



# City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

March 6, 2007

Council Meeting #5  
March 6, 2007  
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 Knickerbocker and City Clerk John O. Reagan

Mayor Gallagher calls the fifth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00 PM.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes of February 20, 2007

**RESOLUTION #16** OF 2007 - Approve the minutes of February 20, 2007.

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

The Mayor read a proclamation in support of kidney disease research and education and declared March 8 as Kidney Disease Awareness Day.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

A representative of the Kidney Dialysis Center was present to speak about the new dialysis center in Cortland.

Mayor's Report

He attended the Center for the Arts presentation program. Senator Seward presented a sizeable check to them. He attended the grand opening of Senator Arcurri's office on Church Street as well as the IDA/BDC Board meeting. He attended the Lawman of the Year ceremony. He met with members of the Cortlandville and County Highway Departments regarding the retention pond on Starr Road.

He attended the Community College forum at the Barrett Buildings. He participated in the naturalization ceremony at the County Court House. They had twenty-four (24) who became American citizens. He attended the NYCOM Meeting in Albany with the City Clerk, John Reagan. He met with the Youth Bureau regarding non-smoking programs in the parks. He spoke to the fourth grade students at the Parker School and attended the VIP reception at the St. Joseph's Dialysis Center. He attended the Home Improvement Show at the McDonald Sports Complex. It was previously held in Ithaca. Saturday, alone, they had more people than all the people who attended during the three (3) day event in Ithaca. He attended the SPCA Recognition Dinner at the St. Charles. There were about seventy-five people in attendance. He also participated in the United Way Auction on Saturday. He attended the CFCU ribbon cutting ceremony.

#### Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She congratulated the Cortland State Women's basketball team and Cortland High Boy's basketball team. Both of them had great seasons; Jim and she were at a lot of the games. A reminder that Community Clean Up Day will be April 28 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Alderman Feiszli and she attended the flood sub-committee meeting last week. She will have a meeting with her Ward and Gene Cilantro will address them, perhaps at the end of March.

#### Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

She has had an overwhelming amount of calls and e-mails regarding the proposed housing on West Court Street and how it could potentially cause problems with traffic, noise, etc. on the street. It will be going before the Planning Commission at their next meeting and she will be keeping all of those concerned about this informed. Hopefully, the voices of the people will be able to do something about that.

#### Ward 3 - Alderman Cobb

She has received some calls about that issue, also. Her Ward has been pretty quiet, but she did receive a call regarding the Bad Beagle. Someone was wondering about what is going on there, citing bad odors coming from there. She is looking into that situation.

Alderman Partigianoni asked the Mayor to describe the process that would be followed on the planned 19 W. Court Street property development. The Mayor noted that it had already been before County Planning and would be reviewed by the City's Planning Commission on March 26. The building would be similar to what is on Groton Avenue. The Hill Top Association is opposed to this.

#### Ward 4 - Alderman DeCarlo

His Ward was quiet, he had no report.

#### Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He is working on getting through the draft of the South End Strategic Plan, developed by Thoma Development. He is getting out copies to those who have requested it and after review, will be put on the City's website and at the Library. He has not been able to schedule a Ward meeting, but will, soon. He attended the CFCU opening ceremony on Saturday morning. There were a lot of people there. He attended the CCTV meeting; Susan and Tom were also there. The discussion was about inter-municipal cooperation and everyone appeared to be very receptive. Gary VanGorder was there and he was going to be having an intern to do some research on this.

#### Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

She has received calls regarding the proposed Holiday Inn Express that is going in. One was about zoning. This will be coming before City Planning at their next meeting. The concern was about aesthetics and the increase in traffic in the area. She spoke with the Code Office and County Planning and DOT did not have any concerns about traffic going on to Route 13. Residents are concerned and are writing a letter. She hopes to set up a meeting about this. She received a few questions about Kennedy Parkway because the spring flooding season is coming up. She spoke with Chris Bistocchi who said that the engineers are working on the mitigation plan right now and a meeting can be set up with those residents to find out how their plans will affect them. She attended the county, city, towns and villages meeting. They are talking about an incentive grant for towns and cities working together to share services. There is positive communication going on.

She will let Alderman Partigianoni speak more about the meeting coming up on March 26. We are doing a joint meeting and one of the areas of concern is the Riverside Plaza. They're going to talk about what their dreams are and what can be done. The City did apply for a strategic plan grant. It didn't go through. She is on a sub-committee that will get together to work on the mitigation of the water problem that is coming from Cortlandville.

#### Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

He was in contact with Linda Hartsock. He was in Albany regarding athletic development in the area and met with many people. He missed the CFCU opening ceremony, but did attend the reception the evening before. He believes that this is the first bank, in modern times, in the East End. He attended the Seven Valley Bowling Association Hall of Fame Induction ceremony at the Elks Club. The Master of Ceremonies was Garry VanGorder, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame. March 18 is the 100 Years of Music in Cortland at the East End Community Center. A large

crowd is expected from the number of calls being received at the Youth Bureau. It will be at 2:00 p.m.

The East Community Center will present at East Side Forum working together for the East Side. They want to hear what's on your mind and how we can work together to craft strategy to continue the East Side Renaissance. This is a panel discussion. Everyone is invited and it is hoped that the Mayor will be there to lead the panelists. He thanked Linda Hartsock for this. Dan Dineen, Gary VanGorder and others will be on the panel. This will be March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn ballroom.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He attended the CCTV meeting. Betsy Larkin, who is in charge of the DMV, did a presentation regarding a new satellite office. This office would be able to reach some of the outlying areas of the County rather than doing business out of the County. This would be user friendly for residents. He also attended the CFCU ribbon cutting and the SPCA dinner hosted by the staff of the SPCA to honor all of the volunteers who worked so hard during the cat seizure at Purrfect World. A lot of people were there.

There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Ward resident's meeting at the County Office Building on March 8 at 7:00 p.m., third floor. This will give the residents a chance to voice their concerns over the recent land purchase for the proposed new Health Center. This is for residents only, who will get a chance to voice their opinions or give their suggestions as to what they would like to see out of this deal. This meeting will be hosted by Carol Tytler and she will make recommendations to the Ad Hoc Committee on the outcome of this meeting.

Item No. 1 - Presentation by Jeremy Boylan regarding the County's plans for the upcoming Bicentennial in 2008.

Mr. Boylan, County Historian, described some of the 2008 plans. The Committee is just in the planning stages. They hope to do one event each quarter. A lot of these events they hope to stage in the City and they wanted to keep the Council abreast of their plans and what they are working on. One thing is a parade and they are working on a date. They would like to do a bicentennial dinner, in period formal dress, in the Court House Park. They are working on a countywide bell ringing. The actual bicentennial is on April 8 and they would like to get all of the churches to ring their bells and chimes ringing at the same time. They are considering a winterfest, and focus that in Court House Park, as well. There used to be an ice skating rink in the park, years ago, and they would like to bring that back. They also want to put a supplement in the Cortland Standard that would cover all of the history of Cortland. A lot of these activities are centered on the park or on Main Street. The Committee is looking for a City representative to join one of their sub-committees. Right now, Amy Bertini has volunteered to work on the dinner. There are a lot of hoops to jump through and they are starting their planning early. They are looking for ideas.

**RESOLUTION #17 OF 2007** - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with D & L Landscaping for tree planting services. (Lowest bidder).

There was some discussion regarding the past caterpillar infestation and its affect on the tree foliage this year. Mike Dexter indicated that it was predicted to be an active year for infestation this year.

By: Alderman DeCarlo  
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

**RESOLUTION #18** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Michael Dexter for the period February 20, 2007 to February 19, 2008 to perform various duties at the Water Works facility.

It was noted by all that he did a great job.

By: Alderman Terwilliger  
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

Consideration of the following actions to close out fiscal year 2006.

**RESOLUTION #19** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution acknowledging the receipt of \$170,497.21 in Federal and State aid for engineering services related to the N. Main over Otter Creek Culvert project, and appropriating said funds to DPW Account #A5110-41500.

Alderman Michales asked if this was all the funds received. Andy Damiano noted that this was all that had been received to date, during the year 2006, and would be spent in 2007. This is an accounting procedure.

By: Alderman Feiszli  
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

**RESOLUTION #20** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution acknowledging the receipt of \$34,443 in State Emergency Management flood aid for repairs to manholes, and appropriating said funds to DPW Account #A5110-41500.

Alderman Partigianoni inquired about the manholes and Andy Damiano noted that these particular manholes had been destroyed because of the flooding turbulence that destroyed the brickwork, causing them to need to be rebuilt.

By: Alderman Cobb  
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

**RESOLUTION #21** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution recognizing \$807,853.75 in excess revenues and appropriating said funds to various accounts to offset shortfalls.

Alderman Quail asked for an explanation of medical insurance shortfalls, which was explained by Andy Damiano.

By: Alderman Partigianoni  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

**RESOLUTION #22** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing various year end 2006 transfers and encumbrances.

By: Alderman Partigianoni  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

**RESOLUTION #23** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution establishing Matthew Wethje's salary as Chief Water Systems Operator.

By: Alderman VanGorder  
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

**RESOLUTION #24** OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the creation of the position Part Time Meter Reader in the Water Department.

By: Alderman DeCarlo  
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 8  
Nays - 0

Alderman Partigianoni asked that the Council place on their next agenda the discussion for consideration of a sliding scale senior exemption for property taxes and to perhaps ask the County to consider the same.

Item No. 7 - Continuation of discussion regarding the City's facilities needs.

This item will continue to be on the agenda, to provide an opportunity to keep the public updated. There was no update for this evening.

**Adjournment**

By: Alderman DeCarlo  
Seconded: Alderman Michales

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 MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF MARCH 2007. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.**

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**JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER**