



04

City Council Minutes November 16, 2004

The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #19
November 16, 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, Deputy City Clerk Jodi McLyman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

* * * KEITH AGATE * * *

KEITH AGATE: Thank you. I'm Keith Agate, resident of the second ward located on Maple Avenue.

You may have noticed in the paper sometime ago they had me quoted in the meetings that we had in the ward because we have concerned citizens concerned with the condition of the neighborhood; abandoned homes and so on. My issue happens to be my next-door neighbor that has a dumpster, rather a large dumpster. And it is not being used solely for the purpose of that residence's garbage. If it was, then I would live with it.

I believe that we are zoned residential in that area, not commercial, because I know if we go over to Groton Ave. and places and like that, some of the businesses will have some dumpster; they have the courtesy of putting the top down on it. My next-door neighbor takes the garbage from the entire city and puts it in to the dumpster that's right next to where I park my car. It's overflowing. I consider it a health issue; I consider it a safety issue. We have rats, we have skunks, we have raccoons, we have squirrels, we have cats, we have dog, and when it gets a little bit colder, we have the infamous crows that invade the area that move this garbage to my yard and other yards in the neighborhood.

It seems to me that since it is, in my opinion, a health and safety issue that maybe we could deal with that on a city level by having something that would limit the amount of garbage to that which is generated by the place that is producing the garbage.

Now, I called the code, and code has come out with closed hands, I'm sorry, are tired. If it gets to the city court, it's dismissed. It's a long process. Meanwhile, the garbage piles higher and higher through the summertime and has a tremendous smell. Someone offered the solution of maybe because they can't get the tops down because it's overflowing with garbage that the landlord should get a bigger bin. Well, if that was next to your house, would you want the solution to be a bigger or larger amount of garbage? I don't think so.

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Somebody suggested, maybe we'll put a fence around it. That doesn't stop the squirrels, the raccoons, the skunks, etc., from getting into it. A simple solution, in my humble opinion, would be that the residents should put out the garbage and have the garbage that they generate at that residence but not from 30 other places from around the city and bring that garbage to my backyard and in my neighborhood so that we're providing feed for the crows, the skunks, the rats, etc.

So I would appreciate it very much if you would consider that issue. It's a mess.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Have you tried the health department? I mean, you said you called code. I just wondered, because it seems to me that it would be a health issue.

KEITH AGATE: Yes, but code enforces the health issues. And I've called and it's - - I don't want to get into a catch-22 situation which basically we're functioning under right now. Code is powerless. They really are. They're toothless tigers. They can file the paperwork and do all of that, it gets run up, they can stop over - they did. They stopped and said, you've got to have the lids down on the top of that garbage. That's the way the rule reads right now. It could have something that could contain much of this room but keep the lid down which doesn't make a heck of a lot of sense.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: Is he operating this is a business? Is this his personal stuff?

KEITH AGATE: This is a residence of student housing but he also owns - -

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Several others.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: But he's bringing that garbage to that site?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Yes.

KEITH AGATE: He's bringing all the garbage to that site.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: Isn't that running a business out of his property?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: No. He's picking up all the garbage from his other places and putting it in one bin.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: But it's still running a business on his property.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: It's not running a business.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: Part of his business is running student housing, right? That's his purpose. And this is what he's using to support - -

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KEITH AGATE: It's part of his business, no doubt about it, because it is being generated by the people that he rents to. He's bringing all the garbage to my backyard.

Take it one step further: What he's doing - - he was told by - - the code enforcement stopped down and so he tamps it down and it looks good. He forgets to put the top - - I do that for him: I put the lid on. It's picked up a 6 o'clock in the morning tomorrow morning, but he shows up tonight at 8 o'clock - - excuse me, at 6 o'clock, getting dark, opens it up, because I made the mistake of closing it for him, and then fills it overflowing. Assuming that the rats won't get in there because it's nighttime; they're all sleeping. It's a mess.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Does he actually live at the property?

KEITH AGATE: No, he does not reside in the city. He lives outside of - - he lives in Southern Cayuga, Union Springs.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Union Springs.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Mr. Agate, I'm sorry, 76 was the address?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: 97 Maple. The offender is 95. Code has been over there a lot.

KEITH AGATE: They've been over there a lot, and I've called you, Tom, and certainly Shannon has been there. We talked to corporate counsel at the meeting.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: And after our meeting, there were two things I followed up on, on that. One was: Right now there is - - in our code, there is a dumpster permit application. I've got to prepare that application form, and then that would require him to do - - at least to pay a fee and then he would have to fence it. But I understand where you're - - what you're saying; that doesn't necessarily solve what we're looking at. I think one way to potentially solve this would be to modify either one of our existing ordinances or the charter. I haven't looked at the charter to see. But it's similar to the idea that you have. I don't know that you're going to be able to tell people they can't bring garbage from somewhere else on their properties that they own and put it somewhere, but I think you may be able to say to them, you can't have over a certain size dumpster located in an RO1 District or something of that nature. So I think that would be my thinking of a way to approach this particular problem so that you wouldn't have - - maybe not even have and not even permit commercial dumpsters to be utilized in an RO1.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Or that there are certain circumstances where someone's remodeling - -

ALDERMAN QUAIL: I'm still confused, because I don't believe the guy has - - I don't believe - - he's, essentially, operating a business out of a residence, so - -

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: No. I would disagree with you. If you take your trash over to your neighbor's and you do that every week and you give them money for doing it, whatever, is that operating a business? I don't think any court would find that to be operating a business.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: He's got a dumpster that he's using to dump in every other site; that means he's using it as a business property, not - -

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COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Well, it is a business property. It's a rental income property, so it is a business property and he's utilizing it as it is.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Can't we address it by resolution on the size of dumpsters and the length of time that somebody - -

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: I would think it would come under a health provision or an ordinance.

KEITH AGATE: I also think that the size of the dumpster, the placement of the dumpster. If you walk by my place, we have adjoining driveways, and at the end of the driveway – because that's where the dump truck can get to so easily is - - so, if you look down my driveway, you see a dumpster that is full of garbage which isn't very attractive. So not only should the size matter - - why can't he put it in his front lawn?

ALDERMAN MOREY: Well, I don't know but don't suggest that to him.

KEITH AGATE: The truck would have to drive less distance. So, certainly, there must be something on the books that says you can't put it on your front lawn. If so, then I will - - we'll keep our neighborhood clean: I'll put a dumpster on my front lawn and I'll - - to heck with blue bags, stop by and throw it in.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: Isn't there something that it has to be out of sight from the street?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: I don't know.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: I don't know.

KEITH AGATE: Hiding it doesn't resolve it.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Right.

KEITH AGATE: Hiding it doesn't resolve it and making it a little bit smaller doesn't resolve it. Putting a fence around it is not going to keep the rats - and we've seen them - and the skunks and the raccoons and the other vermin out of the area. It's a health a safety issue period.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Okay. We'll let Larry look into it. Keith, thank you very much.

KEITH AGATE: Thank you.

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* * * SHARON STEVENS * * *

SHARON STEVENS: I'm Sharon Stevens. I just wanted to say that I hope that you really give your close consideration in reinstating the money back to the library. There's so much in our society that tries to make us stupid. The libraries are one of the few things that try and help us a little bit, and I think a community can be measured by their library. And since I've retired, I've been at the library a lot more. I've seen good things happen last year. I see a lot more people down there, very diverse group, and I think it's really critical that we support the library in the amount that they request.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Thank you.

(PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSED)

MINUTES of October 19, 2004.

RESOLUTION #118 of 2004 – Approve the minutes of October 19, 2004.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

BILLS

Bills are received.

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MAYOR'S REPORT - March 18, 2005

- Attended CBN Meeting at Jeremiah's Place in Virgil
- Guest of Bruce Tytler on "Around Town"—a local television show
- Guest at SUNY Cortland for Goofs and Goblets—a dinner with students
- Met with Parker School Student Council
- Attended Awards Center at the Employment Connection Works Career Center
- Attended Business After Hours at Key Bank in Homer
- Guest of Kevin Mooney, WKRT morning show
- Attended open house at Sciarraba Walker
- Attended round table at SUNY Cortland Hall of Fame Room regarding voter turnout
- Attended 6th ward meeting with Winthrop Thurlow, Attorney General's Office, to discuss inter-municipal cooperation
- Attended Cornell Cooperative Extension annual dinner
- Met with Alderman Partigianoni and Ces Scott from Youth Bureau to discuss Community Center on Elm Street
- Attended Business After Hours at Hampton Inn
- Attended College Community Forum at SUNY Cortland
- Attended BDC press conference for presentation of \$50,000 grant to CRT by Senator Seward
- Attended press conference for presentation of \$60,000 check to Marathon Mayor John Pittman as part of Waterfront Revitalization Program in Marathon

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Alderman Faraoni

ALDERMAN FARAONI: I've had quite a few inquiries about - - and I know he and I have talked about it, on the corner of West Main and 281. The people want, when you're coming from the north to the south on 281, a left-hand turn. Andy and I have talked about it. We can do it; we can't do it. We're waiting for the state. They aren't giving us any answer, are they? That's what we've been waiting for. So I'm wondering what we should do. I know the pole is back; it's ready to fall down. I don't know if we should spend this money or what we're going to do, but - -

MAYOR GALLAGHER: I've got a great idea for you. Get a hold of Alderman Michales. He's got an in with DOT and he gets things done in a hurry.

ALDERMAN FARAONI: We need the pole stream down, I think, so we can put one on there. It's too low. The tractor trailers are hitting it. That's what the real reason is. It needs to be replaced.

ALDERMAN MICHALES: Where is it?

ALDERMAN FARAONI: Corner of 281 and West Main.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: I know it's not in your ward, but I know you can handle it, so get with Mr. Faraoni, would you?

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ALDERMAN FARAONI: I would appreciate it, because I've had quite a few inquiries about it. And that's all I have in my report.

ALDERMAN MICHALES: The concern is that it's a costly project. If the DOT is going to go through and widen 281, we hate to spend the money and then have it removed.

ALDERMAN FARAONI: Something has to be done because I've had quite a few inquiries on it.

Ward 2 – Alderman Terwilliger

ALDERMAN TERWILLIGER: I attended the Corticajug Game this weekend at the SUNY Cortland Campus. It's quite an event. And I believe we need more such events in this county. It brings a great boost for local economy, and it was quite fun, too.

I also had a complaint - - well, I had a complaint about a lot of parties and garbage on Pleasant Street – the specific address there that we've had problems with repeatedly. I'm working on that.

Someone knocked over a tree in front of my house this weekend. I was not happy about that. A new tree: It was sad.

And I have received numerous phone calls and emails encouraging the council not to increase the Cortland Free Library budget by 15 percent.

And that is it.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

ALDERMAN MOREY: I am sorry to say we lost the Corticajug over the weekend, and I am hopeful that we will retain it next year.

I did get several calls about the garbage. Some residents were very concerned about it. Groton Ave., the end towards Main Street, was really in disarray. That's actually in a separate ward, but I did go down there and look at some of those properties. And the cups were just everywhere. Most of them were picked up by Monday, but we certainly have a trash issue, and I don't know how that can be prevented. I mean, we've already - -

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: Is this because of the Cortacajug?

ALDERMAN MOREY: Yeah. I mean, it was an unusually large amount of trash that covered the street, and I don't normally don't see on Saturday mornings the students coming out. I think they started – the first drinkers we saw at 8. So we don't normally see that. But we do have - - I want to remind residents that, I think it was last year, we had a policy, a code, visit the residence and there is a trash issue and it doesn't get resolved, then we pick and then we charge it back. So I just want to assure the residents that we can on the phone let them know that we're not going to let any trash sit for any unreasonable amount of time. I think by Monday a lot of it had been picked up.

So I will say that the library – I've been inundated with phone calls, emails and letters. And I will give the library credit. They are probably one of the most organized groups, lobbying group, in this city. So we've already discussed the budget issue so I'm not going to take too much time. I just wanted to recognize that I did receive a lot of phone calls.

And the other issue is the truck traffic on Groton Ave. I'm going to get together with

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Chief Nichols, again. We - - he has been very good about contacting specific trucking companies and letting them know that their trucks are going down.

One of the issue we having is, some of the trucks that we're getting are strays, and I'm not so sure that we can ever prevent that, but the chief has assured me that during the future police will be trained to pull over commercial trucks because we have a little bit of an issue with that. We still have an issue with the truck traffic and its clockwork. I mean, 5 a.m. they come down and, you know, it's the end of the day, you can hear them leaving. So I will get with the chief of police and address that issue again.

Other than that, everything is good in the 3rd Ward.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

JEFFREY GUIDO: A couple incidents that I had residents call me on Tompkins Street, at the end of Pearl. Actually, there's been some vandalism occurring on Friday and Saturday nights. Well, usually in the early morning hours when people are out having a good time. And I did contact Lieutenant Sandy with the police department, and they're going to try and do some foot patrol in the area during those times. There was one gentleman who wrote a letter to the editor who had one of those nice sculptures that the folks up at Little York make, and they destroyed that. I mean, he had the thing cemented in the ground, because they couldn't pull it out of the ground they knocked it over and so he's debating whether to place it back out on his lawn, again, because he doesn't want to see it vandalized again. Then they stole some things out of his lawn, his backyard. Then there some ladies across the street, they had taken out garbage, people doing some things that they're not supposed to be doing. I did contact the police department in the regard.

For the most part, there were no problems in my neighborhood following the Cortacajug. A few traffic problems and things like that, but they dissipated rather quickly.

I just want to thank the DPW. I think they did a great job with the clean up in the neighborhood. The 4th Ward is looking good right now.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

DAN QUAIL: In October, I attended the City, Town and Villages meeting. We discussed the minutes of the last meeting. We also discussed the pending Workers' Compensation coverage and how it is as a municipality, and we - - right now Workers' Compensation is currently on a county-wide basis, and they're talking about changing the allocation which would negatively impact the city. Pat May brought that up as a heads-up. Also we talked about a number of consolidation and inner-municipal cooperation issues. We talked about looking at, possibly, construction equipment because there is no village or town in the county owns a paver. One of the things they talked about is, you know, if we as a county can get a paver it was save us depending on Suit-Kote as far as when we can get their paver. We also talked about snowplowing. We talked about where we have a county, village or town snowplow covering the same property over and over again, as far as working on that.

I also attended the 29th annual Cortland Small Fry Football Banquet. It was at the Moose Lodge. It was a nice program. There were 100 and some odd kids there; a total of 176 boys and 118 girls take part in the Small Fry Football and Cheerleading Program. No kids are ever turned away from that program which is very well-attended and a number of parents were there.

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Tuesday, the week preceding the election, I met with some 4th Grade Barry School students, and we discussed the duties of an alderperson and the mayor, the various other city government bodies. Then they took the time to give me a little thank-you card and, you know, they thought it was pretty interesting as far as what we do.

Also, I'm working holding a ward meeting next Tuesday. I've had to reschedule it so I don't have a place right at the moment, so it's going to be at 7 o'clock and there will be some information coming forth.

Also, I believe it's in Jeff's ward now, the Cortland Produce. Cortland Produce had their grand opening on Owego Street, and they've done a really nice job of cleaning up that place. I've had a number of constituents concerned about the traffic that was going to go through there. It's definitely a nice, really nice, store. It's cash and carry just about, so...

Thank you. That's it.

Ward 6 – Alderman Feiszli

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: I hosted a debate, as some of you know or may have seen, on TV with Mark Suben and Dave Hartnett, and it went pretty well with me and my kitchen timer as being the Keeper of the Time. But we had - - the room was full here. It was a good turnout, it was very educational and, hopefully, people benefited from it. I congratulate Mr. Hartnett.

I had another informational ward meeting with Win Thurlow from the Attorney General's Office, and I sent reminders to all of you – and I'm just going like this, especially you, Rosann, because we talked about consolidation in the city clerk's office. I thought you might be interested.

ALDERMAN MOREY: I would have loved to have come but I had something else scheduled.

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: Okay. But nobody, not one councilperson showed up. So - -

ALDERMAN QUAIL: All I will say I was covering for someone so someone could attend.

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: But I do thank Tom and I thank Scott Steve and there were some town supervisors and, hopefully – again, we're talking about consolidation, not just in the city clerk's office but the other departments as well, if this is something you're interested in talking about.

I had a neighborhood watch meeting at the Grange last Sunday, and I did have to pay for it, so I'm going to ask if I can be reimbursed. It's 50 dollars, but when we had our previous board meeting, someone had already set the day and the time, and it was too difficult to get a hold of - - it's impossible to get a hold of everybody. Over 40 people attended this one at the Grange, and this is, like, the biggest story – the neighborhood watch. I really - - it's a challenge in trying to get all the tables and people in the streets situated. But we did list our priorities and came up with a lot of concern with the youth, the drugs in the area and vandalism, of course.

So we're going to have our next neighborhood watch meeting. It's going to be here at City Hall, and it's going to be December 12th at 7 o'clock and always welcome new members. We need to have at least 50 percent participation for it to work, because you can't expect a couple people to do everything.

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Over in Samson Street, I mentioned before about a vacant house that has been - - that they removed their house and there's just a sunk-in foundation. I had the code officer go look at it. The code officer looked at it and came back to me, said, well, definitely in violation; it's got pipes sticking up. They sent a certified letter to the owner who lives in Florida. I think he said more than two. This has been going on for five years. Residents have been complaining because children play over in that area. There's a daycare center and it is a hazard. So he ended up calling - he did get the phone number and ended up calling repeatedly and left messages and has not had a chance - - or has not answered the reply. So I can understand with Keith who is gone now, but the frustration of having an absent person and trying to deal with that problem. So now I come to you as a council to see what we can do in this situation as far as filling in that hole.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Can we fill it in and bill it to them?

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Well, I don't think we can trespass on his property.

ALDERMAN QUAIL: Can't trespass.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: If it's a hazard, I think we can look at that.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Find out what the property is and the person's name and we'll see if the taxes have been paid.

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: They have been paid. But it's a violation.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Then it's in the right hands; it's in the hands of code.

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: Code says there is nothing they can do about it because the guy hasn't replied to them. And his suggestion was to come to the council.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: What's the address?

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: Well, there is no address. I mean, there probably is an address. I'll get it to you. It's right at the end of the street.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Who would we talk to in code?

ALDERMAN FEISZLI: Captain Knickerbocker.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: I'll contact him tomorrow.

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ALDERMAN FEISZLI: Thank you.

Finally, my next ward meeting is going to be on December 16th at 7 o'clock, and it will be over at North Church Street: 27 North Church. That's it.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

ALDERMAN QUAIL: Just a reminder: The city, towns and villages meeting is this Thursday at 7 o'clock for the month of November. The discussion will be municipal cooperation.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANON: Susan, sorry I couldn't attend, sounded like a good informational meeting, but I, too, was the guest at VFW with the cheerleaders and the parents and the ballplayers. There were over 300 people there. So can't be at two places at one time, Sue. I see over on the other side they attended a Cortacajug game. Very disappointed loss. We won two years in a row. We're going to win next year. They had a good crew working the sidelines. Did you happen to notice?

Now, at this time, I would like to ask our corporation counsel to give us a report on the landscape commission. I received a couple of verbal messages and an email and it said that they met last Wednesday and they discussed some ongoing projects we've undertaken. However, since the legislation we presented to the city council for your review a few months ago has not been formalized, and they are going to hedge it to move forward. So, at this time, would you please update us on that?

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: It hasn't been formalized, and I'll take the responsibility for that, for having not gotten it actually modified to the way it should be. When we first talked about it and when they first came and spoke to us, it was thought that this was going to have to be done, I believe it was through an ordinance entirely. As it turned out, our Charter already has a landscape and design commission. So, now, we have to divide this really into two separate sections. One - - because the Charter sets forth that there's a commission and that refers to the administrative code for their duties and obligations, but there's nothing there; it's just blank. So we've got to put in the Charter what their duties and obligations are and then set up a separate ordinance for enforcement. I guess I should say that I that was going to be easier than it is turning out to be, because I went through it and I think the duties and obligations are pretty clear, but the enforcement mechanism in the ordinance is somewhat troublesome while in drafting it. I'm having difficulties differentiating between what the duties and obligations are and how this is going to be enforced and who is going to do the enforcing.

So that's where that's at. I certainly will endeavor to get that done as quickly as possible so that at least we can get it back to the landscape and design commission for their review and then back to the council for final action, hopefully.

ALDERMAN GUIDO: Did this include the removal of trees? Was that part still going to be in there, where folks were still going to need permission from the landscape and design committee to remove the trees?

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COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: I believe that's in there. It will go back to the landscape and design commission, because they may not like some of things that I've put in there or some of the things that I've excluded. They'll work through what they think, I believe, would be correct and then send it back to the council, and I'm sure they'll be here to discuss with you why they think it should be the way it is.

ALDERMAN MOREY: If I understand it right, what you're working on at this time is establishing who they are and what their responsibility is - -

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Right.

ALDERMAN MOREY: - - which is separate from the ordinance that we already looked at.

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Correct.

ALDERMAN MOREY: So there are two separate...

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: Right. One would be a local law that would amend the Charter. The other would be the ordinance for enforcement. Yes. Two separate things.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Because I think we all - - I have received phone calls, and I received and email, and it's just, you know, they meet but they need a direction. So I don't know. Who needs to...

COUNSEL KNICKERBOCKER: It's in my hands. As I said, I haven't gotten done what I really had intended to by this point in time.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: All right, Jim.

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: Okay. As all of you probably know, I received, as Rosann stated, emails and phone calls for the support in the library.

Now, I attended both the VFW and Disabled Vets of America on Armistice Day. It's a nice little ceremony at the VFW. They had an open invitation to lunch afterwards. Then, after that, the DAV also did their thing. The Women's Auxiliary and the DAV did a tremendous job. I told my wife not to cook supper. We had two big meals at each place. It was nice to see all the veterans. You don't see them all the time. They were all in attendance there.

Now, we met again today, in addition to the meeting that Tom said earlier, with representatives and the youth bureau on the Byrne Grant pertaining to the community center. I guess it's fair to say that we've got some things to work out. Is that correct?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Right.

ALDERMAN FARAONI: Jim, can I ask you? Is that a done deal?

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: Well, that's why I just mentioned - -

ALDERMAN FARAONI: I think the residents should have a meeting or something.

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ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: I'm coming to that.

So, when we had our first meeting, we sometimes - - residents were there, and they had a lot of questions. I have received dozens and dozens of calls. So we call a November 30th meeting for 6:30 right here to - - it's an informational meeting, but I will have Lieutenant Gesin here, more than likely, Tom, you'll probably be there to answer questions. It's kind of a done deal but not necessarily the way they laid it out originally, correct? Is that fair to say that?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Uh-huh.

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: We still have some things to work out. There's going to be a Community Center - you can almost bet on that.

ALDERMAN FARAONI: It's going to be where they said it's going to be?

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: Well, that's a good question. May not as of today's date. But, then again, might be.

Now, even though this is an east-end project - as you all know, east end was the targeted area as you all heard - it does involve the 6th Ward and the 8th Ward. So, at this November 30th meeting, I would invite, suggest, request that anyone that's interested throughout the city, especially the 6th, 7th and 8th Wards, to show up and show your concern, your questions, like Mr. Faraoni's done.

MAYOR GALLAGHER: Jim, what time is that again?

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: 6:30, right here. It should be some meeting. It's a Tuesday night. And I would like to state over the television here: I invite anybody in the city to come.

Maybe I could elaborate just a hair on that.

According to Lieutenant Gesin and the Youth Bureau, we got the two grants, this is an up-and-coming thing. They claim in other areas that it has worked, and I've heard nothing but favorable things about it. Hopefully we can get - - I think we will. We've just got to iron out some kinks.

Finally, maybe I'll ask the mayor for his help on this. I received three emails and correspondence from a Julie Bana. We're going to meet with her on November 29th. Is that correct?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: At 10:30 a.m.

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: I'm not sure why she called me up. I'm just a councilman.

What it is, it's a new organization, ASHDOS. They make recommendations or try to promote transportation policies that will improve the fight for Americans, they claim, and to relieve the pressure on the highways, freight rail infrastructures, to reduce the traffic and reduce our independence on oil from the Arab Nation.

So I don't know what this is all about. Do you have any ideas, Tom?

MAYOR GALLAGHER: No. I've never talked with them.

ALDERMAN PARTIGIANONI: We've got a meeting with them on the 29th.
That ends my ward report.

November 16, 2004

Ward 8 – Alderman Michales

ALDERMAN MICHALES: One of the things on the top of my list here are crows are back. We need to get something established so that we don't have to bring this up every year. Go into a program this time of year and it's taken care of.

ALDERMAN MOREY: Can I just say that we have been dealing with this now for four years. It's not a problem that's going to go away, but we do have some people in the 3rd Ward that have purchased some injured crow distress call and we have been very successful. They're very inexpensive and I can get all the council people the information on these. They're set on a timer. What happens is, they'll go off - - a distress signal goes off for, like, three minutes at dusk when the birds are going to roost and they don't roost there. So it's not something you have to go out and do every night. These are very economical, they're very affordable, and I'd be more than happy to get the information to whomever needs it. Glad to help.

ALDERMAN MICHALES: I also want to thank Eric at WXHC for plugging my award meeting last week as well as the Cortland Standard and Channel 2.

I also want to thank Sergeant Bill Carpenter for a meeting with the neighborhood watch group last Wednesday night. We handed out some new material that will assist police in identifying criminal activity that will be handed out to our groups participating in this program. That will help the police quite a bit when we do receive calls from individuals. I also received some calls about the library, people utilizing that service, and was pretty much on the same line as everyone else.

I also received a call concerning parking on East Ave., on the corner of Port Watson Street and East Ave. This is still an ongoing investigation. I've been in contact with Mike Preston, and it's a state issue, once again. We're still looking into that right now. I believe some of the overflow maybe from the restaurant or the small diner kind of kitty-corner on East Ave. Once again, this is something that probably involves the state.

On another note, the skateboard park had another great bottle drive this Sunday. We dropped off some bottles and cans from our neighborhood, and we also thank Cecile for putting this together. I don't have a complete tally of how much has been collected but I'm sure they did better than their last bottle-and-can drive. I think a lot of that is due to the activities this weekend at Cortland State, collecting bottles and cans up along Tompkins Street.

I also did receive some good news tonight, another issue that's been plaguing Port Watson/Kellogg Road area. This item has come up before with some of the past administrators. I took it on as a task when I came onboard this year. It was to see if we could get a walk, visual aid, placed on that neighborhood, and this involved the State Department of Transportation along with Senator Seward's Office and various city officials. I see Tom Gallagher on this as well as Mike Preston. It appears as though we are going to get this walkway as soon as weather permits. This is going to be a walk/don't walk man hand countdown timer. It's going to be installed at that intersection. It's going to help out any of the folks utilizing that area attending the BOCES classes as well as some of the after-school programs and the market there on the corner, too. So that should help them out quite well.

That's pretty much it for the 8th Ward.

(WARD REPORTS ENDED.)

November 16, 2004

Mayor Gallagher notes:

Received a letter from Cortland Memorial Hospital enclosing the Bill of Sale for the power generator.

South Main Street project underway.

Received three resignations from three different commissions: zoning board of appeals, youth bureau, architectural historic review commission. Forwarding to councilmen for consideration.

Alderman Morey notes:

Fundraiser for downtown music series, Cortland City music series, Saturday at St. Charles.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #119 – Consideration of the adoption of Law No. 3 of 2004 (Port Watson Street/Franklin Street land), which will authorize the sale of city-owned land. (Requires roll-call vote)

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #120 – Consideration of the adoption of Local Law No. 4 of 2004 (Harmony Circle land), which will authorize the sale of city-owned land to Peter M. and Carl J. Sheridan. (Requires roll-call vote)

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #121 – Consideration of a resolution authorizing the city's continued participation in the Main Street Banner Program in conjunction with the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce's efforts.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays - 0

November 16, 2004

RESOLUTION #122 – Consideration of a resolution authorizing the appointment of the following employees of the District Attorney’s Offices as Commissioners of Deeds: Shirley J. Cobb and Tammy Bergmark.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #123 – Consideration of a resolution amending 11-66(6) of the Code of Ordinances in order to eliminate three (3) parking spaces located in the vicinity of 13 Groton Ave. (Alderman Faraoni’s request – recommended by the Public Safety Commission)

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni
Table: By: Alderman Guido; Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Resolution #124 – Consideration of a resolution authorizing Dennis Gallagher of the Youth Bureau to attend a pesticide applicator training course.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays - 0

Discussion of other matters:

Alderman Quail recommends brining to the council to purchase own video equipment to have someone other than volunteers to videotape council meeting, having city employees videotape. Sharon Stevens assures that there will not be any conflicts. They currently have 17 volunteers willing to help, all of whom would like to use their talent and training.

Alderman Morey requests caucus before ending the meeting.

Adjournment.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays - 0

November 16, 2004

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 19th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2004. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN – CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER