



The City of Cortland
City Common Council Minutes
Council Meeting No. 9 of 2022

May 17, 2022

6:00 p.m.

City Hall, 25 Court Street and via Zoom

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the City Clerk called the roll. The following Common Council Members were in attendance:

Wayne Schutt – First Ward Alderperson
Katy Silliman – Second Ward Alderperson
Mary Clare Pennello – Third Ward Alderperson
Patricia Lane – Fourth Ward Alderperson
Seth Thompson - Fifth Ward Alderperson
William Carpenter – Sixth Ward Alderperson
Troy Beckwith – Seventh Ward Alderperson
Thomas Michales – Eighth Ward Alderperson

Salute to the Flag

Moment of Silence/Reflection

Privilege of the Floor

Cortland Fire Department Captain Drew Hill gave a report on the Department's Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fill the Boot Fundraiser held on the day of SUNY Cortland graduation ceremonies. The Department raised \$7,939.37 which is the most the event has raised. Captain Hill thanked the community and visitors and area businesses including Builders Best, Pontillos, Tompkins Trust Co., Citgo and Speedway. Police Chief Sandy offered to contribute to round the fundraising total to \$8,000.00.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor noted several community events taking place in June including the Dairy Parade (June 7), Randall Park renovation meeting with residents (June 8), the St. Anthony's Festival (June 11-12), Juneteenth Festival (June 18) and the Cortland LGBTQ Pride Festival (June 26).

He said the sidewalk replacement program is accepting applications. Sidewalks will be assessed and graded to encourage their repair and replacement.

The Mayor reported that Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) bids had been received and that a vetting process is being conducted. He asked the Common Council to reschedule the June 21, 2022 meeting for June 14, 2022 to expedite the award process. The Common Council later agreed to reschedule the meeting as requested.

Ward Reports

- Ward 1: Council Member Schutt said he received complaints about vehicle speed and thanked the Police Department for their response. He said the City will put up solar powered flashing stop signs in problem areas. Mr. Schutt also said that residents have commented to him that the City is looking better, and that they noted yard waste pick up and trash enforcement as examples.
- Ward 2: Council Member Silliman indicated that she is looking forward to working with Council Member Lane on the Town and Gown Ad Hoc Committee. She noted that the Department of Public Works (DPW) replaced a traffic light on Court Street and picked up brush. She asked if there is a tip line for bad sidewalks and hazards. She also noted a trip hazard on Graham Avenue that is being addressed by the owner. The Mayor indicated that a reporting process is available on the City website. Ms. Silliman said she received correspondence from two constituents opposed to proposed changes in the retiree health insurance program. She also said that that income properties should not be eligible for reimbursement for sidewalk repairs under the program the Common Council approved.
- Ward 3: Council Member Pennello said she heard compliments from people that the City is in better shape.
- Ward 4: Council Member Lane said she received correspondence from two retirees who do not want changes to the retiree health insurance program to be made. She said she received a complaint about a house on Broadway which she is looking into. She also said she received questions about when the crosswalk near Barry School would be repainted. The Mayor replied that it will be done this week. Ms. Lane also said that that income properties should not be eligible for reimbursement for sidewalk repairs under the program the Common Council approved.
- Ward 5: Council Member Thompson
- Ward 6: Council Member Carpenter
- Ward 7: Council Member Beckwith
- Ward 8: Council Member Michales

Finance Report

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 3, 2022 were approved.

Motioned by: Council Member Beckwith
Seconded by: Council Member Carpenter
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 87 of 2022 Approve Special Event and Related Permits for Juneteenth Festival

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby approve a Special Event Permit, a Sound Device Permit without fee, and an Operating Permit for the Juneteenth Festival to be held on June 18, 2022.

Motioned by: Council Member Carpenter
Seconded by: Council Member Silliman
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 88 of 2022 Approve Special Event and Related Permits for Cortland LGBTQ Pride Festival

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby approve a Special Event Permit, a Sound Device Permit without fee, and an Operating Permit for the Cortland LGBTQ Pride Festival to be held from Noon to 3:00 p.m. on June 26, 2022.

Motioned by: Council Member Lane
Seconded by: Council Member Schutt
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 89 of 2022 Approve Special Event and Related Permits for Arts Off Main

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby approve a Special Event Permit, a Sound Device Permit without fee, and an Operating Permit for the Arts Off Main Festival to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on August 6, 2022.

Motioned by: Council Member Schutt
Seconded by: Council Member Pennello
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 90 of 2022 Cancel June 7, 2022 Common Council Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby cancel its meeting scheduled for June 7, 2022 so that the Mayor and members of the Common Council may participate in the Dairy Parade and/or show their support for the dairy industry by attending the parade.

Motioned by: Council Member Schutt
Seconded by: Council Member Carpenter
Discussion: The Common Council also agreed to move the Council meeting scheduled for June 21, 2022 to June 14, 2022.
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 91 of 2022 Appoint Member to Cortland Housing Authority Board

RESOLVED, that Merle McKown is hereby reappointed to the Cortland Housing Authority Board for a term beginning June 1, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2026.

Motioned by: Council Member Pennello
Seconded by: Council Member Carpenter
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 92 of 2022 Authorize Agreement to Supersede Previously Approved Option Agreement to Evaluate Feasibility of a Solar Energy Production Facility at 136 South Pendleton Street

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an Option Agreement on behalf of the City of Cortland with Davis Hill Development, LLC for a period of six (6) months, in exchange for an extension fee in the amount of \$250.00 to allow for the continuation of evaluating the feasibility of a solar energy production site at 136 South Pendleton Street; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this agreement shall supersede any previously executed agreement between the City of Cortland and Davis Hill Development, LLC, whereby making the terms of any such previously executed agreement null, void, and unenforceable; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this agreement shall not constitute a lease agreement between the parties and does not confer any landlord/tenant relationship between the City of Cortland and Davis Hill Development, LLC, and any future extensions shall require an additional agreement subject to Council approval.

Motioned by: Council Member Silliman
Seconded by: Council Member Michales

Discussion: The mayor explained that the property is not able to be developed due to its environmental status, but that solar panels could be installed without damaging the environmental liner. The Mayor said he would ask the Council for approval for additional stages of work.

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution No. 93 of 2022 Authorize Administrative Contract for 2021 New York Main Street Anchor Grant

RESOLVED, that the City authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Thoma Development Consultants to administer the City’s 2021 New York Main Street Anchor Grant, pending formal approval from the New York State Office of Community Renewal.

Motioned by: Council Member Silliman
Seconded by: Council Member Pennello
Discussion:
Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Discussion Items

Discussion Item No. 1 Local Law Regarding Vermin/Nuisance Animal Removal

A public hearing will be held at the June 14, 2022 Common Council meeting on a local law to update the City Code for the City to reimburse residents 50% of costs for removal of woodchucks and other nuisance animals and vermin.

Discussion Item No. 2 Parker School Ad Hoc Planning Committee

A meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2022 among principle members to discuss skills that are needed in bringing additional community members onto the committee.

Discussion Item No. 3 Trash and Recycling Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

Mr. Thompson reported that the committee met to review options and will gather constituent feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. on motion of Council Member Schutt, seconded by Council Member Carpenter, and approved by a vote of 8-0.

I, ANDREW T. JEWETT, 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 17TH DAY IN MAY, 2022. 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.

ANDREW T. JEWETT, CITY CLERK

SCOTT STEVE, MAYOR