



City Council Minutes The City of Cortland

June 19, 2007

Council Meeting #11
June 19, 2007
Regular Business Session
City Hall
7:00 PM

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

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

Public Hearing: Local Law No. 1 of 2007 - Senior Citizen Tax Exemption

No one was present to comment.

Public Hearing: Local Law No. 2 of 2007 - Tax Exemption for Persons with Disabilities

No one was present to comment.

The public hearings were closed.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Stevens was present to encourage the City to participate in the flooding study with the County. She lives on Hamlin Street and has a vested interest in this. The study and the opportunity to get together with the County and Cortlandville makes a lot of sense to take the opportunity to work together to solve this problem.

She is also concerned about multiple family dwellings. She has spoken with a lot of neighbors. She feels that when they are talking about multiple family housing, that they are talking about student housing. She is concerned about all rental property that is not owner occupied, not just student housing.

Ann Doyle was present to relay concerns she has heard from citizens around town. They are disgusted about the delay with the moratorium, the delay about the flooding issue, the delay about code enforcement, the delay about the feasibility study and the number of abandoned homes where people have had to replace the furnace twice and the water heater twice and they are just leaving their homes. She is also concerned about the apparent do nothing attitude that she is seeing and that the concerns that were mentioned in the Master Plan in 1991 are the same concerns she is still hearing. She is very concerned about the abandoned homes around Cortland.

Mike Dexter was present. He remembered his long time neighbor on Cedar Street, Helen Haggerty, who passed away last Friday. She was the wife of former Alderman Robert Haggerty who served in our Ward for eighteen (18) years. She lived there for many years and he wanted to remember her.

He also is representing the Landscape and Design Commission. A year ago, the City Council passed an ordinance. One of the items in that ordinance, section 9, was tree topping. He read the section of the ordinance. He brought pictures of trees on East Court Street that was severely topped. Two (2) trees were planted in 2000 as part of the program to reforest the City. The one (1) across the street was also topped. He isn't sure how his Commission should react to the topping of trees. The ordinance mentions penalties. There are other trees in the City that have been topped and this is not healthy for the trees. Take care of your trees.

Janice Kenefick was present. She was very concerned about the flooding in the area and presented a petition signed by her neighbors. They're concerned that a study needs to be done in regards to the flooding situation and they feel that the City should participate in the proposed study. It would be prudent to spend the small amount of money needed to participate in this study.

The Mayor took a moment to speak about the passing of Jim Witty. He was in the courts for several years and then he went to the parking program on Main Street. Jim passed away last Saturday of a heart attack and he expressed the City's condolences to the family.

Minutes of May 15, 2007

RESOLUTION #50 OF 2007 - Approve the minutes of May 15, 2007.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Bills were reviewed and received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Met with Kristen Heath, Regional Representative for the Governor; Joe Rossi, Inter-Governmental Affairs; and Jay Biba, Regional Director from Senator Clinton's office for a tour of the City. Met with John Scanlon for an update on the Clocktower and also made a presentation to the Board of Realtors.

He attended the Brockway Museum Board meeting and the Salvation Army annual dinner as well as attending the Historical Society's annual dinner. He made opening speech for the Memorial Day celebration at the VFW. He made presentation to St. Mary's first grade class. He also met with Leadership Cortland to guide them through their project of expanding access to the City website. He attended the June Dairy breakfast at the Currie Farm.

He met with Marty Mack and also attended the Dairy Parade. He met with DEC representatives, Andy Damiano and Chris Bistocchi at the Water Works to review the newly-installed weir. He was the featured speaker at the Future Leaders dinner recognizing the valedictorians and salutatorians from the County high schools. He met with General Manager of Marietta Corporation to discuss their future business plans for the community. He attended Smith School 6th grade class with members of Tompkins County Trust and also met with staff at Hage Real Estate. He attended the annual Leadership Cortland dinner and the Hope Lake announcement for the indoor water park. He met with Senator Seward to discuss several issues – brownfield sites, early retirement incentive and the City's contribution to the pension program. He spoke at the opening ceremony for the Relay for Life. He also attended the Planning Commission meeting with attorneys Blair and Cheney.

They Mayor read two (2) proclamations.

He proclaimed June 27, 2007 as New York Insurance Fraud Prevention Day.

He proclaimed that there is an immediate property tax crisis in New York State and urged the immediate passage and chaptering of the New York State Property Taxpayer Protection Act. Resolved that a copy of this resolution should be transmitted to the Governor of the State of New York, the Senate and the Assembly and to each member of the New York State Legislature.

Ward 1 - Alderman VanGorder

She attended the Planning Commission meeting last night. She thinks it's very good that there is going to be a joint work session with them to talk about the moratorium. She also hopes that they discuss the zoning document that they have been working on. She has received a lot of phone calls regarding code issues in recent weeks. She has spoken with Chief Glover and she has a lot of things going on in her Ward and Chief Glover is helping her. Hopefully these issues will be resolved. She also proposed that the Council should come up with a top five (5) list and place this on the agenda at the beginning of every month so that the Council can get a brief update on those items and

where they stand and what's been done. This will keep the Council from losing focus on those items.

Ward 2 - Alderman Terwilliger

She has been working with a couple of department heads. She is working with the DPW on an issue over on Arthur Avenue. She has received a lot of calls regarding the flood mitigation study. People are in favor of that. She feels that Cortlandville should be involved in that study as well. It has a lot to do with the development there. Other than that, things are good.

Ward 3 - Alderman Cobb

She attended the Planning Commission meeting. She thinks working together with the County and Cortlandville will help. She had a couple of code issues that she is working on. She did receive a petition from people in her Ward asking that the City work together with the County and Cortlandville to get a feasibility study done of the Otter Creek flooding problem. She read the petition request to the Council.

Ward 4 - Alderman DeCarlo

He is dealing with an issue of a truck movement on Groton Avenue. He is also working on a code issue. He attended the Planning Commission meeting.

Ward 5 - Alderman Quail

He also was at the Planning Commission meeting to participate in the discussion of the moratorium. He feels that they need to follow through on this, narrow the focus and address the issue and don't bite off more than can be handled. He attended the Relay for Life. He was there at 5:00 a.m. in the morning and saw the sun rise. He attended the Flag Day ceremony at the American Legion. They held a flag burning ceremony.

Ward 6 - Alderman Feiszli

She is working on a couple of code issues that involve maintenance and upkeep. Morningside and Parkwood Drives had really bad potholes this year. DPW came and filled them. She did note that the condition of the road is very poor and she wanted constituents to know that they will not be resurfaced until the water mains are replaced because they are of inferior quality and need to be replaced. She has asked that these be placed on next year's budget along with resurfacing Morningside Drive, Parkwood Drive and Colony Drive. She also is looking into placing sidewalks on the east side of the Rt. 81 bridge between Locust Avenue and the Riverside Plaza. There's a lot of foot traffic in that area and it's a dangerous spot to cross the street because of the off and on ramps of Rt. 81 are there. She is looking into sidewalk placement along Rt. 13 in that area. Riverside Plaza parking lot holes have finally been filled and the riverbeds have been cleaned up. It's starting to look nice over there and hopefully they can get some buyers interested. She did receive a few calls in support of the engineering study of the flooding on Otter Creek, as well. It's on tonight's agenda.

She attended the opening ceremonies for the Empire State Senior Games and she asked that next year, that the City have some promotional material to promote the City of Cortland. She noticed tables set up with bags and items for participants and spectators to pick up and there was nothing in regards to the City of Cortland or the shops and stores and restaurants that they could visit while here in the City for the games. She attended the League of Women Voters Dinner. Their topic was consolidation and cooperation between local governments. Marty Mack is going to speak with them about this topic in the next month or two. She also attended the Planning Commission meeting with regards to the moratorium. There seemed to be a mutual consensus between the City and that Commission to have a work session to review the proposed local moratorium law. They also will be looking at other areas of interest and form committees. She wants to come up with some dates to meet. This is also a good time to work on a nuisance party ordinance, now that the students are gone. She believes that Corporation Council has a copy of Syracuse's ordinance. She asked what the process was to enact this. Mr. Knickerbocker felt that it didn't have to go through a local law, but can just be adopted as an ordinance. She asked if he could make recommendations to the Council in regards to this ordinance.

Ward 7 - Alderman Partigianoni

A lot has happened since the Council last met. There have been a lot of code issues. His apologies to the two Veteran's organizations for not being at their Memorial Day services. He was in Tennessee attending his grandson's wedding. The June Dairy Parade was a great event. The New York State Senior games were held in early June and the local ASA Umpire's volunteered their services for the softball program and in between games, he visited with participants. He spoke with Elsie Adams who has participated for twenty-five (25) consecutive years and has won medals every year. This year she won eight (8). Alice Carol was also there and she has competed for fourteen (14) years and she won five (5) medals. Both of them couldn't say enough nice things about the community and the SUNY Cortland facility. Cortland has a great reputation for hosting these games. The other big event was the Annual St. Anthony's Day. It was a huge success with the weather cooperating.

A Thompson Boat Builder Reunion also took place. He was a part of that. Some participants hadn't seen each other in forty or fifty years. Name tags sure are handy. The wooden boats manufactured at the East End Thompson Boat on Elm Street were, at one time, one of the best boats in America in their class. They did have a health and safety check at the East End Community Center. It was a huge success. He took a minute to read a release from the Youth Bureau about this event. The goal of the night was to have families stay safe and healthy during the summer months as well as all year long. More photos are posted on the Center website.

The last event was the Upstate Lacrosse events. There were approximately one hundred and sixty (160) teams with twenty-five (25) members per team.

Ward 8 - Alderman Michales

He also attended the Planning Commission meeting. He received a concern from a woman on Cedar Street about people not stopping at the stop sign at the corner of Cedar and Randall Streets. She is going to observe the traffic in that area, to pinpoint the time of day of when this occurs the most. He'll try to get a patrol car in that area at that time. He attended the Memorial Day services at the VFW in Court House Park. The night of the big storm last week, a large limb dropped over power lines on Church Street. It took out a transformer. The fire department along with Chris Bistocchi assessed the situation and power was restored about four (4) hours later and Stub's Tree Service removed the debris the next day. The fire department noted it was the only tree down in the City. He attended the Flag Day service on Tuesday night at the American Legion. He thanked the Women's Auxiliary for putting on the ceremony. He attended the ribbon cutting at the new Visitors' Center at the Lime Hollow Nature Center. This place makes for a good family outing. He participated in the Relay for Life on Friday night. He extended his condolences to the Haggerty family.

Alderman Partigianoni noted that during the Senior Games one of the State Officials wanted to be sure that the Mayor received a shirt as a token of their gratitude. The Mayor thanked the Senior Games Officials.

The Mayor had the Aldermen check their calendars to try to schedule a work session with the Planning Commission. July 3, before the Council Meeting at 5:15 p.m., July 12 at 5:15 p.m. and July 17 at 5:15 p.m., were the dates that were chosen. Alderman Feiszli noted that they should discuss this so that they were prepared for this joint meeting.

RESOLUTION #51 OF 2007 - Consideration of the adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2007, revising the income limits for qualifying for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman DeCarlo

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0
The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION #52 OF 2007 - Consideration of the adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2007; revising the income limits for qualifying for the Tax Exemption for Persons with Disabilities.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0
The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION #53 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to file an application for funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to fund the Beaudry Park Recreation Building Project.

Ann Hotchkin was present. She explained that this was the second application. The first one was turned down. These grant applications are highly competitive.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Quail

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #54 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution adopting the South End Strategic Plan.

The Mayor thanked everyone for the fine job they did in putting this together. Ann Hotchkin was there for this one, also. Alderman Quail also thanked everyone for their team effort and hard work. Alderman Feiszli has questions on this and she thought that this was going before the Planning Commission prior to the Council's voting on it. Ann Hotchkin explained that this was not a comprehensive plan and didn't need to go before the Planning Commission. Alderman Feiszli would feel more comfortable if the Planning Commission reviewed it and she would like to postpone the vote. She doesn't want to rush into this. Alderman Quail noted that this has been on the website for eight (8) weeks and it's been out there for public comment. He doesn't feel that it's been rushed. Alderman Feiszli loves the concept, but it's the first half that is more of a personal nature. Alderman Feiszli asked Ann Hotchkin if she would be open to make some changes to this. Ann Hotchkin felt that this was in its final form, but it was the Mayor's call. The Mayor noted that it was a strategic plan, not a comprehensive plan. Alderman Feiszli supports the plan, but she does not support a couple of the accusations and why the deterioration in the area and specific statements made in the document. She felt that they were accusing to one individual.

By: Alderman Quail
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #55 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution acknowledging that a grant application will be submitted by the Alumni Association for EPF funding for the Alumni House project.

Ann Hotchkin noted that this was a second time around for this application as well. The first was turned down. This will be for handicapped bathroom access, the roof and storm windows. There will be a little awning work and carriage house work. The Mayor received some calls regarding the fact that they are a tax exempt organization renting out facilities for gatherings. They hire ASC for the catering, leaving out the local

business people. Ann Hotchkin noted that 5% of their activities are marketed to the community outside of the college activities. They do provide a list of caterers that includes ASC as well as local caterers and ASC is not underbidding the local businesses and there was no pressure to use ASC. It was also noted that if you rented their facility for a gathering, that you could use a caterer of your choice. Ann Hotchkin went on to explain that in order for them to apply for this grant, the municipality needed to acknowledge that they were applying for this grant.

By: Alderman DeCarlo
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #56 OF 2007 - Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Joe Quinlan (6 East Avenue) to the Board of Assessment Review.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #57 OF 2007 - Consideration of the confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Richard Couch (7 Pendleton Street) to the Zoning Board of Appeals to complete the unexpired term of Judy Morris.

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #58 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution reaffirming the City's commitment to undertake the North Main Street over Otter Creek Project; and authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary agreements, certifications, or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid.

Concerns were voiced about a change in traffic patterns involving Arthur Avenue. Mayor Gallagher assured them that traffic would not be rerouted down there, but there would be a notice published prior to the commencement of work.

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #59 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the installation of three (3) wall pack lights to illuminate the Clinton Avenue Parking Lot at a cost of \$1,925 (to be paid from Street Lighting Account No. A5182.411).

By: Alderman Partigianoni
Seconded: Alderman Cobb

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

RESOLUTION #60 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the closure of Euclid Avenue from 10:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. on August 18, 2007 for the 15th Annual Euclid Avenue Street Picnic.

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Item No. 11 - Discussion regarding the County's proposal to partially fund an engineering study to determine the feasibility of installing a detention pond to control Otter Creek flooding (Alderman Feiszli).

Alderman Feiszli gave background on this issue. A committee was formed by Carol Tytler to look at overall flooding issues and after a series of monthly meetings they began to look at where the water was coming from. They thought it would be best to build a detention pond in conjunction with DOT's detention pond on Rt. 281. During that time the City has taken measures to look at flooding in the City. They Mayor came up with the replacing of a weir where the water comes into the Water Works and this would restrict the amount of water coming into the City via Otter Creek. The question was how much does the weir take care of. They couldn't answer this or determine if the flooding was an annual event, a five (5) years event, etc., because there was no engineering study.

Alderman Feiszli went on to say, we are looking into working with the County and maybe Cortlandville in going into the feasibility study. We are talking about \$10,000. Now it will be nice to share that cost with the County and Cortlandville, but we would save money if we decide to go ahead with this detention pond and still study the weir at the Water Works. This study is a good study. We can save money if the project goes through. The next step is looking for funds to pay for it. We would save money working with DOT because they're going through the bidding system and they'll already have the equipment out there by the Country Inn Suites. Carolyn Tytler and Marilyn Brown are here to lend their support to this and they would like to go in with the City on this study. That is why she is asking for the Council's support and a resolution.

Mayor Gallagher stated that he's not against any studies, but noted that they could spend \$10,000 to find out that they could spend two (2) to four (4) million dollars for the

project. Andy Damiano noted that both he and Carol Tytler had spoken with Cortlandville and they have refused to cooperate in the study and don't want to participate. Mayor Gallagher noted that the area where the proposed detention pond would go has all been filled in with fill. There's probably only four (4) acres available out there and it will probably have to be purchased. That's pretty nice commercial property and whether it's taken by eminent domain or not, the City would still have to pay fair market value. There are high voltage lines in that area relocated and he questions whether the State will participate with the City or not. Alderman Feiszli indicated that she spoke with a State representative who said they would participate with the study; not monetarily, but with the study itself. In speaking with Carl Ford, Andy Damiano noted, that the State would assist the City with their real estate division to assist us in making the acquisition of the property because of their experience in eminent domain proceedings. No money was promised.

Alderman Feiszli noted that the study would tell the City if they even should build a detention pond there or not. Mr. Ford indicated that if the City did it and they had the heavy equipment there, we would be able to use their equipment and get a break on the pricing by using the same equipment. Carol Tytler backed that statement. The Mayor is not against the study, but there's no way the City could afford two (2) to four (4) million dollars for a detention pond project if the study indicates that. We would need a huge assist from the State and we've been told by FEMA and SEMA that this won't happen. Andy Damiano noted that a narrow study was done nine (9) years ago and at the time they needed to figure out how much land was needed for a three (3) year storm, a five (5) year storm, a twenty-five (25) year storm and a fifty (50) year storm. Once they determined the amount of land needed, they would figure out a budget for each project and then present this to the Council. It wasn't whether a detention pond was necessary, because everyone pretty much agrees on that; but the study would simply define size and cost. A detention pond will help and the bigger the pond the greater the cost.

Carol Tytler was there to share some information. The DOT did talk with their committee. The DOT project engineer met with Don Chambers about the opportunity for collaboration on the Rt. 281 detention pond. The State is moving forward on obtaining the land for the pond. The Mayor asked how much land they planned to use and Carol Tytler could not tell him. She noted that their project would take the road frontage on Rt. 281. The DOT emphasis was that there might be some advantages to collaboration with them. She believes it was not their intent to make any financial commitment. Carl Ford did indicate that the collaboration would benefit us in that the DOT could assist the City in acquiring the property. Secondly, if this study is conducted, they could incorporate a recommended design into the DOT contract and they felt that there might be a cost savings to us by doing this. They also indicated that it would be a contractual agreement with the DOT, the State and municipalities and ultimately it would be the municipalities that would reimburse the State for the cost of the detention pond, if built. Their committee's intent was to say, they realize there's a flooding problem in this community and they are not engineers and they can't answer if this is feasible or if it will have a significant impact. The County is very eager to work with the municipalities to do some collaborative things. They came here to meet with the City. The study is a small cost. If the study shows that it is appropriate to put a detention pond there, we sort of

agreed in this County and City meeting that a design for a twenty-five year flood and ideally a fifty (50) year one would be best. To spend this amount of money, in this location on this detention pond; if it couldn't mitigate a flood of that size then we would want to look at other options. Without a feasibility study we don't know. In 2000, the City in collaboration with Gutchess Lumber did a study. This was a huge study. The committee has looked at many options and feels collaboration is a good idea. FEMA has been here and Brenda DeRusso has been working very hard to get money from them on the County's behalf. Money was gotten for an All Hazard Mitigation Plan for Cortland County. In the \$75,000 cost of that the County is putting in a \$25,000 one time match, cash or in kind. It was asked if money from this could be used for this study and they were told no. Their recommendation was that we move forward on the mitigation study, but the best way to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to get the feasibility study done, so it can be incorporated into the plan. This plan will be worked on into 2009; however, the FEMA people will be here tomorrow to say if we can move forward on the feasibility study and demonstrate the positive impact it can have on the community, will they allow a waiver for us to get the grant money sooner. It all hinges back to whether we can get this feasibility study done. She cited figures from Brenda DeRusso's office on costs associated with past flooding and the twelve point five (12.5) percent that the City had to cover of those costs which was over \$400,000. That was not including homeowner losses. Gutchess Lumber lost over \$300,000 in the last flood. She asked the Council for their support.

It was asked why Cortlandville didn't participate. Carol Tytler indicated it was because the County was not willing to give Cortlandville the extra one (1) percent in sales tax revenue, which they had planned to use to pay for projects like this. Since it was not given to them, they will not participate in the study. Andy Damiano concurred with this. Alderman Feiszli noted that in order to apply for shared municipalities grant funds, participation in this shared study is the first step in making us more eligible for those funds. Alderman Quail asked how pressure could be brought on Cortlandville to participate in this study. Carol Tytler noted that perhaps citizens in all townships of the county should insist that municipalities work together to solve our problems. Alderman Terwilliger noted that if we do join forces, it will bring a lot of pressure on them to also join with us. Alderman Michales felt that it would give the City more leverage when asking the State for money.

RESOLUTION #61 OF 2007 - Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the transfer of \$10,000 from Account No. A1990.400 (Contingencies) to Account No. A8140.415 (Storm Sewers/Professional Consulting) to be used to fund the City's share of an engineering study to determine methods to assist in mitigating flooding along Otter Creek.

Andy Damiano noted that this would wipe out the contingency fund in the 2007 Budget. He also noted that as a result of the weir installation discussion with Cortland County Soil and Water the City received today a memo from Mr. Reid, which consisted of a commitment to do the following: use lidar data to develop topography of the Water Works area, conduct an elevation survey and measure the pre-existing bridge and recent modifications and if reasonable, tie the data to nearby benchmark data that they have existing. Develop a staged storage area above the bridge/weir, calculate a stages

discharge relationship for the bridge under the pre-existing and modified conditions and assess velocity characteristics under different flow conditions and determine the amount of water held upstream associated with a one hundred (100) year flood and compare this with FEMA one hundred (100) year flood data and evaluate the need for a better defined emergency spillway, etc. The best part of this is that it will be free. This data can be done in conjunction with the data from this study, if approved. Carol Tytler noted that Barbara Lifton's office could be contacted and made aware that participation in this study would wipe out the City's contingency fund and perhaps some money could be found to offset this cost. Alderman Michales hated to wipe out the contingency funds. Alderman Terwilliger thanked Carol Tytler for all of her hard work on this committee.

By: Alderman Feiszli
Seconded: Alderman Terwilliger

Approved: Ayes - 8
Nays - 0

Item No. 12 - Discussion regarding the salary for the Mayor's position (Alderman Partigianoni).

Alderman Partigianoni noted that the current Mayor's salary is extraordinarily low compared with other areas. The Mayor's salary was reduced to accommodate a previous Mayor and has stayed that way ever since. He asks that the Council take a look at this. This is not enough for a full time Mayor. Call him anytime, he's there. \$13,000 is not enough for a full time Mayor. The Town Supervisor of Cortlandville gets almost \$23,000. He is looking for an opinion and input from the Council. Alderman Quail noted that he brought this up at budget meetings two (2) years in a row. He feels that the City is like a business with a \$22 million dollar budget and we pay our Mayor only \$13,000. He would like to see the Mayor get close to \$30,000. It has been treated as a part time position in the past and he would like to see the position made full time. Andy Damiano noted that it has always been a part time position and the Charter designates the Mayor as Chief Executive Officer of the City and the Director of Administration & Finance is the Chief Administrative Officer of the City and that is a full time job. He has worked with four or five Mayors in the City and he knows it is a demanding and important position and requires a special person to do the job. He supports the concept of a raise, but isn't sure that he supports \$30,000. Times have changed. When the salary was reduced, it was because a former Mayor was on a State pension and couldn't earn more than \$10,000 a year without jeopardizing his pension. At some point, the salary was reduced from about \$15,000 down to \$10,000. It can't be adjusted during a Mayor's term. The Mayor suggested that the Council check the NYCOM website to see what comparable salaries. Andy Damiano noted that they should check the charters of those cities to see what the Mayors were being paid to do, also. The Mayor noted that this was not a part time position. To do the job that the community demands, it can't be part time. Mayor Gallagher is passionate about this job and this City. Andy Damiano felt that if they changed the position from part time to full time, that the Council would be limiting their pool of candidates. Many candidates are professional people with other positions, who would like to be Mayor, but not give up their professions. He noted that he does the overall day to day functions of

government. He does the budgeting; he oversees the departments, handles the personnel issues, every financial matter, works with the Council on projects and oversees these projects. The Mayor's function is different, but they have always worked together. There is a clearly defined separation in the charter as to who does what. The Mayor noted that the community wants someone who can go out and talk with them and Andy can't go out like that. It takes a lot of time to go out and meet with the public, the businesses and state representatives and make the relationships. Alderman Partigianoni noted that the Council had to look at both sides of this. There have been some mayors, where \$30,000 would be cheap and others where \$30,000 is too high. It was asked that this be placed on the next agenda for further discussion. Alderman Quail felt that with so much going on, that perhaps it would be best to put it on the agenda for the beginning of August. Alderman Michales felt that to be able to grow Cortland, they should be looking at a full time Mayor.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Terwilliger

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 19th DAY OF JUNE 2007. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED.

JOHN O. REAGAN - CITY CLERK

MAYOR THOMAS GALLAGHER