



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
August 3, 2021

Council Meeting #15
August 3, 2021
Via City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Councilperson Kat McCarthy, Katy Silliman, Bruce Tytler, Bill Carpenter, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales

Excused: Councilperson Jackie Chapman, John Bennett

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Police Chief Sandy, Fire Chief Wayne Friedman, City Clerk Raymond A. Parker, Confidential Secretary Devon Rainbow

Public Hearing to hear comments to close a portion of Alvena Ave.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:07pm.

No one was present to speak

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:09pm.

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the fifteenth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:09 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

- Amy Buggs – would like to ask for an agenda item to be added to approve a chicken bbq at the Porch Fest event on Sunday, August 15.
- Connie Sorrells – would like to show her support for the new Byrne Dairy project. This will be a good thing for the City.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1 – attended the public meeting regarding the changes/ plans for the hospital

Ward 2 – quiet, people keep throwing shoes over the wires

Ward 3 – quiet

Ward 6 – working with the NYS DOT regarding the speed zone on route 13

Ward 7 – quiet

Ward 8 – attended the event Reunion of the Ages. This was a great event that the Mayor received an award/plaque.

Mayor’s Report:

- Mayor Tobin read a proclamation in recognition of the contributions by Sue Dale-Hall in the field of childcare for our community

Resolution #205 of 2021 – Resolution to approve minutes from July 20, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
 Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #206 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the chicken BBQ for porch fest.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
 Seconded by: Councilperson McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Item #1 – Update on infrastructure work in City.

Nic Dovi explained that they are on schedule for all the paving and repairs. Phase 1 of the Clinton ave project is 95% complete. Phase 3 is on schedule.

Item #2 – Discussion regarding the Suggett Park Basketball Court renovation project.

Andrea and John explained that they have received many generous donations for the project. DPW and Suit Cote will be doing the work. They are trying to coordinate the grinding and repaving with the work that will be done on a nearby street. They are looking to start work in September and completing it in the spring of 2022. Lowes and Valspar paint are donating all the supplies and some volunteers to help with the project. They are selling t-shirts to also help fund the project.

Resolution #207 of 2021 – Resolution to Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

Donation	Amount	Event/Project	Budget Line
Bailey Place Ins.	\$10,000.00	Suggett Park Basketball Court	T65 Trust & Agency
Total	\$10,000.00		

Thank you!

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
 Seconded by: Councilperson McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #208 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the second annual, “Community Matters” Fair in Suggett Park on Sunday September 5, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #209 of 2021 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for the Cortland City Police Department to fill two positions effective immediately.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #210 of 2021 – Resolution to allow the Cortland City Police Department to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Officer Jesse Abbott and a second position. The department will fill the Community Oriented Policing position as soon as staffing levels allow.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #211 of 2021 – Resolution to allow the annual 911 Ceremony (including a street closure) for Saturday, September 11 from 5pm until 11am

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #212 of 2021 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to hire a Water Distribution Maintenance Worker at the Water Department (currently vacant), and an MEO Heavy Sewer Operator at the Department of Public Works. This position will be officially vacated as of September 3rd, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #213 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the hiring of a Water Distribution Maintenance Worker at the Water Department immediately, and an MEO Heavy Sewer Operator at the Department of Public Works effective September 3, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #214 of 2021 – Resolution to approve a Local Law for the Fire Department Cost Recovery Program.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #215 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute three DPW related contracts/service agreements.

1. Lease with ARC Cortland Armory
2. Orkin Pest Control
3. Syracuse Time and Alarm Co.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #216 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the exotic pet permit for chickens at 16 Willow Ave.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #13 – Discussion on Air BNB/VRBO.

Currently the City has no regulations on these. The Council ask that the Zoning Officer come up with some regulations and present it to them. Some areas have an occupancy tax placed on the rentals.

Item #14 – Discussion regarding potential changes to the City’s Zoning Code.

This is ready for a public hearing.

Item #15 – Discussion regarding a proposed City-wide credit card policy.

The policy looks accurate and Council is ready to vote on it.

Resolution #217 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the City-wide credit card policy.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session regarding personnel, labor negotiations, and labor issues.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #218 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize the mayor to file a response with the Comptroller’s Office regarding the city’s Corrective Action Plan (CAP) in response to the Comptroller’s Office Audit.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #17 – Discussion of options for appropriating the American Rescue Plan Funds.
Council members would like to see the funding go towards:

- Sidewalks
- WW1 memorial
- Child care workers
- Infrastructure
- Middle income home repair program
- Tennis courts/parks

Adjournment

Motioned by: Councilperson McCarthy
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
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 3rd DAY IN AUGUST 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