



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
June 6, 2011

Council Meeting #12
June 6, 2011
Special Session
City Hall
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Feiszli, Aldermen Craig, Dye, Quail, Ferrer, Ferguson and Michales

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Patrick Perfetti

Mayor Feiszli called the twelfth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 6:05 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA:

Item No. 1 – Discussion of the SUNY Cortland Student Life Center Building Project and to Give Direction to Corporation Counsel for the City’s response letter to the SUNY Construction Fund.

Discussion ensued regarding the construction of SUNY Cortland Student Life Center Building. It was noted that the college’s property is in an R-1 residential zone and its building could impact residents. It was noted that this was giving the City the chance to ask for a balancing of interests.

Corporation Counsel Patrick Perfetti asked the Council members for some direction regarding a declaration to be lead agency in the permit process. The Common Council authorized the City Law Department to tell the State University Construction Fund that the City want to be lead agency and authorized Corporation Counsel to write a letter indicating that the City plans to apply zoning laws even though as a higher form of government, the state and the college, are usually exempt.

Aldermen indicated that they want the City to have that power and that they do not trust the Construction Fund or SUNY Cortland. Corporation Counsel Perfetti noted that if construction fund officials dispute the City’s wish to be lead agency, the decision would be made by the State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner. Corporation Counsel Perfetti noted that he expects the Construction Fund and SUNY Cortland officials to dispute the City becoming lead agency in the SEQR process.

Corporation Counsel Perfetti noted that the City would probably hire an attorney familiar with environmental law to conduct the environmental impact review. He did not give an estimate as to how much the review would cost the City.

City Aldermen noted that it seemed that designers for the Construction Fund and SUNY Cortland were proceeding without doing a thorough environmental review and ignoring whatever negative impacts they found.

Adjournment

By: Alderman Ferrer
Seconded: Alderman Craig

Approved: Ayes - 6
Nays - 0

I, CHERYL A. MASSMANN, DEPUTY CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, NEW YORK DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, HELD ON THE 6th DAY OF JUNE 2011. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED FOR HER CONCURRENCE IN ADOPTION OR REJECTION BY VETO POWER.

CHERYL A. MASSMANN, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

MAYOR FEISZLI