



City Council Minutes December 17, 2002

The City of Cortland, New York

COUNCIL MEETING #21
December 17, 2002
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
City Hall
7:20PM

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

7:20PM Continuation of the Public Hearing regarding the **Proposed 2003 General Fund Budget**

Bill Allen of Virgil approves of the proposal to partially cut the position in the Law Dept. He feels this is a good idea since they no longer prosecute in City Court. Regarding the County District Attorney's Office, he feels the D.A.'s office is overstaffed as compared to other counties. He passes out a survey he did using various Counties around Cortland County.

There was no one to speak; therefore the public hearing was closed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Allen of Virgil expresses his concern about what he perceives to be a conflict between the Mayor and the Assistant Corporation Counsel's Office. He hopes the Council will ask this question to the State Comptroller's Office.

Doug VanEtten commends the City on the number of events they have sponsored that he has attended. He hopes the Council will consider looking into an outdoor skating rink.

Tony Pace states he appreciates the efforts taken by the Water Board to educate the public on fluoridation. He feels the public has the right to know how many calls or comments the Council has received regarding fluoride. How can the Council or the editorial staff of the Cortland Standard state the majority of Cortland is against fluoridation? A water board poll will only reflect property owners. A public referendum will be more accurate.

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MINUTES of December 3, 2002

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

BILLS

Alderman Quail questions Upstate Temperature control.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Leonard thanks Jim Sponaugle, Jane Witty, the Cortland Firefighters, Cortland Madrigal Choir, High School volunteers, and Santa for making the tree lighting a success. We participated in the Save Santa Contest. This was a cooperative effort amongst the downtown businesses that volunteered various items to be displayed in windows. The Firefighters donated money for a prize. Jane did a lot of work coordinating and getting activity going. The winners of the contest are Juanita, Jessica, and Brian Stoker.

The YWCA extends its thanks to the Mayor Leonard and the Common Council for approving the grant for the security surveillance system. The YWCA feels much more confident that they can keep their clients safe.

Commends the City Police Dept. and Chief Nichols for the arrests they have made with regard to the murder investigation and the recycling center fires. They have been working really hard.

Mayor Leonard reminds the Council they have to respond to the offer that was made with regard to the donations. There is no community development money that's available for matching. The Mayor is hoping the Council will have an answer by the next meeting, as she does not want to leave the potential donor waiting.

Mayor Leonard also recognizes Bob Spada for his 31 years of service. We appreciate his efforts and thank him for his hard work.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - Alderman Faraoni

Wishes everyone a happy holiday. He has had many calls with regard to fluoridation. The people would like a voice as to what is going on. The crows are back. They are all over the City. We are feeding them. The blue bags have to be put in something. He feels this is one of the biggest problems.

Ward 2 – Alderman Tobin

He read the guest columnist last night. He feels it is dictatorial telling people what kind of substance they are going to have in the water. He believes Mr. Suben has prepared a

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document that we all should take home and read. We need to lay this on the table and go through with the effort to abolish the water board and give control back to the City of Cortland.

Ward 3 – Alderman Morey

She received 3 calls regarding fluoride. She thinks she has had approx. 40 calls total since May or June. She is against the way the process is being handled. She is disappointed there are people on the water board that are involved with the Memorandum of Agreement. These people that were involved in writing it didn't even follow their own Memorandum. She spoke to Steve Broyles tonight because he is very concerned that as a scientist he voted in favor of fluoridation but he is not in favor of the way the process has been handled. She thanks the police department. Wishes Bob Spada luck. She will be getting the fire department together for a meeting. The date will be January 14th at 7:00PM. She reminds everyone December 31st is the ball dropping.

Ward 4 – Alderman Guido

Commends the people in making the City look very festive. Congratulates Bob Spada for his service to the City. He agrees with Mr. Pace and he would like to see the fluoride issue go to public referendum. He was told by members of the water board that was not possible because people were not informed enough to make that decision.

Ward 5 – Alderman Quail

Happy Holidays. The city looks very festive. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Holiday Tree Lighting Contest. His ward meeting was productive. He has had a question raised as to the size of the Youth Bureau Budget. He supports the Youth Bureau. He has had some concerns on fluoride. He thanks Chief Nichols for his efforts. Congratulations to Bob Spada. He is disappointed in the characterization that this is political. Absolutely not. He has had 32 phone calls against fluoride and 6 for fluoride. That's not including conversations. He thinks 70% of the people are against. He apologizes to some of the water board members for calling them arrogant.

Ward 6 – Alderman Testa

The crows are back. He thanks Mike Preston for helping him on Samson and Park St. with regard to speeders. He thanks Chief Nichols and his department for their time and effort over the last few weeks. Thanks Bob Spada and the people in his department that will be retiring.

Ward 7 – Alderman Partigianoni

He attended a retirement for Janice Gallagher and Gary Hammond of Office of the Aging. They were very instrumental in getting the senior discounts for the cable. They have processed over 50 people thus far. Marietta has got two lights working on Deo Way. The drains on the Corner of Port Watson and Church are higher than the road. The State is suppose to correct this but has not. There is a problem there that has to be corrected. He also discusses the road salt vs. urea or liquid nitrogen that was previously brought up at the last Common Council meeting. Congratulates Joan and Al Davis for the holiday lights.

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Ward 8 – Alderman Hennessy

She also states the crows are back. She would like to try some of the things the City has done before. Garbage pick up downtown still seems to be less than 3 times a week. When the City renegotiates with them she would like to see the days they pick up be specified. It is very important they be there relatively early on Monday and relatively late on Friday. She thanks everyone involved in the Holiday Lighting Contest. She thanks Mike Dexter for all his hard work at the water works. Thanks TLC for sponsoring the grand prize.

Mayor Leonard announces the winners.

AGENDA

RESOLUTION #124 of 2002 – Approval to create the position “Systems Administrator” in the Data Processing Department.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Guido

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #125 of 2002 – Authorize the adoption of the 2003 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operating Budget and establishing a domestic rate of \$1.60 per unit.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #126 of 2002 – Authorize the adoption of the 2003 General Fund Budget, as amended, and establishing a tax rate of \$12.641 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 1 (Hennessy)

RESOLUTION #127 of 2002 – Authorize the acceptance of a \$5,201.00 grant from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and appropriating said funds to Police account A3120.10400.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman Testa

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

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RESOLUTION #128 of 2002 – Confirmation of the appointment of Monica Sherman to the Landscape and Design Commission.

By: Alderman Faraoni
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #129 of 2002 – Authorize the street closures and permitting the activities outlined by the “First Night Committee” for the event scheduled on December 31, 2002 and January 1, 2003.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #130 of 2002 – Authorize the confirmation of the Mayor’s appointment of Christopher Bistocchi as the Superintendent of Public Works.

By: Alderman Tobin
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item No. 8 – Consideration of a travel request submitted by the City Clerk.

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Partigianoni

Approved: Ayes – 2
Nays – 6 (Faraoni, Tobin, Morey, Guido, Quail, Testa)

Motion denied.

RESOLUTION #131 of 2002 – Authorize the acceptance of \$3,500.00 in grant funds from the Department of Environmental Conservation for funding under the Urban and Community Forestry program and further authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents. (See attached for formal resolution).

By: Alderman Hennessy
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

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Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations.

By: Alderman Morey
Seconded: Alderman Hennessy

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays - 0

Motion to come out of Executive Session and into the regular scheduled meeting.

By: Alderman Guido
Seconded: Alderman Morey

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Adjournment

By: Alderman Testa
Seconded: Alderman Faraoni

Approved: Ayes – 8
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 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2002. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

WILLIAM J. WOOD – CITY CLERK
