



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

October 3, 2006

Council Meeting #17
October 3, 2006
Regular Business Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Alderman VanGorder, Terwilliger, DeCarlo,
Quail, Feiszli, Partigianoni and Michales

Staff Present: Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano,
Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker and
City Clerk John O. Reagan

Mayor Gallagher calls the seventeenth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

Public Comment

Ann Doyle was present to pay a tribute to Ken Tobin who was an Alderman for fourteen (14) years. He always did what was best for his city and his ward. He tried to find the best solution for a problem, ever keeping in mind his constituents and their wishes. He tried to do what was right and see that the solution was upheld. He tried to be the best Alderman that he could and do his best for his ward and city. He was in contact with all of the parties to follow through. Even when ill, he attended the Lincoln Maple Area Association meetings to listen or to offer some suggestions. She will miss him very much.

Dave Blatchley of the Cultural Council of Cortland was present to request approval from the Common Council to use the Courthouse Park for their Arts and Wine Festival on August 4, 2007. They have quite a project lined up and is an expansion of the arts festival that has been held there in the past.

Machell Phelps was present representing the Cortland Regional Sports Council and she gave them an update on the Council's activities for the past year. She had packets to distribute to all of the Council Members. Their organization is working with local agencies and governments as well as the sports complex to attract sporting events to our area. Their economic impact to the area to date is a little over one million (1,000,000) dollars. Last year it was one point three (1.3) million, but there are still four

(4) more events on the schedule for this year and she is certain they will surpass last year's total. Last year for the basketball tournament in March, they had thirty-seven teams participate. This year they had eighty-seven (87) teams that participated and stayed here for three (3) days. It was a tremendous success. They also went to Albany and bid on this Public High School Athletic Association Girls' Soccer Tournament and they won that bid, taking it away from Binghamton. Those games will be here for possibly four (4) years. Tomorrow they are going to Albany to bid again on the Girls' State Lacrosse Championships. It is important to note that they base their figures on the New York State Dept. of Economic Development formulas, not on some formula that her organization came up with. Some events they sponsor and some they hold the contractual rights to. She urged everyone to refer to the list of events planned for 2007 which are included in their packets. The number has doubled since they started and the diversity of them is unique. She hoped that when they looked at their budget for 2007, that they took the time to consider the Sports Council and invest in the Council so that they could maximize a return on that investment. The Mayor congratulated the Council on their good job.

The Mayor called for a moment of silence for their longtime Common Council Second Ward Alderman Ken Tobin. He was a good man, a people person and he did a lot of good for the City and the Second Ward.

Minutes of September 19, 2006

RESOLUTION #103 OF 2006 - Approve the minutes of September 19, 2006.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman DeCarlo

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

Mayor's Report

He attended sales tax meeting at the County, the rail announcement at BDC/IDA for Suit-Kote and the South End Strategic Plan meeting at Randall School. He also attended the Leadership program announcing a new video for Cortland County Historical Society. He met with National Grid to discuss the electric needs for Cayuga Press. He held a press conference regarding the cats. He attended the First Night meeting (ball drop). He announced that the Cortland Standard has offered to put the bracket up on their building and the ball will drop from there. He attended the debate between Spitzer and Faso for Governor. He also attended the Cortland Downtown Partnership meeting. He was at the Business After Hours meeting at Country Inn and Suites. He also met with the representative from Petco at Cortlandville Fire Station.

He attended Habitat for Humanity house dedication. He met with auditors from the State Comptroller's office. He also attended Cable Commission meeting.

He also reminded everyone of the Pumpkinfest is this weekend.

Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She also acknowledged Ken Tobin and all that he did for the City and noted that he will be greatly missed. She attended a Flood Sub-committee meeting with Alderman Feiszli and they are working on some areas in the City and have also decided to expand the scope and look at some areas outside of the City. She feels that this is more beneficial in the long run as they will be looking at trying to have an impact on the water before it gets into the City, rather than after. Carol Tytler is working very hard on that Committee. She spoke with Decatherm and NYSEG regarding the Wheeler Avenue and Elizabeth Street Project that's in her Ward. They have been working on it all summer and have told her that hopefully it will be finished in another week or two (2). She talked with the Superintendent of the City Schools in regard to school security and safety, especially in the elementary schools. She would like to hear from anyone if they have any ideas. She has some ideas and she feels that long term, this is something that should be looked at.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

She has received two (2) complaints about loud noises and vandalism on Stevenson Street since the students have been back. One (1) actually witnessed students vandalizing the property and knows it was students. She noted that the police patrol there frequently and hopefully this will die down. She will be speaking about this at her upcoming Ward meeting.

She also wished to add a discussion item to the agenda for the next Council meeting. She wanted to discuss creating odd and even parking on Jewett, Grace and Arthur Avenues. She has received numerous calls regarding the lack of street parking and this might be a solution.

Ward 4 - Alderman DeCarlo

He reported more vandalism in his Ward. He has spoken to the Police Chief. He received a couple more calls on some of the side streets about various houses becoming student housing without anyone's knowledge and he is still pursuing that. Other than that, his Ward has been quiet.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He acknowledged Ken Tobin and noted that he will be missed. He noted that there will be a Ward 5 meeting on October 4, 2006 on the South End Strategic Plan and the topic is Let's Plan for the Future. It's at 4:30 PM at the Randall School. He has been dealing with a couple of code issues and he noted that there has been vandalism on the trees on South Main. People have hatcheted some trees down and he urged people to be responsible for their actions. He would like to place an item on the agenda to discuss a plaque to commemorate all of the Common Council members who have served for five (5) or more terms.

Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

She noted that the Riverside Plaza discussion was in the newspaper. Her feeling is that it was a good, productive meeting. She noted that they talked about their purpose and

their vision and current concerns. She is hoping to see and has a feeling that things will begin to be cleaned up over there as a result of that meeting. She met with a constituent over by Samson Street, whose property borders the railroad tracks. They noted that there was some work done on the trestle there and the ties were just all piled up on the side. She contacted the railroad about it and they are going to clean it up. Another concern was the lack of lighting where people's backyards bordered the railroad and it was noted that a lot of kids and individuals walk there at night. There was concern for personal and property safety. She is working with National Grid to try and resolve that issues. She also is talking with the IDA/BDC, because she believes this is where the River Trail is going to be and she feels that the lighting will be an issue at some point. She hopes to resolve that situation.

She met with the residents of Hickory Park and Morningside Drive in regards to the work done recently behind BOCES to stop future flooding. She, as well as the residents, was concerned. She spoke with Code this summer about this, so they were aware of it. She noted that the railroad right of way had acted like a berm, but a trestle with a ditch allowed water to go through there. That was filled in and some pipes were put in, but the residents over on Hickory Drive were still concerned that this was going to have an impact on their property. She spoke to Cortlandville and they said that the work that was performed couldn't be guaranteed and didn't fall within the parameters of having a site plan approval. They wrote up a petition voicing their concerns about this project and asking for an engineering study of this project. She felt that flood plain loss can be managed locally, but a local law needs to be adopted. She spoke with Carol Tytler about this and they are going to have at their next sub-committee meeting, someone from Soil and Water come and talk about that local law and how it all works.

She has had a lot of people ask about the Tioghnioga River, Otter and Dry Creeks and why they can't be dredged along with other questions regarding streambed maintenance. She spoke with Amanda Barber from Cortland County Soil and Water and she agreed to hold an informational meeting which is scheduled for November 8, 2006 at the East End Community Center at 6:30 PM.

She also spoke about the Downtown College which opened up in the McNeil Beard Building. She spoke on behalf of the Mayor at their opening ceremony. She noted that students will be utilizing downtown restaurants and she felt it was a good start and was being used as a model for other cities, as well. She also thought that they should look into an incentive program for getting students to stay in the Cortland area after they had graduated from SUNY Cortland.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He also attended the opening ceremony of the Downtown College and visited with Dan McNeil. He noted that a great job had been done on the building. He announced that Stone Travel and AAA had merged. He noted that there was a meeting at the Community Center last Thursday sponsored by he and Dan Tagliente regarding Code policies and procedures. He thanked Asst. Chief Glover and Zoning Officer Amy Bertini, and noted that they answered many questions. He thanked Sue Feiszli and Tom Michales for participating in this. He attended the meeting on the Riverside Mall. He hoped that the suggestions and ideas put forth would become a reality.

He noted that on October 4 at the Holiday Inn at noon, they were going to present an Employee Achievement Award to an employee with a disability. This award celebrates the accomplishments of an employee with disabilities. On October 10, the Cortland Advocates for Autism Awareness group will be meeting at the Community Center starting at 7:00 PM. The Community Center will be holding another Fun Night on October 27, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He attended the Cortlandville Town Meeting hosted by Senator Seward as well as attending the Habitat for Humanity's house dedication ceremonies at 36 Fox Hollow. They presented the key to the new occupants, Dave and Angela Coville. The ceremony was attended by many volunteers who helped on this project. Many area residents had donated food for the volunteers that worked up there, as well as many area businesses who donated materials. He also attended the Cortland Downtown Open House at 9 Main Street. He received a call concerning the City's new blue bags. The concern was the size, strength and durability. It was looked into and the size and strength are the same. The only difference noted was in how they came off the roll. This contract was just awarded and perhaps during the next contract session, they could add the roll cut specifications to the contract. He noted that the new bags were a bit lighter in color, but that didn't mean thinner bags.

He attended the 7th Ward meeting hosted by Alderman Partigianoni. He felt that some of these combined meetings were better for all involved, rather than individual meetings in each Ward. He has scheduled a Ward 8 meeting for October 11 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The guest speakers will be Asst. Chief Glover and Zoning Officer Amy Bertini. They answer code related issues. There will also be guest speaker Kathy Gilleran, Director of the SPCA. He invited the Mayor to attend to bring attendees up on City issues.

Alderman Partigianoni announced that he will be leaving on a two (2) week vacation.

The Mayor read a letter regarding the clock winder's retirement and final pay from Bud Ames.

RESOLUTION #104 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for funding from the Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program for tree Planting.

Alderman Michales noted that his only concern was that some of the areas targeted are the ones that they are having trouble with now. He wondered if the trees could be of a larger size to avoid vandalism. Alderman Quail noted that vandals were going to vandalize, but he hoped that people would be vigilant.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #105 OF 2006 - Consideration of the reappointment of Shirley J. Cobb and Tammy L. Bergmark of the District Attorney's Office as Commissioners of Deeds.

By: Alderman VanGorder
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #106 OF 2006 - Consideration of a zoning change request submitted by 190 Development, LLC to alter the zoning of the 4 Crawford Street property from R-2 to General Business (must first be forwarded to City and County Planning Commissions for review and recommendation).

Alderman Feiszli requested new zoning maps be provided for the Council members.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Feiszli

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #107 OF 2006 - Consideration of a request by the Cultural Council of Cortland County to use Courthouse Park to stage their Cortland Arts & Wine Festival on August 4, 2007.

Mr. Blatchley noted that the reason the Cultural Council was making this request so early, was that the various wineries were making up their calendars for next year and the Council wanted to be able to get their date on those wineries calendars. He was hoping for sixteen (16) wineries and forty (40) artists and they hoped to have about a thousand (1,000) attendees. He noted that they hoped to have a forty (40) foot by eighty (80) foot tent on the Greenbush Street side for the wine tasting and that would be roped off by snow fencing and access would be very controlled by tickets and wristbands. The Mayor noted that it would be similar to the microbrew at the Pumpkinfest. Alderman Michales expressed his concerns that a large crowd would be concentrated in one area and not allowed to move around. Mr. Lasiter noted that the Council would like to have the wineries scattered throughout the art show, but they were told that was not possible because of the control issues. He discussed admission fees and is anticipating that they would charge the wineries to come in and then charge a \$10 admission fee to attendees of the tasting and everything else would be free.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #108 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City and Cortland County for the sharing of sales tax revenue.

Alderman Feiszli noted that in 2009, they might want to consider figuring the City's share by population. Andy Damiano noted that population has always been the City's position, but it has not been met with a favorable response by the other municipalities in the County.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 7
Nays - 0

Andy Damiano noted that he had distributed a memorandum on the budget adoption process. He asked if anyone objected to the schedule he had developed. He asked that they note that on Tuesday, October 31, there would be a special Council meeting to go through that formality of adopting the tentative budget and to schedule a work session at the same time. He noted that is was not adopting the final budget, but was a charter technicality that they go through every year. It has to be done by November 15 and the second meeting in November is not until the 21st and the first meeting is November 7, which is Election Day and that meeting has been cancelled.

Alderman Quail discussed honoring past Council members who have served the City for a longevity. He picked five (5) terms, which is ten (10) years. He felt that a decade of serving the City was something special. He proposed obtaining a nice plaque and putting nice plates on it to honor those individuals who have served. He noted some of the individuals who would be honored; Mike Dexter's Mom, Ken Tobin, Fred Janke and there may be others. The Mayor asked him to obtain prices for a plaque and to come back with that information. Andy Damiano noted that there was some money available for this in the Council's budget, so no additional appropriation would be needed.

Adjournment

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 7
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 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER 2006. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER