



The City of Cortland  
City Common Council Minutes  
Council Meeting No. 10 of 2022

**June 14, 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 6:01 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  
William Carpenter – Sixth Ward Alderperson  
Troy Beckwith – Seventh Ward Alderperson  
Thomas Michales – Eighth Ward Alderperson

The following Common Council Member was recorded absent:

Seth Thompson - Fifth Ward Alderperson

**Salute to the Flag**

**Moment of Silence/Reflection**

**Proclamations/Presentations**

**Proclamation No. 1**

**Congratulating and Recognizing the Cortland High School Varsity  
Baseball Team on Winning the Section III Class A Championship**

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Cortland hereby commends, congratulates, and gives special recognition to the Cortland High School Varsity Baseball team for its extraordinary achievement of winning the Section III Class A Championship and for its appearance in the state baseball tournament.

Motioned by: Council Member Carpenter

Seconded by: Council Member Michales

Discussion: Members of the Cortland Varsity Baseball team and their coaches were present. The Mayor congratulated the team on their success and presented a plaque to the team, and a copy of the resolution to each player and coach.

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

### **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor said that he attended a graduation ceremony for new City firefighters.

He noted several community events including the Fire Department's Touch A Truck event which had an estimated 2,500 participants.

The Mayor said that the Clinton Avenue Phase III work had started and that construction updates are available at [www.crowncityrising.com](http://www.crowncityrising.com)

### **Finance Report**

The Mayor noted that financial statements had been provided to Council members and had been posted publicly to the City's website.

### **Ward Reports**

Ward 1: Council Member Schutt said there had been incidents of motorists failing to stop at the intersection of Madison Street and Hamlin Street. He said that flashing stop signs have been ordered for this intersection.

Ward 2: Council Member Silliman said that an apartment rental agency had reported squatters to the Police department. She thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) for removing shoes from utility lines in college housing areas. She received a comment from a constituent who did not want any change in trash collection to include special bins, and a question regarding the status of Parker School. She asked if Maple Avenue would be paved. The Mayor replied that it would be paved in August.

Ward 3: Council Member Pennello said that several codes issues were being addressed and that the little library at the Water Works had been installed.

Ward 4: Council Member Lane noted that traffic in the area has been reduced since college graduation. She said a resident raised a code issue which was promptly addressed, as was a question about a property on Broadway.

Ward 6: Council Member Carpenter attended the Youth Bureau's public information session on the Randall Park renovations. He said the session was well attended and he is happy that the project is underway.

Ward 7: Council Member Beckwith thanked the Mayor and others for their efforts in finding a new route for the Dairy Parade and for putting U.S. Flags up along Homer Avenue. He said a problem on Cleveland Avenue is being handled with the help of the Mayor, Law Department and Codes Office.

Ward 8: Council Member Michales said there have been complaints about a motorcyclist speeding, which the Police Department is aware of. He said code related issues on Kellogg Road involving debris has been resolved. He thanked DPW for debris cleanup on the corner of William Street and Greenbush Street. Mr. Michales wants to get resident’s opinions about 4-way stop signs at several intersections including Church Street which has incidents of excessive speeding.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of May 17, 2022 were approved.

Motioned by: Council Member Beckwith

Seconded by: Council Member Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 94 of 2022 Sidewalk Program Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

RESOLVED, that it is hereby disclosed to the Common Council and the public that Constance Sorrells, Derek Reynolds, Andrea Piedigrossi and Linda Piedigrossi, having ties to the City of Cortland, have submitted applications for funding through the City’s Sidewalk Program; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Common Council, upon the Opinion of Counsel letter, concur that their participation does not violate City or State law, and that said applications may be accepted pursuant to established policies of the program.

Motioned by: Council Member Carpenter

Seconded by: Council Member Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 95 of 2022 Authorize Agreement with Syracuse Signal for Traffic Signal Upgrade Project in the Intersection of Elm Street and Pomeroy Street**

RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with Syracuse Signal for replacement of a traffic signal in the amount of \$96,155.54 for work that will commence within 60 days.

Motioned by: Council Member Schutt

Seconded by: Council Member Silliman

Discussion: Council Member Beckwith asked if pedestrian crosswalk striping would be done at the intersection. DPW Superintendent Dovi said the striping would be done immediately after the traffic signal installation. Mr. Beckwith said that this traffic signal replacement project was approximately \$30,000 cheaper than the previous replacement due to refurbished poles being used.

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 96 of 2022                      Authorize Agreement with Adhan Piping for Curb and Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Project**

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with Adhan Piping in the amount of \$775,000.00 for removal of existing curbing, installation of new curbing, and replacement or rehabilitation of curb ramps.

Motioned by: Council Member Beckwith

Seconded by: Council Member Schutt

Discussion: Mr. Dovi provided an overview of the project, saying that an assessment of streets was conducted and the north end of Floral Avenue and the west ends of Maple Avenue and Lincoln Avenue were selected for this work. He added that no utility work was expected to be needed on these streets.

Approved:        Ayes – 7  
                      Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 97 of 2022                      Amend the 2022 Adopted General Fund Budget for Increases in the New York State 2022/2023 Budget for Assistance for City Street repairs.**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Public Works Commission that the City’s 2022 General Fund Adopted Budget be amended to reflect the following uses of available funding:

- Expenditure of \$385,444.39 of available CHIPS funding for repair towards repair streets and curbing;
- Expenditure of \$176,111.93 of available CHIPS funding for repair towards equipment purchases;
- Expenditure of \$172,149.57 of available EWR funding towards repair of streets and curbing;
- Expenditure of \$109,008.93 of available PaveNY funding towards repair of streets and curbing;
- Expenditure of \$992,565.54 of available Touring Route funding towards repair of streets, curbing and traffic signals;
- Expenditure of \$64,583.08 of available POP funding for repair towards repair of streets and curbing.

Motioned by: Council Member Carpenter

Seconded by: Council Member Michales

Approved:        Ayes – 7  
                      Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 98 of 2022                      Authorize Agreement with CCI Companies Inc. for Construction Related to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with CCI Companies, Inc. in the amount of \$11,844,430.83 for construction work related to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) project; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to allocate the necessary funds from the City's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan in an amount up to \$1,500,000.00 to cover the shortfall in DRI allocated funds for this project, and execute required documentation, if any, to facilitate the same.

Motioned by: Council Member Carpenter

Seconded by: Council Member Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 99 of 2022                      Authorize Execution of Collective Bargaining Agreement on Behalf of the City of Cortland with the Cortland Police Benevolent Association**

RESOLVED, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Cortland Police Benevolent Association, Inc. and the City of Cortland is hereby by approved and ratified; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute said Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of the City of Cortland with the Cortland Police Benevolent Association, Inc. for a period dated January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

Motioned by: Council Member Beckwith

Seconded by: Council Member Schutt

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Resolution No. 100 of 2022                      Appoint Cortland Youth Bureau Deputy Director**

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby approve the promotion of Heather Johnson as Cortland Youth Bureau Deputy Director effective June 14, 2022 at a salary of \$57,000.

Motioned by: Council Member

Seconded by: Council Member

Discussion: Youth Bureau Director Andrea Piedigrossi said that department staffing was reviewed, and need for additional administrative staff was identified. The Deputy Director position has been vacant since 2013. The Mayor said that this restructuring effort is expected to save money over time.

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0

**Discussion Items**

**Discussion Item No. 1                      Director of Administration and Finance**

Council Member Pennello said the Executive Personnel Committee has a draft of a job description for the position which will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

**Discussion Item No. 2                      Parker School Ad Hoc Committee**

Council Member Silliman said that a walk though was done with committee members and CAPCO and the YWCA to identify areas for their operation. She said several security and safety issues were identified. She said architectural plans will be reviewed. She noted that project costs were based on estimates done several years ago and that CAPCO and the YWCA would look at what can be done within current financial constraints. Mr. Beckwith said that other tenants will need to be identified. Ms. Pennello noted that each agency has downsized the number of child care classrooms and may not need as much space as anticipated earlier.

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

The Mayor said that an online survey asking residents opinions about trash and recycling options was being conducted and that survey results would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

**Discussion Item No. 4                      Town and Gown Ad Hoc Planning Committee**

The Mayor said he has been trying to schedule a meeting with college officials.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. on motion of Council Member Schutt, seconded by Council Member Beckwith, and approved by a vote of 7-0.

**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 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN JUNE, 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.**

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**ANDREW T. JEWETT, CITY CLERK**

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**SCOTT STEVE, MAYOR**