



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
June 15, 2021

Council Meeting #12
June 15, 2021
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

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

Excused: Councilperson William Carpenter

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 on the Hubbard St. Parking

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:03pm.

No one was present to speak.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:06pm.

Public Hearing to facilitate public input prior to submission of fiscal year 2021 Community Development Block Grant applications.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:06pm.

No one was present to speak.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:08pm.

Public Hearing to facilitate public input prior to submission of a fiscal year 2021 Community Development Block Grant application funded under the CARES ACT.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:08pm.

No one was present to speak.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:09pm

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the twelfth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:04 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

- Timothy Thompson- This Saturday, Juneteenth Event, Educational event with speakers, food, and entertainment.
- William Diesher- Asked about Council meetings happening in-person in the near future.
- Amy Buggs- Shared that they are hosting “Back to Work Career Fair” on Tuesday, June 22 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at SUNY Cortland Park Center.

Ward Reports:

- Ward 8- Odor complaint from Waste Water Facility. New misting system at facility to help with odors.
- Ward 7- Clean up around City Hall, progress on Clinton Avenue is looking well.
- Ward 6- Quiet. Councilperson has a work obligation and was not present at meeting.
- Ward 5- Quiet.
- Ward 4- Quiet.
- Ward 3- Clean up City Hall, Dairy Parade was a success.
- Ward 2- Thanked council for patience as she has Lymphoma and family crisis. Got a call from a constituent to be asked when roads being worked on would be paved. Another constituent called to speak against parking on Hubbard Street. Place curbs on Pleasant Street.
- Ward 1- Hubbard St. parking, Yard waste collection.

Mayor’s Report:

- Mayor Tobin expressed the need for an executive session at the end of the meeting for contract negotiations.

Proclamations

- Mayor Tobin read a proclamation for Flag Day.
- Mayor Tobin read a proclamation for Pride Month.

Resolution #150 of 2021 – Resolution to approve minutes from May 18, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Item #1 – Update on infrastructure work in City.

Nic Dovi, Superintendent of Public Works speaks. All information of updates are posted on City website. Brush collection and paving of streets starts next week. Week of June 21st: Franklin, Salisbury, and Plaza Drive. Week of June 28th: Woods, Pleasant, Floral and VanHausen. Week of July 5th, Excelsior and catch up work.

Resolution #151 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with all other required application for “Porch Fest” on August 15, 2021 from 12PM-5PM.

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy

Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #152 of 2021 – Resolution to waive the fees for “Porch Fest”.

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #153 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with all other required applications for “Overdose Awareness Vigil” on August 31, 2021 from 6PM-9PM in Courthouse Park.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #154 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with all other required applications for “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fundraiser” on July 17, 2021 from 3PM – 8PM in Courthouse Park.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #155 of 2021 – Resolution to waive the fees for “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fundraiser”.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #156 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with all other required applications for “Reunion for the Ages Benefit Concert” on July 31, 2021 from 12PM – 10PM.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #157 of 2021 – Resolution to waive the fees for “Reunion for the Ages Benefit Concert”.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #158 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit for 3 chickens (hens) located at 216 Main St.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #159 of 2021- Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit for 2 chickens (hens) located at 11 Halbert St.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #160 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the street closure on Harrington Ave for a graduation party on July 16, 2021 from 3PM – 8PM.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #161 of 2021 – Resolution to approve a request for subordination of a City Mortgage to facilitate a new mortgage on property located at 15 Hamlin Street per recommendation of the City’s Loan Committee”.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #162 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign and submit a Community Development Block Grant application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal seeking funds for a Microenterprise Assistance Program, to authorize the Mayor to execute a grant

agreement with the funding source upon award of said grant to the City, and to undertake any other action(s) necessary to implement the grant or grant Program.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #163 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign and submit a Community Development Block Grant application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal seeking funds for a public infrastructure project on Kellogg Road to replace the public water supply, to authorize the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with the funding source upon award of said grant to the City, and to undertake any other action(s) necessary to implement the grant or grant Program.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #164 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign and submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application pursuant to the CDBG/CARES ACT to the New York State Office of Community Renewal seeking funds for multiple activities including COVID related work at City Hall and the City Parks, and for a program to assist small businesses impacted by COVID 19, to authorize the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with the funding source upon award of said grant to the City, and to undertake any other action(s) necessary to implement the grant or grant program or activities.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #165 of 2021 - Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign and submit an application under the New York State Main Street Program seeking funds for an “Anchor Grant” to assist in the rehabilitation of property located at 107-111 Main Street, to authorize the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with the funding source upon award of said grant to the City, and to undertake any other action(s) necessary to implement the grant or grant Program.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #166 of 2021- Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cortland to sign and submit an application to the New York State Department of State under the Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Program seeking funds to update the City’s Comprehensive Plan, to authorize the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with the funding source upon award of said grant to the City, and to undertake any other action(s) necessary to implement the grant or grant Program.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #17 – Discussion/Presentation regarding the reconstruction of Groton Avenue from Otter Creek to Main Street and how to move forward with contracting an engineering firm.

Mike Altieri speaks on behalf of BCA Architects & Engineers. BCA has been working on other projects throughout the city, including the reconstruction of Clinton Ave. The Groton Ave project is a complete upgrade. New Water distribution systems, new rain collection system, new traffic signals, entirely new road ways, new curbing, new sidewalks, new storm management systems. Loan from Clinton Ave project funds were shifted over to Groton Ave and an EPA loan, which is 35 years and has an interest rate of 1%, entirely covers the cost of the Groton Ave project. Construction costs of Groton Ave project is around \$8M. Engineering costs are assessed at \$995,000. The Groton Ave project is projected to be complete by 2025.

Resolution #167 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with BCA Architects & Engineers to engineer and design the Groton Avenue reconstruction project from Otter Creek to Main Street in the City of Cortland.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #168 of 2021- Resolution to adopt a City press release policy.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #169 of 2021 – Resolution to allow the Cortland City Police Department to retain a civilian for additional help with the re-accreditation process scheduled for this fall, which has been severely hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic with the furlough of a Records Clerk and other duties taking precedent over the re-accreditation process, at a wage not to exceed \$25.0 per hour.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #170 of 2021 – Resolution of a local law to change the Term of office of Mayor to four years.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #171 of 2021 – Resolution of a local law to change the term of Councilperson to four years.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #172 of 2021 – Resolution to declare as surplus office equipment (credenza) from the law department.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #173 of 2021 – Resolution to accept a bid of \$20.00 for surplus office equipment (credenza) from the law department from Joseph Hicks.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #174 of 2021 – Resolution to rescind Resolution Number 59 of 2021 Resolution to retain the services of Bonadio & Company LLP to review of existing accounting systems and processes and rendered assistance in implementing necessary systems revisions at a cost not to exceed \$18,000.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #175 of 2021 – Resolution to amend Resolution Number 56 to allow the hiring of an Accountant affective April 1, 2021 at a salary not to exceed \$55,000 a year change the amount to \$70,000 effective May 1, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 1 (Councilperson Beckwith)

Item #26 – Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the County of Cortland and other municipalities regarding administration of the Workers Compensation Collective.
Motion was made to table this item until the July 6th Common Council Meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #27 – SEQR for Green Innovation Grant Program.
Ric VanDonsel speaks on SEQR project. Two phases to project. First phase is to plan and develop engineering grant. Second phase is implementing those engineering suggestions and plans discussed in the first phase.

Resolution #176 of 2021 – Resolution to consider the City of Cortland the lead agency on the SEQR process.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #177 of 2021 – Resolution to declare a negative declaration regarding the SEQR process.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Item #28 – Discussion regarding older CDBG loans and possible consideration of writing off aged delinquent loans.
The City is making progress with getting some of these paid back.

Item #29 – COVID-19 update.

Gov. Cuomo announced New York State population has reach 70% vaccinated. All restrictions do to COVID-19 in public spaces and on public and social gatherings are lifted. As we move forward, Council meetings being moved back to in-person meetings at City Hall are being considered but coordination with the Court system in City Hall.

Item #30 – Update on the City’s portion of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative for downtown.

Not looking to begin construction on Main Street with the DRI until the 2022 construction season. A specific date cannot be given, but bidding will begin this summer. Want to see all business 100% accessible while construction is taking place. “The Pocket Park” project is having some problems with the adjacent property owner giving permission to access to a right away. Exploring the option of having a permanent stage in Market Place Mall instead of Pocket Park. Will lose six parking spots.

Item #31 – Discussion on problems arising from Exotic Pet Permit applications.

Councilperson Michales speaks. No tracking of Exotic Pet Permit applicants. Tracking of applicants and their renewal should be looked at and considered. Consideration of SPCA to be leading agency to track exotic pet permit applicants. Work with the City Clerk’s Office to create a resolution to combat these Exotic Pet Permit problems.

Item #32 – Set a date for a public hearing regarding rezoning on River and Port Watson Street.

Public hearing is set for July 6th, 2021.

Item #33 – SEQR for North Greenbush and Washington Street.

Resolution #178 of 2021 – Resolution of a type one action regarding the full environmental assessment of North Greenbush and Washington Street.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #179 of 2021 – Resolution for the Mayor to enter into an MOU with SEIU.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
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 15th DAY IN JUNE 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