



City Council Minutes  
The City of Cortland  
**April 6, 2021**

Council Meeting #7  
**April 6, 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, Confidential Secretary Devon Rainbow

**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.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:06pm.

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

Public Hearing opened at 7:06pm. No one present to speak. Public Hearing closed at 7:08pm.

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

Public Hearing opened at 7:08pm.

Connie Sorrells commented that she is against the 4 year term for both the Mayor and Council. They should be reelected every 2 years if they are doing a good job and the public is happy with them.

Public Hearing closed at 7:10pm

**Regular Session:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments:**

No one present to speak.

**Ward Reports:**

Ward 1 – some concerns on Ridgeview with the solar project, lots of litter around due to the snow melting.

Ward 2 – there has been more activity on the hill, lots of litter around the neighborhood

Ward 3 – litter around the neighborhood, Thank you Deputy Chief Pierce for your many years of service.

Ward 4 – litter, lots of activity at the student houses with the nice weather.

Ward 5 – litter

Ward 6 – still working on getting the speed zone changed on route 13.

Ward 7 – complaints with the Clinton Ave construction and the traffic going through, there is a new suicide hot line to call, add an agenda item at the end of the current agenda regarding basketball courts.

Ward 8 – litter, Thank you Code office for helping with a couple issues, Thank you to Cindy Hartnet for your many years with Frank and Mary’s dinner. You will be missed. Thank you Fire Department and Youth Bureau for helping the Easter Bunny visit children in the City.

**Mayor’s Report:**

The snow melting has uncovered a lot of garbage that has been blown around. There will be a big City event for a community cleanup at the end of April with some of the student helping out. There will not be a Big Event with the college this year due to the pandemic. Add executive session at the end of the meeting for contract negotiations and add an additional agenda item.

**Resolution #72 of 2021** – Resolution to approve minutes from March 16, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #73 of 2021** – Resolution to approve the special event application for the Relay for Life event on Saturday, October 2, 2021 in Suggett Park from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #74 of 2021** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

<b><u>Donation</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Event/Project</u></b>	<b><u>Budget Line</u></b>
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Mason and June Morenus	\$100.00	In Memory of Fran Tokar	A-7110.5405
Total	\$100.00		

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Item #3** – Discussion on the Water and Sewer Lateral program. <http://www.cortland.org/481/Water-and-Sewer-Lateral-Program>

This is a grant with no cost to the residents. It is a very good opportunity. Please contact Thoma with any questions or concerns at 607-753-1433.

**Resolution #75 of 2021** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze within the Fire Department.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #76 of 2021** – Resolution to promote a Fire Captain to the position of Assistant Fire Chief 1.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #77 of 2021** – Resolution to promote a Firefighter to the position of Fire Captain.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #78 of 2021** – Resolution to hire an entry level Firefighter.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #79 of 2021** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for the Cortland City Police Department.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler  
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #80 of 2021** – Resolution to promote a Police Lieutenant to Deputy Chief of Police.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #81 of 2021** – Resolution to promote a Police Sergeant to Police Lieutenant.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter  
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #82 of 2021** – Resolution to immediately hire a new Police Officer to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Chief Catalano with a credentialed candidate to reduce overtime costs associated with covering the vacancy.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #83 of 2021** – Resolution to recognize and appropriate proceeds from the sale of 10 vehicles from the Police Impound lot as scrap to Contento's for \$2,467.50 and move the proceeds from revenue account to the Cortland City Police budget line 520600 Operating Equipment.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #84 of 2021** – Resolution to declare DPW equipment as surplus and sold on Auctions International for competitive bidding.

*1998 Ford 3930 Tractor  
2007 Chevy Tahoe*

2003 International Salt Truck  
1991 International Dump truck  
2005 Dodge 3500 Pickup w/plow  
1997 John Deere Loader  
2002 Ford Expedition  
Alitect CP16 Asphalt Grinder attachment for Gehl Skid steer  
(2) One way plow attachments for a John Deere Loader

*Various scrap metal items including some obsolete plows, mounts, attachment brackets and steel*

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy  
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #85 of 2021** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to hire a Senior Account Clerk in the Finance Office to fill a pending vacancy due to inter-department transfer.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #86 of 2021** – Resolution to hire a Senior Account Clerk in the Finance Office.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #87 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute and Option to Lease agreement with Davis Hill Development LLC to evaluate the feasibility of a solar electricity generation facility at the City's Rosen Property site.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Item #17** – Discussion and possible Consideration of a Resolution to adopt the City of Cortland's Public Employer Health Emergency Plan.

This will help prepare if there is ever another pandemic.

**Item #18** – Discussion on setting a date for a public hearing for adopting a Local Law Named “The Plumbing Code” to be placed in the code at a new Article 214.

A date was set for April 20, 2021.

**Item #19** – Set a date for a public hearing.

A date was set for April 20, 2021 for sign regulations.

A date was set for April 20, 2021 for the sale of property located at 79 River St.

**Item #20** – Discussion regarding the \$1,000,000 the City will be receiving from the federal government this year and next.

Some proposed ideas are:

- sidewalks
- cameras
- broadband

**Item #21** – Covid-19 update

More people are getting vaccinated and the numbers seem to be plateauing.

**Item #22** – Discussion on the City basketball courts

There are many residents that want the basketball courts opened. Although many other areas are doing this, the City will hold off until the middle of May and then revisit the situation.

**Resolution #88 of 2021** – Resolution to allow Dr. Porticella to park a vehicle on Court St for 6-8 hours on Wednesday April 14, 2021 and Saturday May 1, 2021.

This is in a 2 week study that Cornell University is doing with 18 City residence.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter

Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

**A motion was made to enter into Executive Session**

Contract negotiations.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman

Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

**A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session**

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Adjournment**

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
Seconded by: Councilperson McCarthy

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 6<sup>th</sup> DAY IN APRIL 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.**

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**RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK**

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**MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN**