



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

November 1, 2005

Council Meeting #20
November 1, 2005
Regular Business Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Alderman Faraoni, Terwilliger, Morey, Guido, 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 twentieth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT - Jim French was there to make a presentation on geothermal air heat pump/refrigeration systems to the Council as something they may want to consider to save energy costs for the City. He explained that these were cost saving units being used by many municipal agencies in Central New York. It is a water to water loop system. He does not design the systems, but wanted the Council to know that he truly believes in the viability of such a system. The system is most efficient if it is located underground. It is totally clean, there is no dust. The State is subsidizing about 50-75% of the installation costs of these systems in certain instances and the system must be installed by a State certified consultant. He is here to present an idea he believes in, but he does not sell or install these units. He distributed information sheets to the Council. Alderman Michales was asked if he had any information on these systems. He said that they were an idea that came about in the late seventies during the energy crunch. He noted that people are beginning to look at this type of system again, now that fossil fuel prices have risen so high.

Minutes of October 18, 2005

RESOLUTION #117 OF 2005 - Approve the minutes of October 18, 2005 as amended.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
 Nays - 0

MAYOR'S REPORT

He thanked Jim Yaman for his \$15,000 gift to the City for Yaman Park. He repaved the area and replaced the fixtures in the bathrooms there.

The Mayor attended press conference for formation of downtown partnership combining CCIC and DBA, as well as attending a community forum with Erik Bitterbaum. He did an interview with Kevin Mooney at WKRT. He attended a CBN Meeting at the Cortland Country Club, the announcement for Best Deck's purchase of the Saulisbury Building, the grand openings for A & J Health Food Store and Hairy Tony's as well at the second Youth Leadership at Corey Union. He also attended the Business After Hours at SUNY Alumni House.

He announced the DBA dinner November 2nd at the Community and the Youth Bureau Small Fry Banquet November 3rd 6:00 o'clock at the Moose. He noted that the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner is November 14th Cortland Country Club. He also extended sincere thanks to the Cortland Fire Department for all the hard work they have done over the past couple of weeks at all of the working fires.

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

He, too, thanked the Fire Department for their hard work on the fire in his Ward. He also brought up that he had read that the oil companies had made a 240% profit in the third quarter. He thinks it's time the federal government regulated the oil companies and he feels that some of those profits are coming right from Cortland, New York. The price average nationally as of this morning was \$2.49 and he hasn't seen prices like that in this area at all.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

Her Ward has been pretty content. She has been going around and people have been concerned regarding the possibility of a tax increase and also the high price of fossil fuels.

Ward 3 - Alderman Morey

The 3rd Ward has been pretty quiet. She would like to thank Mr. Yaman for his gift and she wanted to personally thank the Fire Department. The fire on Main Street hit close to home for her and she felt the firemen did an outstanding job and she was very impressed with that. She extended thank you's to Asst. Chief Sherman and Glover. They did a wonderful job and so did the volunteers, everyone did a wonderful job.

Ward 4 - Alderman Guido

Things are quiet in the 4th Ward.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

His Ward has not been quiet. Most of the issues have been taken to the Code Office and a number of issues have been taken care of. He announced that there would be a general Neighborhood Watch meeting on Thursday, November 10, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Moose Club. Snacks and beverages will be provided. The agenda is the Neighborhood Watch and the activities they will be working on and the opportunities they can use to improve the community. He would like to have everyone to consider using the businesses on South Main. He is aware it is a hassle because of the road construction, but a lot of the family businesses down there have lost 50% of their sales. He attended the Best Deck announcement and he feels it is a new opportunity in the community with the possibility of forty (40) new, good paying jobs. He attended the opening of the A & J Health Supplement Store on South Main and again, it is an excellent source for nutritional supplements and he hopes everyone will shop there.

Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

All is quiet in the 6th Ward.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He also attended the Downtown Partnership announcement on Main Street. It sounds like it's a good cooperative effort and hopefully it will produce results. The DPW made an announcement. They will be picking up leaves in the month of November. There is no set schedule, but they are requesting that residents do not put the leaves at the curb. They are clogging the drains. Chris Bistocchi would like to see them between the curb and the sidewalk and they will be around to pick them up. Residents did not get a letter regarding leaf pick-up because the DPW was busy working on the recycling issue. He attended the Planning Commission meeting on October 25 because of two (2) items on the agenda for the 7th Ward. There were area resident concerns surrounding Cortland Cable Company's expansion, but the residents concerns were addressed to their satisfaction and the expansion was approved. The other agenda item was the former C & M Repair that is being renovated into a beauty shop. It will employ six (6) beauticians. He also wanted to note that the new Italian deli in the Tucci Building opened on Tuesday. It's been renovated and it's down on Elm Street next to Dexter Park. A date for a grand opening will be announced.

Alderman Partigianoni showed a flag that will fly for the first time on Veteran's Day at the VFW on Main Street. This particular flag came with a certification that he read stating, in part, that this flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol on July 12, 2005 at the request of the Honorable Sherwood Boehlert, member of Congress. The DAV will also be receiving one soon.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He attended the East End Community Center's Personal Safety Workshop put on by Officers Nelson and Hines. They did an excellent job with the program and they would like to put on a second session later this winter. He also attended the SPCA Halloween

fundraiser. Great costumes, great food, all for a great cause. He had a concern that was referred to Public Safety, a parking sign that was removed will be reinstalled as soon as it is located. At the next Council Meeting he plans to announce the date for his next Ward meeting, probably in late November or the first part of December. He closed by recognizing an individual for bravery in defending our country who has served in Iraq as a turret gunner, Specialist First Class Lilly Withers. She was one of three (3) women who are current gunners serving as part of the ten (10) person team. She is now back in Cortland, but will be staying active in the Reserves. He extended a Thank You to her.

Alderman Guido noted that he wanted to extend congratulations to the St. Mary's PBA Midgets who did complete an eight (8) and zero (0) season this fall. Alderman Partigianoni also noted that the Legion won seven (7) to six (6) and tied for first place.

Bills were reviewed and received.

The Mayor noted that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) began taking applications today and individuals can contact the Office of the Aging.

RESOLUTION #118 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Camp, Dresser & McKee for design engineering services for the North Main Street over Otter Creek Culvert Project.

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #119 OF 2005 - Approve a resolution authorizing the creation of a Temporary Clerk position in the City Clerk's Office.

Alderman Morey asked what would happen when the money was exhausted. City Clerk John O. Reagan replied that the grant application that was submitted outlined what was estimated that could be done. Sue Etherington and he knew it was their first time out on something like this and they both hoped that the individual could enter in about forty (40) years of records into the system. It was hoped that they could apply for a second grant and with this grant there was almost no cost to the City. Alderman Michales inquired if there were any candidates for this position as of yet. Andrew Damiano noted that he believed there was an existing Civil Service list and it would be referred to once the position was created and approved.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #120 OF 2005 - Approve the confirmation of the appointment of Warren S. Eddy to the Cortland Housing Authority Board to complete the unexpired term of Margaret Fiske.

Alderman Michales noted that he spoke with Mr. Eddy and shared some concerns that had been expressed to him. He felt that Mr. Eddy would get a handle on some of those issues. He extended a personal thanks to Mr. Eddy for taking on the task.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Feiszli

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Item #4 - Scheduling of Departmental Budget Review Sessions.

A schedule of dates had been distributed and sessions will begin at 5:30 PM and will be held on Tuesdays in November starting on November 15th.. Alderman Partigianoni will not be there for the first session and Alderman Michales noted that the last scheduled session might be a problem for him timewise.

Alderman Quail received a letter from CAPCO asking for anyone interested in serving on their Board of Directors to contact them.

The Mayor and Council noted that Patti Ondrako will be leaving the Mayor's Office to work at SUNY Cortland and she will be missed. She has been a great asset. Council members thanked her and wished her well. The Mayor also thanked Andrew Damiano for all of his hard work in putting together the budget presentation.

Alderman Partigianoni has spoken with Butch Hyde and he has graciously accepted to serve in regards to the Christmas Decorating Contest and he asked what the Council would like to see. Mr. Hyde would like the Council members to go around in their own Wards and forward resident's names to him for consideration. It was also noted that other residents could also contact him as well as their Aldermen with names of neighbors. The contest will be publicized in the Cortland Standard to be sure that no one is missed.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Guido

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 1ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN, CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER