



## City Council Minutes October 5, 2004

The City of Cortland, New York

**COUNCIL MEETING #18**  
**October 5, 2004**  
**Regular Business Meeting**  
**City Hall**  
**7:00PM**

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

**EXCUSED:** Alderman Partigianoni

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

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one to speak.

MINUTES of September 21, 2004.

**RESOLUTION #108** of 2004 – Approve the amended minutes of September 21, 2004.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

### **BILLS**

Alderman Michales questions the grass and garbage fee. Director Damiano notes we attach a \$25.00 administrative fee on top of this. If they do not pay it goes on their tax bill for next year.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Attended the Essex Steel Ground Breaking Ceremony
- Met with a representative of a group from Florida for possible development of the Contento property
- Attended a meeting with a group to discuss possibility of organizing a Cortland Community Foundation

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- Attended ribbon cutting for the McDonald Sports Complex
- Attended a meeting @ Cortlandville on zoning ordinance which turned out to be a bashing of Walmart
- Presented citation to Peter Kahran. Peter is on a 1000 mile bike tour throughout New York to bring awareness to people with brain injuries
- Attended Cortland Business Network luncheon for a presentation by Kevin Crosley, Campaign Chair for the United Way
- Attended the Barden Homes ribbon cutting in Preble
- Met with several community representatives to discuss the pros and cons of a Habitat for Humanity program in Cortland. Thanks Suit Kote for helping the Geiss family complete their home
- The Cable Commission is nearly finished with the Time Warner Cable Franchise agreement draft proposal. When they have completed the draft they will be meeting with the PSC for recommendations.
- Invited by President Bitterbaum to attend luncheon with Dennis Weaver of Gunsmoke and McCloud
- The Pumpkinfest was a huge success.
- You have all received a copy of the information on the 150<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the NYS&W Railroad Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at the Railroad station.

The Mayor reports on the \$650,000. downtown improvement program. He finally got a letter from Glenn King stating that the City's application could not be funded at this time. We are going to sit down with him with hopes we can submit another application for next year. Alderman Quail had a discussion with Tom from C & S and he indicated there was grant money available for Brownfield sites. The Mayor notes we are working on the Noss Industrial Site. Alderman Quail would like to look at the Wickwire Site. The Mayor states the owner will have to apply for that and the Mayor suggested that he do that.

## PRESENTATION

Superintendent Chris Bistocchi of the DPW gives a brief presentation on his department's accomplishments since he has taken over in January of 2003. They have been working diligently to rebuild the roads in the City. This year they have done six streets. Jewett Ave. will be on the list for next year. The salt storage facility was completed in July 2004. This facility did not cost the tax payers any money as it was funded through the E.P.A. and the work was done in house by the DPW staff. Alderman Morey notes she did not receive one call regarding brush and leaves this year. Alderman Faraoni agrees.

## WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

The Pumpkinfest was a great event and the committee should be commended for a fine job. He took calls for Alderman Partigianoni. He received a couple of calls and took care of them. The first ward is in good shape.

Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

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Everything has been quiet in the second ward. Her email is up and running again and she is sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

Everything is quiet in the third ward. The parking lot looks great on Groton Ave. The Elks club had an event and the parking lot was packed but there were no problems getting through the lot. Alderman Guido notes the layout is more conducive for getting in and out of the lot.

The Mayor notes they are finishing up the parking lot with handicapped signs today and they are working on the stamp Crete at 14 Main St.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

He passed out the letter to the Cortlandville Town Board with regard to the aquifer. This will be on the agenda for a discussion item. Everything is quiet in the 4<sup>th</sup> ward.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

It is quiet in the 5<sup>th</sup> ward. He will have a 5<sup>th</sup> ward meeting next Thurs. October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at the Moose Lodge. The subject will be neighborhood watch.

Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

She attended the sports complex. It is very impressive. She attended the Euclid Ave. annual picnic. There weren't too many concerns. She had a concern about a tree and the lack of patrolling on the dead end streets. She also received an email from a constituent with regard to a break in. She has downloaded some forms with regard to the neighborhood watch program. If anyone wants to set up a neighborhood watch, please give her a call to set up a meeting. Her next ward meeting will be October 20<sup>th</sup> at City Hall at 6:00PM. Mark Suben and David Hartnett will be the guest speakers. If you cant attend but have questions, please email her or call.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

Excused.

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

He thanks the Pumpkinfest committee for a great community celebration. He also thanks Jim Sponaugle for taking care of the extras and protecting the neighbor's lawns bordering Courthouse Park. These were roped off this year. He is glad to see neighborhoods participate more in the neighborhood watch programs. Our group has been very beneficial in informing constituents of crimes that are occurring or have occurred. We are planning on having another meeting in the next couple of weeks.

## AGENDA

**RESOLUTION #109** of 2004 – Authorize the use of the Water Works property by the Cortland High baseball team for their "Haunted Hayride" program on October 23 and 30, 2004.

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By: Alderman Guido  
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #110** of 2004 - Authorize the request to send five employees from three departments to a training seminar (four on November 4<sup>th</sup> and one on November 11<sup>th</sup>.)

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Item No. 3 – Discussion regarding the purchase offer submitted by CFCU Community Credit Union to purchase the City-owned parcel located at 174-182 Port Watson Street for a purchase price of \$280,000.00.

Alderman Faraoni asks how much will it cost for the City to demolish the building. The Mayor explains approximately \$40,000-\$60,000. We are not sure due to the abatement and soils. Alderman Feiszli asks where the money will come from if the deal falls through. We have not accepted the offer as of yet and they are willing to make a deposit of \$1,000.00. Alderman Morey feels they should make more of a commitment than a \$1,000.00. Director Damiano notes we intend to demolish those properties anyway. If we are going to market the site for development, we have to do this. Alderman Quail comments there have been other interest in this site. Director Damiano states this is the one the IDA/BDC recommends. A brief discussion ensues regarding IDA/BDC funding. Alderman Guido asks what we are going to do with the proceeds of the sale. Director Damiano notes as of right now, the funds will be targeted as a 2005 revenue in the Proposed Budget and will have the effect of reducing or covering certain expenses. Alderman Feiszli asks why we were given this property in the first place. Director Damiano notes the story we heard was when Eckerd bought the property they thought they needed all that property to build the store. Once they had a site plan they realized they did not need all of it. They did not want to deal with the demolition of the building and the marketing. He believes there is some tax benefit for them to donate the property. Alderman Feiszli asks if by chance they find toxins in the ground, what will we do if the cost to clean it exceeds the selling price. Director Damiano explains the engineers Phase 1 report implies that there is very little likelihood of this. They did do a historic study of what was there prior. There is only one existing underground tank that was built in 1989. There were very stringent federal standards for underground tanks at that point. It has been inspected and tested periodically since 1989. Alderman Faraoni asks if the DPW could reuse the tank. Andy notes it can be reused. It is a 2000 gallon tank. Alderman Morey notes it wouldn't be worth it after you refurbish it. Superintendent Bistocchi states to refurbish it would be too much of an expense to reuse it.

Director Damiano explains why we are not seeking approval at this time. First and foremost it has to go to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation. That meeting will be the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. We also need a Local Law to convey real property. Corporation Counsel Knickerbocker will draft a Local Law, place it on the table, and we will then have a

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public hearing the first meeting after October 19<sup>th</sup>. Alderman Morey wants to know if work sessions have been scheduled. Director Damiano will get something out. In a memo he wrote he is recommending that we put on the next agenda the adoption of the proposed budget as the tentative budget. That doesn't mean we are adopting the budget, it just means it is the document we will use for the public hearing notice. This is a Charter formality.

Item No. 4 – Discussion regarding the letter drafted by Alderman Guido, to Cortlandville Town Board, regarding aquifer protection and the City's commitment to same.

Alderman Guido presents the letter he has drafted to the Council for their review or suggestions. This is a letter of support stating anything that they do that protects our water; we are in favor of it. Alderman Guido did speak to Alderman Partigianoni and he is agreement of this as well.

Alderman Morey would like to add video tapping on the next agenda. She spoke to Melanie and she got all the specifics on active television. If we own our own equipment anyone can run it. The only equipment we cant pay someone to run is their equipment. Her suggestion is the City buys their own equipment. If we contact the high school we can get it as inexpensively as \$2,500.00 for the whole set up. The Mayor comments that we need to hold off on that because Jim Forshee and Vince are getting an inventory of all the equipment we bought through Time Warner Cable to see if there is equipment we can use. Alderman Morey notes if we were to have the City Clerk's Office do it we cant give them comp time or pay them to do that. If we have our own equipment, we could have someone come in from the Clerk's Office and accumulate comp time and there would be no interruptions in the video taping.

**Adjournment.**

By: Alderman Guido  
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 5th DAY OF OCTOBER, 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**