



## City Council Minutes September 21, 2004

The City of Cortland, New York

**COUNCIL MEETING #17**  
**September 21, 2004**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**City Hall**  
**7:00PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Thomas Gallagher  
Alderman Faraoni, Terwilliger, Morey, Guido, Feiszli, Quail, Partigianoni, and Michales

Staff present: Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano, Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker, Clerk John Reagan, James Sponaugle

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one to speak.

MINUTES of September 7, 2004.

**RESOLUTION #105** of 2004 – Approve the minutes of September 7, 2004.

By: Alderman Terwilliger  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

### BILLS

Alderman Quail would like to know approx. how much we have spent on the Armory for repairs and updating, moving, etc. Director Damiano notes this was from the bond issue so it will not appear in the abstract. He further explains there have been some costs incurred but anything relating to the move and the projects relating to the move are being paid through the bond proceeds. Jim Sponaugle's budget has been greatly impacted by this project. Alderman Morey asked how much the bond was for. Director Damiano notes \$300,000. Approximately \$205,000 is the actual construction and engineering for the armory. A brief discussion ensues regarding the boilers. Alderman Morey asks for a running total on the major project.

Alderman Morey asked how much longer on the parking lot. Director Damiano states it is unpredictable at this point. Director Damiano asks if she has received any complaints because

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they are in constant communication with the business owners on a daily basis. She states no but she would like a time of completion.

## **PRESENTATION**

Jim Sponaugle gives an overview of the Boy Scouts and the community service project they undertook. Chris Buttino thanks all the volunteers and explains what exactly the boy scouts accomplished. The Mayor hands out Certificates of Recognition to the scouts.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

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The Mayor comments on the recent odor in the community. It's called poll oil. It's a sap from the pine trees in North Carolina. It is brought up by train and it goes to Suit Kote. This is heated as part of their process. There was an error by the operator and it was heated to hot. Suit Kote offers their apology. Audrey Lewis from Cortland County Environmental Health addresses the Council. She notes they did heat these four tankers up higher than what they normally heat them up to and it released the water and the water vapor boiled off and created the odor. They are going to change some of their procedures to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Alderman Partigianoni has had calls regarding times of day to investigate. Ms. Lewis explains during working hours they respond immediately. If we have a person that has to come in from a distance, a lot of times the odors dissipate. If it's after hours, the public can contact the Sheriffs Dept. at 753-3313.

- Met with Tompkins County Trust—Paul Banfield and Bill Ruth—to review their business plan for Cortland. Took them on a tour of the new Sports Complex. Open House for Sports Complex is Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Joined the Seven Valley Health Coalition breakfast meeting for an update of their goals.
- Attended BDC/IDA meeting. Discussed expansion of the Empire Zone, Open House plans for Essex Steel new construction in South Cortland, and Open House for Barden Homes in Preble.
- Made presentations for 25, 30 and 35 year service awards to DPW, Youth Bureau, Police Department and Public Safety.
- Met with Kevin Rooney, WKRT, for live broadcast regarding progress in the City.
- Attended United Way Day of Caring at Homer Intermediate School.
- This past weekend, the fire station began their move to the Armory.
- Attended an initial meeting of Cortland Community/College video project.
- Recorded 20 minute video session with Bruce Tytler as moderator. Discussed various projects we are working on.

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## WARD REPORTS

### Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

He thanks Mike Preston. We now have two new signs. One North and one South on Homer Ave. and Alvena. The signs state “Yield to Pedestrians in Your Half of the Road”. This is a very dangerous intersection. It is a crossway from the hospital parking lot to the hospital. It’s an accident waiting to happen. It’s been quiet in the first ward. He hopes to see everyone at the Pumpkinfest on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

The Mayor asks Shannon to contact Chris Ryan with regard to the intersection of Wheeler and Homer Ave. She received a complaint regarding long branches and hedges blocking the view on the corner of Madison and Homer Ave. She received a complaint about long grass on the corner of Grace St. and Madison St. She contacted the landlord and he mowed it today.

### Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

She wants to know when Ottercreek is going to be done. Everything has been quiet.

### Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

He has been contacted about an aggressive dog in the neighborhood. He contacted the SPCA and they are investigating it. Tomorrow night there is a meeting at the Cortlandville Fire Dept. at 7:00PM to discuss the new zoning ordinance and possibilities of box stores going in over the aquifer. This is open to the public if anyone is interested in attending. There is water coming out of the road on Broadway just past the waterworks near Otter creek. They have been working on this and all the appropriate lines are marked.

### Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

He attended the City, Town, and Village meeting. There were several representatives from NYMIR there. He discussed raising the bar with the City, Town, and Villages. He asked them to start looking at sales tax and where are we going as far as regionalism within the County. He thinks this is an important initiative the City, Town, and Villages need to take on so that in three years when the sales tax agreement expires we have a central point to start working from. Sat. morning he participated with the Tioughnioga River Trail. They sponsored the river clean-up. He attended the Cortland Youth Bureau Chicken BBQ. They are doing several more benefits to raise money for the youths. He had a nice turnout at his ward picnic. He had approx. 30-35 people attend. There were many dishes, the food was excellent, and they shared many concerns from stray cats to back flow devices to no parking signs. He had a neighborhood watch organizational meeting two weeks ago. Sgt. Carpenter was there and he will be having a second meeting the second week of October with details to follow.

### Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

Tonight at the Holiday Inn there is an informational meeting regarding the bridge replacement over the west branch of the Tioughnioga River on Rt. 13. She met briefly with Gene Cilantro

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and Paul Sudol who are project engineers. They have agreed to keep her informed as to what is going on with regards to the design. A large portion of the sixth ward has to cross that bridge everyday. The meeting for tomorrow with Marty Mack was rescheduled to November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Council Chambers. Her next ward meeting will be October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Council Chambers. David Hartnett and Mark Suben will be guest speakers.

#### Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He attended the DPW monthly commission meeting. It was not an encouraging report we received. We received \$170,000. bond to repave the streets in the City. River St. will eat up all of it. In his ward he has three streets that need repair. Some of the DPW equipment needs upgrading. Some of this equipment is 25 years old and the repairs are costly.

Director Damiano states in the memo he distributed regarding the South Main St. project he alludes to the fact there is going to be a proposal for a bond issue in 2005. One of the things he hopes the Council will approve is a more extensive paving program. Alderman Guido asks if this is the cost of materials. Some streets can be top coated. Andy notes we are not talking about reconstructing streets. Alderman Partigianoni explains that River St. is concrete. Nothing will stick to that. This will cost money. The Roundhouse Mill trucks could not get out to deliver feed to the farmers on Wednesday due to misc. meetings and such at the County Office Building. We had to take out a portion of the fence and drive over the curb so the trucks could get out. He will be gone for vacation next week and if anyone has any complaints Alderman Faraoni will assist.

Alderman Partigianoni had a call regarding three dead crows in the middle of River St. The Health Dept. was called. Dead crows are not really a threat to humans if they are dead over a short period of time. You won't get the West Nile Virus from a dead crow. The mosquitoes are the carriers.

#### Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

Due to technicalities video taping at the last meeting, he highlights a couple of things. He compliments Cecile Scott at the Youth Bureau for the bottle and car wash drive they did to raise money for the skateboard club. They raised about \$300.00 for new equipment. We have a local artist, Jack Kampney, who did the large mural in the Groton Ave. plaza. If anyone is driving by that area, please stop and take a look at this artwork.

He held his neighborhood watch meeting last Wednesday night. He had an excellent turnout. There were over 40 people in attendance. When Dan's group gets farther along, they are planning on combining the two because both of our wards adjoin at so many streets. He also received a call requesting a visual walk light on the corner of Kellogg Rd. and Port Watson St. He wrote a letter to the state DOT with hopes to get something put in place soon. He did receive calls regarding the odor.

#### AGENDA

**RESOLUTION #106** of 2004 – Endorse the Cortland Housing Assistance Council's application for funding from the New York Main Street program in order to fund a façade and building renovation program.

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By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Michaels

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #107** of 2004 - Endorse the County's action in awarding the contract for Main Street/Page Green Road Reconstruction Project to G. DeVincentis & Son Construction Co. (low bidder); and further authorizing the County to proceed.

By: Alderman Guido  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Don Chambers addresses the Council. They opened bids a week ago and G. DeVincentis was the low bidder on the project. We are hoping the City continues with the partnership that we have built with this project and go along with what has been presented. The Contractor plans to get started in October working on utility work. This should be substantially complete by mid summer of 2006. We plan on having weekly meetings on site to deal with issues. We will have on-site representation. Once we get a field office established there will be a number so that you can contact the project representative directly. Scott Steve will be attending most of the weekly on-site meetings. Mr. Chambers notes he will be notifying the neighbors as soon as there is a preconstruction meeting. Alderman Quail wants that schedule posted to the City website. Mr. Chambers notes that as soon as there is a schedule that is agreed upon by all parties they will notify everyone.

Mr. Chambers explains the project begins at the intersection of South Main and Tompkins St. and extends to approximately 500 feet past Saunders and Starr Road. This will be total reconstruction. Traffic will be allowed to pass at all times except when replacing the railroad crossing and also when they are replacing Perplexity Creek culvert, south of Valley View Drive.

From Tompkins St. to Huntington St. and Stewart Place there will be textured concrete between the curbing and the sidewalk and new sidewalks. This will appear to look like brick. There will be granite curbing, trees with gradings, and ornamental street lights. This will be similar to the downtown section of Main St. There will be new sewer, drainage, base rebuilding, street, railroad gates, water main, etc. The intersections have been altered. There will be a turn lane for Southbound traffic for Valley View Dr. The signalization and cross walks will be totally replaced. The driveways will be maintained so people have access to their driveways. A brief discussion ensues regarding the replacement of the water main and sewer system. When the project is complete it will look very much like the downtown portion of Main St.

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

Item No. 3 – Presentation by a representative of C & S Engineers on the environmental restoration project at the Noss Park Site.

Mr. Jim Keib of C & S Engineers addresses the Council. They have done work with the City for many years. We have done work on the Fire Station for many years. C & S is located in

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Syracuse and are about a 300 person firm. They are currently handling about 8 Brownfield projects with the DEC. The representatives give a brief overview on how the Brownfield program came to be and passes out an informational packet. This is also known as the Environmental Restoration Program or ERP. For Cortland, this project will be 90% funded by the State. The remaining 10% still can be funded by misc. programs. Alderman Michales asks in comparison to other sites, how does this one rate? Mr. Keib comments "good" and explains the map on the back of the proposal. The fact that there is no structures there makes the alternatives much better. The last part of the study will be what's the best way to clean this up and that depends on what you are going to use it for. This is a 5 acre parcel that the City owns. Dir. Damiano notes one of the main reasons for doing this is we have had potential industries that were interested in purchasing this for development. Every time they brought their environmental reports to their funding sources, they were rejected. No commercial funding institutions is going to take a mortgage on a property with environmental concerns. The Mayor and I decided to look into ways to make this a more attractive site. When asked about the Rosen Site, Director Damiano notes the site can be developed as long as the cap is replaced and monitored during construction.

The Sesquecentennial of the Syracuse, Binghamton, and NY Railway is going to have a commemoration on Saturday, October 16, at 8:30AM in Binghamton. Steam engine No. 142 will go from Binghamton to Syracuse and will be stopping in Marathon, Cortland, and Tully.

#### **Adjournment.**

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Morey

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 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2004. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.**

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**JOHN O. REAGAN – CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER**