



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
March 16, 2021

Council Meeting #6
March 16, 2021
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Councilperson Kat McCarthy, Bruce Tytler, John Bennett, Jackie Chapman, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales, William Carpenter, Katy Silliman

Excused:

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Director of Finance Mack Cook, Police Chief Sandy, Fire Chief Friedman, City Clerk Raymond A. Parker

Public Hearing 1: Public Hearing on community impact of the 2016 CDBG Infrastructure Grant that provided funding for replacement of the Clinton Avenue Water Main.

Public Hearing was opened at 7:03pm.

Scott Burto explained that this is a 2016 project that Thoma wrote. It was a \$715,000 CDBG grant and we did utilize approximately \$280,000 of program income. The work has been completed by Adhan Construction. They installed approximately 3,623 feet of new water main on Clinton Avenue, including replacing 865 linear copper line to residents and installed 50 new curb stop switch off boxes, 9 new fire hydrants and 27 new gate valves. They also did 2100 linear feet of temporary asphalt and completed it with 2018 funds.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:07pm.

Public Hearing 2: Public Hearing on extending the Mayor's term to 4 years.

Public Hearing opened at 7:07pm. No one present to speak. Public Hearing closed at 7:09pm.

Public Hearing 3: Public Hearing on extending the Councilperson's term to 4 years.

Public Hearing opened at 7:09pm. No one present to speak. Public Hearing closed at 7:10pm

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the sixth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:10 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

No one present to speak.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Tobin would like to recognize Joseph Presioso who was a Firefighter from 1958-October of 1987 and served on the Fire Commission from 1994-2006 and Mr. Presioso celebrated his 95th birthday. Mayor Tobin commended him on his service.

The City is collaborating with Thoma Development and they are taking pre-applications for Small Business Program Loans and need greater participation in order for this application process to be successful. We have had approximately 30 applications that have gone out for this but we need to get them back.

Proclamation – April – Fair Housing Month

Request after Agenda item #1 to enter briefly into Executive Session for brief discussion on contract of a certain individual. Then after agenda item #10 to into Executive Session for contractual agreement with another municipality.

Would like to recognize Chief Catalano for 37 years of service with City Police Department. Chief Catalano spoke stating no regrets, has been a great run, he appreciates the members of Council, the Mayor, the Police Department and the community.

Resolution #63 of 2021 – Resolution to approve minutes from March 2, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter

Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #64 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the Exotic Pet permit for Paige Opera to have 5 chickens at 161 Elm St.

Councilperson Michales stated they have not purchased the chickens yet. He will do a final inspection once they have purchased the coop and chickens and when they get the fence up. He explained that there is a bald eagle in the area and to be aware of it. This is a nice family and he approves. Councilperson Silliman asked did they look into what neighbor thinks and Councilperson Michales stated yes as there is only one neighbor.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter

Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session

Mayor Tobin anticipates action to be taken with regards to a discussion about a contract with an individual.

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

A motion was made to exit out of Executive session

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #65 of 2021 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for a new Police Chief.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #66 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the Mayor’s recommendation of Paul Sandy for Police Chief.

Deputy Chief Paul Sandy was congratulated on becoming the new Police Chief.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #67 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Paul Sandy to be Chief of Police for the City of Cortland.

Paul Sandy thanked the Police Commission, Citizen Panel, Mayor Tobin and Council for their approval of him becoming the new Chief of Police.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #68 of 2021 – Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$3, 851.50 from the Capital Fund due to a reimbursement, transferred to the Police Clothing line (A3120.540800).

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #69 of 2021 – Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$6,500.00 in donations to the Community Oriented Policing Trust Account.

Deputy Chief Paul Sandy stated the donations were from Walmart and need to add \$750 to the amount above making the new total \$7,250.00.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #70 of 2021 – Resolution to adopt the 2021 Miscellaneous Revenue Budget incorporating the following expenditures:

• Tree Fund	\$10,000
• Sidewalk Repair Program	\$20,000
• Cortland Sports Council	\$12,500
• Downtown Music Series	\$5,000
• Administrative and Advertisement	\$500
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$48,000

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #8 – Presentation on the *Dairy Waste to Biogas to Electricity* project at the Cortland Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Bruce Adams from the Waste Water Treatment Facility did a presentation on the Dairy Waste to Biogas to Electricity project.

Item #9 – Discussion on the City’s plan on EO203.

There were some recommendations that are things that we already do but we value them as important enough to emphasize going forward their importance.

- De-escalation
- Engaging and involving Social Workers where appropriate when there is a problem
- Departments does follow up with complainants after an incidents to review questions and concerns that came forward
- Housing that addresses officers behavior off duty
- Use of Social Media off duty

Mayor Tobin discussed each section of the packet that was given to Council members. Mayor Tobin stated that he would like to do the public feedback survey every four years.

Councilperson Silliman stated that she really likes the switch from warrior to guardian in as far as the police mind set and policing in the community. Likes the idea of encouraging people on our police force to live within our community so that they are known as neighbors and people you bump into at the grocery store. Her question is how much were the ranking file involved this report and how much do they embrace it now that it is completed? Chief Catalano stated that most of this report was in the policy they have.

Councilperson Tytler spoke stating that they have an amazing community. This community is just incredible when he sees how many people stepped up to be part of the input into this report. Had numerous people representing some of our more marginalized community members at this meeting. Chief Catalano and Deputy Chief Sandy were involved. They were already thinking about if we have the Police Department that we think we have and by large we do. It has been proven by the all community input, the Mayor's public meetings and this survey. At the same time they found some weaknesses and need to work on them. Thank you to all who were involved in the meetings.

Resolution #71 of 2021 – Resolution approve the City of Cortland's response to the Governor's EO203 report.

Deputy Chief Sandy spoke stating that a number officers agreed on the report and are embracing the recommendation.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #10 – Covid-19 update

The City is still watching and taking violations serious. Councilperson Tytler stated that he got vaccinated and is encouraging people to get encouraged.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session

Contract negotiations with another municipality. They do not anticipate a vote.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman

Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett

Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy

Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

I, RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK FOR 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 16th DAY IN MARCH 2021. I FURTHER CERTIFY THE FOREGOING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR IN THE TIME REQUIRED FOR HIS CONCURRENCE IN ADOPTION OR REJECTION BY VETO POWER.

RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN