



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
April 21, 2020

Council Meeting #9
April 21, 2020
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

Present: Aldermen Kat McCarthy, Katy Silliman, Bruce Tytler, John Bennett, Jacki Chapman, William Carpenter, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales,

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Director of Finance Mack Cook, Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Friedman, City Clerk Ray Parker, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow, Superintendent of WWTP Bruce Adams, Interim Director of Code Enforcement Mike TenKate

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the ninth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Tobin asks to move Public Comments to the end of the meeting.

Proclamation 1: Arbor Day (April 24, 2020)

Mayor Tobin read the proclamation.

Proclamation 2: Mental Health Awareness Month (May)

Mayor Tobin read the proclamation.

Resolution #95 of 2020 – Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 7, 2020 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #96 of 2020 – Motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of April 13, 2020 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Mayor Tobin asks Council to add an executive session at end of meeting for litigation with no action.

Resolution #97 of 2020 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute deeds or easement to the DEC for and Environmental Easement for City owned property at Noss Park.

City owns 8 acres at Noss Park which is located on S. Main St. It is still subject to testing by our engineers for reports to the DEC. The goal is to develop this property and to get it ready to sell it to some industrial or commercial buyer. In order to do that the DEC would like to be able to continue to test the dirt for as long as they need to and would like to be part of the chain of the title so that new owners would be subject to the easement and allow things to continue to be tested after it is sold.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Resolution #98 of 2020 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to designate Richard VanDonsel as temporary Zoning Enforcement Officer effective immediately through July 30, 2020.

With the furlough, there are still responsibilities to be filled. It only makes sense to have Ric VanDonsel fill in for now through July 30th.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8
 Nays – 0

Item #3 – Discussion on the City’s internal preparations regarding covid-19 and protection of employees regarding practices, procedures, and equipment needs.

In the beginning of this there were some adjustments made. Department heads made changes and had to reduce staffing to 25%. In terms of equipment, we had some real issues with Personal Protection Equipment at first. At this point we have adequate equipment for staff. We are maintaining protocols and holding ourselves responsible for our safety.

Item #4 – Discussion on Mayor’s recommendation to modify the City’s budget, and outlook for 2020 and budget planning for 2021.

It was difficult to make the decision to do the furlough of 18 employees. The state, County and local governments will have budget concerns. This is temporary and will be revisited at the July 21st meeting.

Item #5 – Discussion on the City’s enforcement efforts of social distancing, non-essential businesses operating in the City.

We (the City) have social distancing restrictions in place. City is receiving complaints regarding non-essential businesses (link is going on the City website). When a complaint is made an officer goes and talks to them. There is an increase in domestic situations. If it is out of the City limit is Sheriff. The City and Community is doing well - Great job! Stores and people are getting better.

Item #6 – Discussion on the collaboration of City departments with other entities, and communication with other government bodies.

Increased conversations with County Representatives about possibly having a plan with regional communities on the future. Need to have more discussions on how we should move forward from this.

Item #7 – Discussion of how to plan for the near future- what are our major concerns? How do we continue to encourage social distancing, and engage in healthy community behaviors?

We can help maintain strong mental health. The new norms, wave and say hello. Exercise, walk and wave to people. There are major concerns for children. We need to talk about what’s going on. Do games, puzzles, and books. We need to reach out to them for counseling and help. Maybe have a sidewalk/window art contest. May 5th is day of giving worldwide.

Groton Avenue and Clinton Avenue holes are bad. We are working on replacing water mains. There was a suggestion of trying to take alternate routes to get around the City.

Public Comments:

Amy Buggs stated that they are great ideas for the kids but wouldn’t the Youth Bureau have been a good asset to plan those types of ideas. If the County opens, can we reopen parks earlier? Mayor Tobin stated that if revenue increases, then changes can be made.

Motion to enter in to Executive Session:

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Motion exit Executive Session:

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett

Seconded by: Alderman Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter

Seconded by: Alderman 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 21ST DAY IN APRIL 2020. 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