



## City Council Minutes The City of Cortland November 12, 2009

Council Meeting #21  
November 12, 2009  
Special Session  
City Hall  
6:30 PM

Present: Alderman VanGorder, Benedict, Dye, Tobin, Quail, Feiszli,  
Hamilton and Michales

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Finance Bryan Gazda and  
Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker

Mayor Gallagher calls the twenty-first Common Council meeting of the year to  
order at 6:30 PM.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**RESOLUTION #115** OF 2009 – Adoption of the proposed 2010 General Fund  
Budget in the amount of \$17,626,485.79.

Alderman Quail asked if this was indeed a proposed budget. He also asked if  
there could be additional changes. Mayor Gallagher stated that it was a proposed  
budget and that there could be additional changes, but he also noted that there  
could not be any additional changes until after the public hearing.

By: Alderman Quail  
Seconded: Alderman VanGorder

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 1(Alderman Tobin)

**RESOLUTION #116** OF 2009 – Adoption of the proposed 2010 Water Fund  
Budget in the amount of \$1,835,916.61.

By: Alderman Tobin  
Seconded: Alderman Benedict

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**RESOLUTION #117 OF 2009 – Adoption of the proposed 2010 Waste Water (Sewer) Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,593,075.32.**

By: Alderman Michales  
Seconded: Alderman Benedict

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 1 (Alderman Feiszli)

Mayor Gallagher suggested the setting the date of the public hearings for the 2010 Budgets for December 1, 2009 and then if the Common Council needed to schedule another special work session, the Council could do that on December 3, 2009.

Alderman Quail asked that the scheduled public hearings begin at 6:30 PM because he anticipated much public feedback. A work session was scheduled for December 3, 2009 at 6:30 PM. Mayor Gallagher noted that there would be a notice of the Public Hearings in the newspaper and on the City website. Director of Administration and Finance Bryan Gazda stated that the proposed budgets would be put on the website as quickly as possible.

Alderman Dye asked for clarification on the health insurance coverage for Common Council members as he had to inform his employer. He thought they had discussed providing Council members with individual health insurance coverage with a twenty-five (25) percent contribution by the individual. It was noted that was not in the budget. He asked that this be looked into further, as he felt that there had to have been some sort of resolution passed. He felt that this couldn't be changed just because it had been talked about; he felt that it would also have to be done by another resolution. Alderman Dye noted that he had to know about this, because he had to let his employer know by November 15 and there was a problem with a pre-existing condition.

Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker stated that it was impossible to know at this point, because the Common Council had adopted a proposed budget. He went on to say that if nothing else happened, that would become their budget. He noted that it could go up or it could go down, but that was subject to the vote of all of the Aldermen. He stated that it was possible that the Aldermen could give Alderman Dye a consensus of their thought process, but they certainly couldn't bind themselves tonight to anything other than what has been adopted as the proposed budget. Mayor Gallagher noted that the Councilors could tell him "yes" tonight and then change their minds on December 1. Alderman Dye stated that there had to have been something voted on along the way, like an agreement or a resolution and until the Council adopted another resolution that was still in effect.

Alderman Feiszli asked if there was a resolution somewhere in the Charter. Corporation Counsel Lawrence Knickerbocker stated that it wouldn't have been in the Charter. His guess was that it was just a budgetary item, but that was only his guess and he really didn't know.

**Adjournment**

By: Alderman VanGorder  
Seconded: Alderman Quail

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 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009. 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**