



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland

November 21, 2006

Council Meeting #20
November 21, 2006
Regular Business Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Alderman VanGorder, Terwilliger, Cobb, DeCarlo,
Quail, Feiszli, Partigianoni and Michales

Staff Present: Director of Admin. & Finance Andrew Damiano, Corporation
Counsel Lawrence J. Knickerbocker and John O. Reagan,
City Clerk

Alderman Partigianoni calls the twentieth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

Public Comment

No one was present to speak

RESOLUTION #114 OF 2006 - Approve the minutes of October 17, 2006, as amended and November 14, 2006.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman DeCarlo

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor will report upon his return.

Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She had a few different complaint calls and most have been handled. There was one call regarding four (4) or five (5) feet of water in a driveway and a telephone pole and hopefully that will be taken care of soon.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

She passed on a letter to the Council. Two (2) women in her Ward wrote a letter to the editor of the Cortland Standard about the issues facing residents on the hill regarding college students and their raucous behavior. It is starting to affect their day to day lives up there and they have been in contact with President Bitterbaum and Alderman Terwilliger. Hopefully something get going to have things go a bit smoother up there. One of the women will attend a Council meeting soon. She received several calls regarding the Library funding, now that it is budget time, and they were requesting support for full funding. She did have a constituent make a complaint about some peeling parts of the wall in the Children's Reading Room in the downstairs of the Library. Alderman Terwilliger did check this out and it does look unsightly and perhaps moldy. The Library is aware of it and it will be addressed.

Ward 3 - Alderman Cobb

Her Ward has been very quiet. The Jug weekend was very rowdy, but she received no calls.

Ward 4 - Alderman DeCarlo

He attended the Jug game and congratulated the team. He noted that there was noise early in the morning and late in the afternoon and evening. There was some littering, but he didn't find anything particularly bad. He noted that not all college students are destructive.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He met with the Main Street Committee. They are looking at the challenges faced in trying to reinvigorate Main Street and all of downtown. There are a lot of concerns, some is parking, some is directions and they are looking to make it a destination, perhaps for the Greek Peak crowd, as there will be no restaurant there. He has also heard several people speak of the lack of a women's dress shop. He and Tom Michales attended the American Public Works Association event and received a Transportation Project of the Year Award for the South Main Street Project. These awards are given out annually. Virgil also received an award for their wastewater treatment plant upgrade. He distributed plaque samples and asked that the other Aldermen give him feedback on their thoughts as to size, etc.

He noted that the Department of Public Works has done a tremendous job with water and the leaves and he thanked them, for his Ward. He held a Ward meeting and he thanked Captain Knickerbocker for coming to speak about fire safety. They also discussed the South Main Street strategic planning process and he presented some visionary pictures that Cindy Teeter put together for discussion. Since then there has been another meeting and they worked on a mission statement and looked at what their expectations were for the South Main Street area. He did receive a call about crows.

They are back. He did speak when Governor Pataki was here to present the two million dollars for the Clock Tower project. It was a unique experience.

Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

She had a meeting with constituents over at Hickory Park Drive about the mitigation work that had been done over at BOCES recently. There was a good turnout and the Mayor attended. This is an ongoing situation that they are looking into and it has not been resolved. The second part of the meeting was in reference to river and stream bed maintenance and some people from Soil and Water and Chris Bistocchi from the DPW was there. Many people had questions and concerns regarding the creek beds because of the increase of water in the streams and especially, Dry Creek, which is typically dry at this time of the year and this year it is not. There was discussion regarding the impact of outside development on water issues within the City. She is still looking into a Memorandum of Understanding, proposing to a neighboring municipality that they would contact the City to let them know about proposed work over a certain dollar amount or square footage. This is in reference to storm water management. She is concerned and noted that she is on the County Planning Board. There was discussion regarding a possible breakdown of the SEQR process, in that it may only deal with the project and perhaps it should deal with the impact to a wider area. She is working with some representatives on the State level to get some answers on this.

Alderman VanGorder that both she and Alderman Feiszli are on the Sub Planning Committee for Storm Water Management and she felt that was a good place to address this issue from a Countywide standpoint because she felt we needed all of these Planning Boards involved in the bigger picture.

Alderman Feiszli noted that she added on the City website, her Ward reports for the past year.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He has received two (2) calls which he has referred to the Code Office. He attended the veteran's ceremony at the VFW on Veteran's Day. He attended the American Public Works Association recognition banquet with Alderman Quail where the City and County did receive plaques for the South Main Street and Paige Green Road transportation projects.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He was out of the country for nineteen (19) days and he described his travel experiences. He is now available to handle Ward issues.

Andy Damiano noted that an additional item was being added to the agenda regarding an appointment of George Verdow to the Cable Commission.

RESOLUTION #115 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for funding from the NYS Department of State Quality Communities Program.

It was noted that this was a second attempt at this application. They had been encouraged by the State to make some changes and to reapply. Alderman Feiszli asked what would be the next step for the Planning Commission if this grant was received and a new Master Plan was written. She would like the Planning Commission to be more involved with this process. Thoma Development representatives were not present to answer questions.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #116 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution amending Section 11-42 of the Code of Ordinances by deleting the "Yield" signs on Crandall Street at Central Avenue; and on Miller Street at Traction Drive (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission).

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #117 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution amending Section 11-41 of the Code of Ordinances by adding "Stop" signs on Crandall Street at Central Avenue; and on Miller Street at Traction Drive (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission)

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #118 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution amending Section 11-41 of the Code of Ordinances by adding "Stop" signs at the following locations: (1) Crawford Street at South Main Street; (2) Frederick Street at South Main Street; (3) Denti Way at South Main Street; and (4) Noss Park Road at South Main Street. (Recommendation of the Public Safety Commission)

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman DeCarlo

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #119 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing Andrew J. Damiano and/or Lori Crompton to open and gain access to the safe deposit box in the name of the City of Cortland, which is located at HSBC Bank.

Andy Damiano explained that the bank would not allow them to open the box or to close the account as they currently were not signators on the account.

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #120 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the following temporary street closures in support of the First Night Event scheduled for December 31, 2006:

- a. Main Street from Court Street to Port Watson Street from 5:00 P.M. on December 31, 2006 to 1:00 A.M. on January 1, 2007.

By: Alderman Michales
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

- b. The intersection of Main Street and Port Watson Street to William Street at 11:00 P.M. on December 31, 2006 to 1:00 A.M. on January 1, 2007.

There was some discussion regarding “not for profit” groups selling hot chocolate at the First Night event and it was decided to add it to the next Council agenda.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #121 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the permanent use of the Water Works property by the Youth Bureau for a cross-country ski program during the months of December through early March (weather permitting).

Alderman Terwilliger and Alderman Quail asked if this could be made permanent and it was.

By: Alderman Terwilliger
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #122 OF 2006 - Consideration of a Resolution appointing George E. Verdow to the Cable Commission.

Alderman Quail noted that they were looking to increase the SUNY Cortland participation in the programming on the public networks and encouraging that.

By: Alderman VanGorder
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Adjournment

By: Alderman Michales
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

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 BUSINESS MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2006. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN, CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER