubs, museums, arts, etc. She is hopeful there will be a website to help plan these cultural events and also a directory for all the individual artists in Cortland County. This website will also include a newsletter which will be updated on a weekly basis.

She discusses the economic impact of art in the community and the transition of becoming a totally volunteer staff to an organization, which has a professional administrator on the board.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

Alderman Faraoni was very pleased with the Empire State Games. The first ward is in good shape thanks to all the residents in the ward.

Ward 2 – Alderman Tobin

Thanks all the people in the community for volunteering for the Empire State Games. The VFW would like to change the drive through area of their parking lot so it's not as close to their entrance. The other idea is they will block off their side and there will be no drive through from Court St. Numerous calls regarding skunks and woodchucks. He would like the Council to authorize monies to hire a trapper.

Ward 3– Alderman Morey

She attended several of the Empire State events. She was also very pleased. She received a lot of feedback from people outside of the community who were also very impressed with the hometown hospitality. She sends her condolences to the family of John Buscher who passed away. He lived in her ward and attended her ward meetings. She has had calls regarding animals and sidewalk money.

August 6, 2002

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

Everyone he has talked to was impressed with the job the City of Cortland did. The residents as well as shopkeepers. He has had calls regarding skunks and woodchucks. He has also had a call regarding recycling of newspaper. There will be a 4th ward meeting at City Hall, Wednesday August 7 at 7:00 PM.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

The opening ceremonies were good but hot. He thanks all the volunteers. Thanks all the downtown vendors. Thanks Don Chambers for speaking at his ward meeting with regard to the South Main St. project. There will be no ward meeting in August. The next meeting will be Saturday September 14 at Beaudry Park. There will be a BBQ. Thanks Mike Preston for helping with the parking problem at the Beaudry Park basketball courts. He has one resident that had 11 skunks removed at a cost of \$35.00 per skunk. He has had a discussion with Steve Muka regarding taping of the Common Council meetings. Mr. Muka needs to take time off from doing the Common Council meetings and Alderman Quail would like the Council to come up with another solution. He feels it is important to provide access to the community. We need to come up with a way to defray that cost. Mr. Muka uses the equipment provided by cable access and there is a two hour training class required.

Ward 6 – Alderman Testa

He had a ward meeting, which was very upbeat. He thanks the people of Zonta for doing such a nice job for the garden on Elm and Clinton. Wilson Farms and Brian Riccardi are doing excellent jobs with their landscaping. He thanks Joe Egelston for making his workers aware of not taking heavy equipment down Miller St. He hopes the City will also follow suit. A note was also emailed to County employees to do the same.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He was a guest at the Marietta ceremonies today, which he was very impressed with their state of the art facility. Thanks the people involved with the Empire State Games. He has met with David Briggs regarding the aged exemption. He wants to have the income limit raised and hopes this topic will be on the August 20 agenda. New York State rejected our grant for the sports complex. The City cannot be a member of Little League because we don't have a certified Little League facility. Homer had tried twice before receiving their grant and the City of Cortland should not give up on this.

Ward 8 – Alderman Hennessy

Excused.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #71 of 2002 – Authorize the closing of 12 parking spaces in front of Grace Church at 13 Court Street on August 24, 2002 from 7:00am until 5:00 pm for Cortland Loaves and Fishes to hold a chicken BBQ.

August 6, 2002

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #72 of 2002 – Authorize the closing of Van Hoesen Street to Harrison Street on September 21, 2002 from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm for an annual neighborhood picnic.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item No. 3 – Consideration of an application by Brian Hull of 17 North Church Street to grant a permit to house two snakes at his residence.

Alderman Tobin makes a motion to Table until such time it can be referred to the animal committee. Alderman Morey disagrees. She feels he has made the effort to come before the council. Is a temporary permit a possibility?

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Denied: Ayes – 3
Nays - 4 (Testa, Quail, Morey, Guido)

RESOLUTION #73 of 2002 – Approve the application for Brian Hull of 17 North Church Street to grant a temporary permit until December 31, 2002 to house two snakes at his residence and to notify the City should he move.

No permit fee was established at this time.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 2 (Testa, Faranoi)

Item No. 4 – Consideration of an application by James Jackson of 12 Madison Avenue for a permit to house an iguana at his residence.

RESOLUTION #74 of 2002 – Table the application by James Jackson of 12 Madison Avenue for a permit to house an iguana at his residence for the Council to get more information.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

August 6, 2002

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Testa)

RESOLUTION #75 of 2002 – Approval of a one-year agreement with CGI Communications for the use of City property (leased utility poles) for the installation and maintenance of decorative banners, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into said agreement.

The Mayor states that when the banners when up, there was no agreement with the City. The City is not supposed to give away or use City property without some sort of agreement. There should be some sort of consideration in order for this to happen. The City has agreed upon a price of \$25.00 per pole. The company will put up, take down, and maintain the poles.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #76 – Establish Ward 5 election polling place at the City Youth Bureau, Port Watson Street pursuant to NYS Election Law.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #77 of 2002– Motion to put Local Law No. 3 of 2002, (NYS Retirement Incentives for City Employees) on the table and scheduling of a Public Hearing at 7:20 pm on August 20, 2002 to accept public comments relating to the matter.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #78 of 2002 – Approve the application by Reality Check for an event at Suggest Park on Thursday, August 22, 2002 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. with the permit fee to be waived.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #79 of 2002 – That the City of Cortland (1) is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funds from the Empire State Development Corporation in conjunction with

August 6, 2002

the Governor's Office for Small Cities under the 2002 Main Street New York Downtown Development Initiative in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the State, (2) commits \$26,700 to match the requested funds from the State to complete the project, and (3) upon approval of said application request from the State, will enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the City for the construction of sidewalks and curbs on Groton Avenue, the subject of the proposed application request.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Tobin

Bob Spada explains this will be between Main Street and Rascals on both sides. The curbs will also be taken care of. Alderman Morey states the sidewalk is terrible. This had to be a downtown project and this seemed to be the most feasible.

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item No. 9 – Discussion of City employees' travel for education and training.

RESOLUTION #80 of 2002 –(Presented by Alderman Tobin) **Whereas**, the Common Council, being duly elected to be guardians of the people's trust in the City of Cortland and having the responsibility to ensure that the people's money is being spent in a responsible manner, it shall be required that all departmental expenditures relating to expenses of travel, lodging dining and the expense of attending any conferences, conventions or seminars shall be submitted in writing to the Common Council of the City of Cortland for approval prior to submitting a registration for any conference, convention or seminar.

Furthermore, it shall be required that all licenses, certifications or a written narrative of what was achieved shall be submitted to the Common Council upon return.

The department of Police and Fire shall be exempt from this resolution. The Mayor shall also be exempt within the framework of the Mayor's departmental budget. (A-1210) for his or her personal use only.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Alderman Tobin wants to know where these people are going before they go. The Mayor thought this was a topic to be discussed not a resolution. The Department Heads feel there is a lack of trust or micromanagement here. When the department heads do there budget they expect us to do the job we have hired them to do. Alderman Tobin states he has had input from Department Heads and he has not gotten the same feeling. He realizes the Police and Fire need their mandated training and also respects the right of the Executive Officer of the City to attend these conferences. He feels there are others throughout the framework of the City that doesn't need to attend the conferences. He feels this is a waste of taxpayer monies. Alderman Guido questions the \$400.00 for NYCOM registration and also the \$200.00 per night for the hotel. He asks why they were not invited to go.

August 6, 2002

The Mayor states the Council is invited to go to the NYCOM conferences. She feels it's a shame that no one has attended. There have been other conferences that were less expensive and no one has attended them. NYCOM is a well-respected organization that is bipartisan. Alderman Morey states that she does not feel that we should send anyone who is not confirmed by this Council. Nobody in the City should be spending money unless they are confirmed by the Council. These are people that you (the Mayor) will not bring forth to the table. She doesn't understand how she can support these people. The Mayor states a prior Council and a prior Mayor approved the numbers that are there. Alderman Morey does not want to spend any money on seminars if there is a vacancy that we can confirm or not confirm this person and there just here because there has been no vacancy created. The Mayor asks if this is about Clerk Bill Wood? Alderman Morey states his expenditures are exceeding everyone else and she has never brought him to the table to be confirmed. Alderman Morey states you have not brought this person to be confirmed.

Alderman Tobin states he has felt strongly about this for a long time. Alderman Partigianoni feels that he thought this was settled. He asks if we are rehashing this again?

On the question,

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item No. 10 is pulled from the agenda.

Item No. 11 – Discussion of problems with birds and animals, wild and domestic.

Alderman Quail talks about the constituent who had 11 skunks removed from their property. He feels we have to do something. Some of these people are on fixed incomes. Alderman Tobin states sometimes the cause of the problem is not created by the person paying for it. He feels the Council should try to help the residents. Alderman Faraoni suggests the residents need to put their blue bags in a garbage receptacle. Compost is also a problem.

Alderman Tobin proposes to take \$2,500.00 out of the contingency fund. People could contact the police department and they would contact the trapper. Alderman Partigianoni states this has been brought up before the Council by him before and no one wanted to do anything.

RESOLUTION #81 of 2002 – Allocate \$2,500.00 from the contingency fund for the purpose of contracting with a trapper.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays - 1

Alderman Testa would like to have discussion regarding extending term limits. He would like to have it go from 2 years to 4 years.

August 6, 2002

Adjournment

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

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 6th DAY OF AUGUST 2002. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK
