

November 20, 2001

A meeting of the Common Council was held on November 20, 2001 at 7:30 PM in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Tytler
Council Members Smith, Tobin, Abdulla, Lissberger, Hansen and Hyde
City Clerk, William J. Wood
Deputy City Clerk, Jodi M. McLyman
Corporation Counsel, James J. Baranello
Director of Admin. & Finance, Andrew J. Damiano

EXCUSED: Council Member Hennessy and Strangeway

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 followed by a salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2001 BE APPROVED FOR FILING.

BILLS

No discussion.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Grow Cortland Committee has been awarded a grant by New York State Tourism to help us develop a brochure to highlight downtown attractions. The idea would be to put this brochure in hotels and motels in the area. This committee has been very pro-active in trying to get restaurants and hotels into the community. The representatives hope to come to the Common Council Meeting in December to show the draft of what this is going to look like.

The Associated Press recently ran an article regarding cities in New York State. We are all facing the same dilemma regarding a declining tax base but an increased need in services by Police, Fire and street paving, etc. Every Mayor in that article talked about the need for the State to increase revenue sharing. We are getting less now than 10 years ago.

Saturday, December 1, 2001 will be the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. We have a guest; Ms. Passeri's 8th grade English Students put together a book called the Good Citizenship Book, which they would like to present to the City. Ms. Passeri explains that after the events of September 11, 2001, the 8th grade English students wrote a book of essays and poems about what we can do as individual citizens to improve our situation and our country. Ms. Passeri introduces a few students which are in the audience and who represent over 100 students that helped with the book.

November 20, 2001

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 – Council Member Smith

A street light out on Leon Ave. but someone fixed it.

Ward 2 – Council Member Tobin

No report

Ward 3 – Council Member Abdulla

No report

Ward 4 – Council Member Lissberger

No report.

Ward 5 – Council Member Strangeway

Excused.

Ward 6 – Council Member Hansen

The Annual Holiday Decorating Contest will be coming soon. She hopes to have the application on the Internet sometime next week. She hopes to give the awards at the December 18, 2001 Council Meeting. Niagara Mohawk has again donated the grand prize but we do not know what that is as of yet. No ward meeting this month but it will be held on December 12, 2001 at the Grange. There is also a draft of the taxicab resolution that Corporation Counsel put together. This will go on the agenda for the next meeting. Corporation Counsel explains that this should raise some additional revenue to help offset the additional costs of policing the taxicabs. Council Member Hansen feels that there has been great improvement in the condition of the taxicabs.

Ward 7 – Council Member Hyde

No report.

Ward 8 – Council Member Hennessy

Excused.

AGENDA

Item No. 1 – Presentation by representatives of Cortland's First Night Committee regarding this year's New Year's Eve celebration.

November 20, 2001

Amy Bertini speaks to the Council regarding closing the intersection between Main and Port Watson Street at 11:00 PM for the New Year's Eve celebration. The four tents will be between the Alliance Bank and Woodman's Pub. They are on the street and measure 40' x 20'. This is strictly shelter for the attractions.

They will also be closing Main Street between Court and Tompkins Street at 6:30 PM. This is for the Show mobile and basically clearing the area.

The American Fireworks Company will be here which the McNeil and Company is sponsoring. They will be set off from JTS Lumber. We have permission from JTS in writing and they are also covered by insurance. The City will co-insure which means the City will be named as an additional insured.

On the motion of Council Member Lissberger, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLVED TO CLOSE MAIN STREET BETWEEN COURT AND TOMPKINS TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC AT 6:30 PM ON DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND PROHIBIT PARKING OF VEHICLES IN THAT AREA UNTIL 1:00 AM.

Item No. 2 – Consideration of the Mayor's reappointment of Colleen R. Sebring-Aldrich as a Commissioner of Deeds.

On the motion of Council Member Hansen, seconded by Council Member Smith, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF COLLEEN R. SEBRING-ALDRICH AS A COMMISISONER OF DEEDS.

Item No. 3 – Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Otto J. Janke to the Board of Assessment Review.

On the motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF OTTO J. JANKE TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW.

Item No. 4 – Review of the proposed 2002 Water Board Budget.

Council Member Tobin asks what percentage of the revenue is dependent on Buckbee Mears? Supt. Withey states too large of a percentage. A brief review of the budget is discussed. Supt. Withey explains they are looking at a water rate increase. It is not in the budget because it is not yet established. The increase will not take affect until April 1, 2002. Andrew Damiano states the Water Board uses a somewhat unusual budgeting method where they don't identify the revenue sources. They identify a shortfall, which is not a traditional budget process. This is the way they have always done this. This is pay-as-you-go so it has to balance. Supt. Withey explains they are not privy to any revenue sharing from the State. The board is considering some numbers for a rate hike probably between .10 cents and .20 cents. Council Member

November 20, 2001

Lissberger asks what kind of rate hike there was in 2000-2001. Supt. Withey states there was a 17% increase. Supt. Withey feels that we could probably get by without a zero increase but he doesn't feel that is the right thing to do at this point in time. Knowing what expenses we have coming such as bond debt and the uncertainty of the general business climate. Andrew Damiano also recommended a rate increase of about 15%.

Council Member Hansen asks about the budget. Corporation Counsel responds they will either cut expenses or increase rates but the budget has to balance. Supt. Withey explains the cash on hand will change. The revenues wont change, the spending won't change.

Item No. 5 – Report from the Reapportionment Committee.

Council Member Hansen explains the committee is made up of Council Members Smith, Tobin, Hennessy and herself. The meeting was scheduled for October but not all were in attendance. They have decided not to do anything until the County challenge is complete. The County is challenging the figures in the 4th ward so there is no point in doing anything until their challenge is complete. They will send a letter to the County stating when their challenge is complete then they can work together to do the reapportionment in the City.

On the motion of Council Member Abdulla, seconded by Council Member Hansen, voted and carried,

RESOLVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolutions were presented to the Mayor in the time required and were approved by him.