



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

February 20, 2007

Council Meeting #4
February 20, 2007
Regular Business Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Alderman VanGorder, Quail, Feiszli, Partigianoni and Michales

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

Acting Mayor Feiszli calls the fourth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to speak.

Minutes of February 6, 2007

RESOLUTION #13 OF 2007 - Approve the minutes of February 6, 2007 as amended.

By: Alderman VanGorder
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 5
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She is working on the Community Clean Up Day and it's going to be April 28, a Saturday morning from 9:00 AM to Noon. She is also working on setting up a Ward meeting for the middle of March. She recognized Michelle Phelps of the Cortland Sports Council volunteers and puts a lot of time as well as the others who are a part of

the Saturday morning soccer program at the McDonald Sports Complex enjoyed by hundreds of kids. They are a part of the Greater Homer Youth Soccer which is the summer league. They've changed the name and it is now called the Cortland County Youth Soccer Association. She has received some calls regarding crows back in her Ward. She knows they'll only be around for a few more weeks, but if when the noisemakers are set off in one area residents in other wards would be on the lookout and be out there with pots and pans, it would be a more coordinated effort. In speaking with Andy Damiano, she found that there are no more scheduled crow removals, but they are a nuisance. She hopes next year they can coordinate Citywide, so that the crows aren't just scared from one Ward into another.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He reminded everyone that with all this heavy snow, they need to keep the sidewalks cleaned for the safety of our children. He attended the SPCA Bright Lights Kick Off. He had some calls on the garbage bags. They can't be stuffed as much any more. He thought that perhaps they could revisit the specs for these.

He also received a call from a constituent alleging rude treatment they received when calling Superior Trash Haulers. The call was placed because of an announcement on the radio that the recycling would not be picked up on a certain day and to put it out for the next day. That was done and the recycling was never picked up, which prompted the call to Superior. Superior told the constituent to call Superior directly and not listen to the radio. Alderman Partigianoni also received a call at 10:16 AM this morning regarding Superior, the weakness of the trash bags and the fact that crows were scattering the trash around. He called her back and found that Superior had cleaned up the mess and had picked up and the constituent was pleased with the service.

His daughter was in the Youth Bureau basketball program that concluded this weekend and he wanted to congratulate the Youth Bureau for the tremendous job that they do and to congratulate the Cortland High School girls that referee a lot of the games. They did a tremendous job.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He received calls for crows and Superior. He spoke Gino and the gentleman and thinks that everyone will cooperate. He attended the Loaves and Fishes dance at the Elks Club. It was a nice affair. At the East End Community Center, on Saturday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, there will be a stamping craft project, "Think Spring" with Meredith Downes Curtis. Those interested in participating may contact the Youth Bureau as there are still a few openings. The materials will be free and this will be an ongoing monthly project. On March 18 at 2:00 PM the East End Community Center will be hosting a presentation, "100 Years of Music in Cortland". There will be a panel presenting this information and afterwards there will be a jam session.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

Duane Bonowitz, a former Ward 2 Alderman, recently passed away and Alderman Michales extended his sympathy to his family and recognized his service on the Council. The Habitat for Humanity construction committee recently met to discuss a new build in 2008. They plan to make this a green project. They want to make this a model build. The Ward meeting that he had scheduled for February 21 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for some time in March. His guest speaker had cancelled. He attended the Law Man of the Year Dinner, where Sergeant William Carpenter was recognized for his wonderful job. Bill has been instrumental in establishing the Neighborhood Watch Program throughout the City. He is well known for working with the City youth. He congratulated Bill for a job well done.

He attended an Open House at the new bakery. Several council members were on hand to sample some of the baked goods and he wished Lisa good luck with you new business. He attended the Bright Lights ceremony last Friday night; it was the annual kick off. The sign of the cat and dog that is used was made in Florida and was shipped up here. A \$10 donation will sponsor a lighted bulb. Proceeds help offset the costs of operating the SPCA shelter as well as helping to find a good, deserving home for the animals at the shelter.

Alderman Feiszli wanted to remind everyone that this Thursday, right after the Legislative meeting, they will discuss municipal sharing and possible grant applications. She urged people to call their legislators to urge them to attend, as well.

RESOLUTION #14 OF 2007 - Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Thomas Michales to the Volunteer Firefighters Service Award Program's Board of Directors.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 5
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #15 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the adoption of the 2007 Community Development Miscellaneous Revenue Budget.

Alderman Partigianoni asked if there currently was a balance in the reserve account. Andy Damiano stated that there was, but that figure changes because of loan repayments. He noted that the bulk of that balance was the Rubber Maid payback, which was about half a million dollars. That has been funding the program for the past four (4) or five (5) years. Alderman Partigianoni inquired about the Downtown Partnership Dues that were listed. Andy Damiano reminded the Council that when the Downtown Partnership was formed, that they made a commitment for the first three (3) years and this was the second payment of that commitment. Their funding was almost solely from a grant, this payment commitment, dues and some donations. It is a struggle to keep them solvent. It was asked if some of this money could be used for curb cuts, sidewalks or curb replacement. It was suggested that Chris Bistocchi should be consulted on this. It isn't practical to replace small sections of curbing. Alderman

Michales noted that the homeowner could replace the curbing if they so chose, but they would need to contact Chris Bistocchi on the best way to do that. Alderman VanGorder inquired if some of the money could be used for street signs. Andy Damiano noted that Public Safety should be contacted for that, they have money in their budget for that for select streets that are missing signs. Alderman Partigianoni noted that sometime ago, a businessman offered to replace all the street signs, citywide and the cost was estimated to be over one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars. As a result, it was not done. Alderman Michales noted that he would like to see all of the lights on Main Street be the same color. Andy Damiano noted that these were all good discussions, but they were not relevant to the Miscellaneous Revenue Budget.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 5
Nays - 0

Item No. 3 - Continuation of discussion regarding the City's facilities needs.

Andy Damiano distributed copies of the application that was sent to Senator Seward in request of a legislative initiative, also known as a member's item, in the amount of \$150,000 to fund the hiring of an architect to do an assessment of the site that has been looked at to possibly purchase and the feasibility to build a new fire station on the site, which he is not at liberty to disclose to the public since the owner has not given the City permission to do that. This would also fund a look at the feasibility of renovating the existing station and expanding it over to the property next door. He is not sure if this will be funded or not, but it certainly is a valid need. He reminded the Council that Chief Baron had stated before that he felt that before the decision is made to build a new station or to renovate the old one, we need to get a professional in here to advise us on the feasibility of both projects. With any luck, we might get some word on this shortly. If not, it may be something we need to talk about. He wasn't sure we were equipped, in house, to make that assessment and we need an expert professional who can work with the Chief and his staff to identify what their needs were. If the State budget was passed on time, the Council might know by March 31, 2007 whether the application was accepted. This item will continue to be on the agenda until we are done.

Andy Damiano noted that they were looking for the Council's support to approach the County regarding possible consolidated projects. Nothing has been identified, but both the County and City have needs. If the Council supports the concept, the City will continue to talk with the County. The Council members indicated that support was there for consolidation, sharing of services and possible sharing of a building, which would include a project. The City would be on it's own as far as building a fire station. Alderman Feiszli brought up the use of the Armory and why that isn't being used. Andy Damiano stated that the Fire Department had taken the position that the Armory was not the ideal location for good response time, because it is in the most northern part of town. When they have to go across town, it takes eight (8) to ten (10) minutes and the industry sets as a target, getting to the scene in five (5) minutes, which is considered very critical to a working fire. That couldn't be guaranteed, working out of the Armory.

They couldn't get to certain parts of the City with equipment in that time frame. The Armory is currently being used as sort of a third location, because it was being used for storage of HazMat equipment and some of the auxiliary equipment that isn't typically needed on a daily basis. The volunteer fire companies have a meeting room there, similar to the day room at the fire station. There's a lounge, a meeting area and they are training out of that location. It is being utilized, but not as a main station and will be continued to be used in that manner, even after a new location for a station is found.

Alderman Partigianoni noted that with the new fire trucks, the doors at the Armory still posed a problem, in that the new trucks won't fit. He also noted that the City had entered into an agreement with the City schools to use the Armory as Disaster Area, so there are some reasons why the Armory is not an ideal facility. Andy Damiano noted that they did bring some apparatus into the main drill area floor for servicing. It is ideal for the ladder truck, but once they have the equipment in there, they can't use that area for anything else. Alderman Michales noted that it could be used as a satellite station for smaller vehicles. Andy Damiano noted that was what was currently being done.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 5
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 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2007. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER