



City Council Minutes October 21, 2003  
The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #19

October 21, 2003

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

City Hall

7:00PM

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

EXCUSED: Alderman Quail

Staff present: Corporation Counsel, Mark Suben, City Clerk, William J. Wood, Director of Admin. & Finance  
Andrew Damiano.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kay Zaharis and Diane Ames will speak at the end of the Mayor's report.

MINUTES of October 7, 2003

RESOLUTION #148 of 2003 – Approve the amended minutes of October 7, 2003.

By: Alderman Faraoni

Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Alderman Faraoni corrects page two stating it was a billboard not a sign. Alderman Morey corrects discussion in Resolution #147.

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

BILLS

Bills are received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor notes the Crop Walk was very successful. Tom Haskell was not able to be at the Crop Walk because he was out of town with his wife Catherine Bertini while she was receiving a very prestigious award known as the World Food Prize. This award is kin to the noble prize for work in hunger and food. The Mayor offers her

congratulations. SUNY Cortland has been trying to provide a shuttle service. That is one of the items that were discussed in the college forum. This is an effort being made so that people in the community can see the productions on campus without having to worry about the parking problem. We are making progress on the site for a fire station location. She should know more by the next meeting.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Kay Zaharis is the new Director of the Cortland Free Library and speaks on behalf of the library. The Cortland Free Library has requested an increase of a little over \$5,000 from last year. Aside from the operating expenses of the heat, the building expenses, insurance, and hospitalization, costs in general are rising.

The library is trying to get all of their items on line. The first step is going through the collection and putting every item in the computer. The Finger Lakes system is helping with that. We hope to complete this in 4 or 5 years. The cost should be approx. \$3,000 to \$5,000. We are offering many new services. She explains many people use the library although they are not card holders. They have also subscribed to a genealogy software program that goes back to 1790. Computer classes will be offered. There is also access to data bases. She is working on a news letter and also working on programs such as the history of the Erie Canal, Underground Railroad, etc. She also welcomes any comments or suggestions from the public.

## WARD REPORTS

### Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

He apprises the Council on the Animal Committee. The committee has sent two letters out to a lady with regard to an iguana. She has not responded. They are going to send one more letter to her.

### Ward 2 – Alderman Tobin

He asks about the Cable Commission. He asks Andy if Time Warner could come and meet with the City Council. Some of the things they have been explaining to some of their customers that are happening are not happening. That was the essence of the phone call he received. He would like to see a Time Warner representative at the next meeting. On November 2nd there will be an informational meeting at City Hall to discuss the definition of functional family to be included with the zoning codes. He thanks Vivian Bosch for her research. He briefly discusses the Binghamton City Code.

### Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

Thanks Vivian Bosch for her participation in the Hill Assoc. She would encourage people to attend the meeting on November 2nd. Parking on campus was discussed at the college forum meeting. She is happy to see the college acting quickly on these types of things. She congratulates Catherine Bertini. She has had some complaints regarding the truck traffic on Groton Ave. She asks Andy if there is anyway a flasher can be put on the signs that state no truck traffic. Andy doesn't believe that can be done. Alderman Morey will look further into this. She has had calls about Time Warner and the service they are providing.

### Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

He has a street light out and he will get a hold of Mike Preston. He has neighbors that want an all way stop at the intersection of Pearl and Warren. He had neighbors call with regard to the old Davis Field. He will be meeting with President Bitterbaum to discuss this.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

Excused.

Ward 6 – Alderman Testa

He congratulates Catherine Bertini on the award she received. It is quite an honor for the people in Cortland. He also had a call with regard to the Cable Commission.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He had a call with regard to the Cable Commission. He has been advised today the Good Street Grant is winding down. There are about 4 or 5 properties that are involved. We need to do something about the traffic on Clinton Ave. Trucks are no longer allowed on Cleveland St.

Ward 8 – Alderman Hennessy

The principal of Randall School called concerned about kids who walk down Pendleton St. south of Northcliffe. There is no sidewalk on either side of the street. She would like the Public Safety Commission to look into this. This issue has come up before but she does not believe Public Safety has looked into it. The problem is there is an intersection where there is quite a large hill so the visibility is not good. She is hoping the school will have some suggestions.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #149 of 2003 – Authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Thoma Development Consultants for the administration of the Fiscal Year 2003 Community Development Block Grant Program.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Alderman Testa asks how many people will need to sign up in the City for this grant. Linda Armstrong notes they have the grant. It is a very popular grant. They have about fifty people on the waiting list. Alderman Morey asks how it is determined how much money is granted. Linda explains that is set by federal statute.

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

Item No. 2 – Consideration of a Resolution which would authorize the elimination of parking on the east and south side of James Street, a distance of 875 feet from Tompkins St.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Alderman Morey explains there is no parking on the West side of the street. She suggested to get rid of the parking on the east side of the hill. Corporation Counsel states he does not object to people parking in front of his house on the James St. side at the bottom of the hill. Alderman Morey notes when the cars are going up the hill they cannot see each other coming around the curve. Alderman Tobin states in the winter the snow banks will force the cars further out in the road. She has counted approx. 7 cars that this would affect. The issue of safety is the point here. There are eight houses in this area. Mark Suben notes coming around the curve that's

two or three spots that shouldn't have any parking but the rest of it really doesn't matter. Alderman Morey will contact the neighbors and this will be tabled until the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #150 of 2003 – To table item No. 2 until the November 18, 2003 meeting.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Testa

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #151 of 2003 – Approve the request submitted by the Director of Code Enforcement to allow two code enforcement officers to attend a conference to complete their mandatory in-service training.

By: Alderman Hennessy  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #152 of 2003 – Approve the Mayor's appointment of Garry VanGorder to the Youth Bureau Advisory Board.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #153 of 2003 – Approve the proposal to increase the fee for dog licenses from \$5.00 to \$7.50 for spayed/neutered dogs and from \$15.50 to \$18.00 for non-spayed/neutered dogs.

By: Alderman Morey  
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Alderman Morey asks if it is true we use these fees to pay for our contract to the SPCA. The answer is no. This money will go into the General Fund. Alderman Morey asks how many dogs are licensed in Cortland. Clerk Wood explains the SPCA does a great job citing people and enforcing dog licenses. Alderman Hennessy asks what the range of fees is now. Clerk Wood notes Cortlandville is getting this fee now. Alderman Tobin has a problem increasing the fee for spayed and neutered dogs. He feels people are paying extra money to take proper precautions not to populate the community with other dogs. Alderman Morey wants to know how many people renew. Clerk Wood can get these numbers. He also notes most of the people are very responsible for renewing and licensing their dog. This will raise approx. \$3,000 per year. People also come from Cortlandville to license their dog in the City because it is cheaper. Alderman Morey notes her whole point in bringing this up is are we capitalizing on the dogs that are already registered? Andy Damiano explains he urges departments to come up with revenue generating ideas. This is an acceptable idea. Alderman Morey asks if people actually renew their license. Clerk Wood states yes, the responsible owners take care of their pets and renew their dog license. Clerk Wood states this is only \$2.50 per year and it does take a lot of time in our office to process these license.

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 1 (Tobin)

Adjournment.

By: Alderman Faraoni  
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

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 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2003. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

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WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK