



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
September 7, 2021

Council Meeting #17
September 7, 2021
Via City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Councilperson John Bennett, Sam Adams (7:30 PM), Bruce Tytler, Bill Carpenter, Jackie Chapman (7:37 PM), Troy Beckwith

Excused: Councilperson Katy Silliman, Tom Michales

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, City Clerk Raymond A. Parker, Confidential Secretary Devon Rainbow

Public Hearing regarding EO203 and increasing the number of members on Police commission. This expands the commission from 3 to 5 members.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:05pm.

No one was present to speak

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

Public Hearing on making Valley View Drive an all way stop at the entrance to the Cortland JR. Sr. High school.

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

No one was present to speak

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

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the seventeenth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:07 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ward Reports:

Ward 3 – The students are back and not obeying the rules. They have been very loud at night and into the early morning hours.

Ward 4 – Concerns with the construction that is still underway on Delaware Ave. Residents are getting impatient. There is a lot of litter from the students on Tompkins St. from the parties.

Ward 6 – Quiet

Ward 7 – The new owner of the old Apex building has been working hard on the demolition of the building. Things are moving along.

Mayor’s Report:

Thank you to Roy Everett for walking the City, talking to the students as they move back into the City. It’s nice to meet with them and let them know what is expected while they are here. People have been submitting a COVID safety plan for events that may have 50 or more people in attendance. Mayor Tobin read a letter to Paul Paradine thanking him for his donation of a tree to the City and his work with the redevelopment of the former Brownfield.

The Mayor asked for an Executive session at the end for contractual matters.

Public Comments:

Joey Maynard – Has a food truck and would like to work with the City to find a place that he can park and work.

Gerry Ruggiero – Concerns with the Zoning enforcement, the new law regarding 4 year terms, and the Comptrollers Audit that has come out.

Resolution #226 of 2021 – Resolution to approve minutes from August 17, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0

Resolution #227 of 2021 – Resolution to acknowledge receipt of a letter of resignation from Kat McCarthy, relinquishing her position as First Ward Councilmember.

Thank you Kat for all your hard work and dedication.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 4
Nays – 0

Resolution #228 of 2021 – Resolution to appoint Sam Adams to fulfill the term of First Ward Councilmember from September 7 2021 until December 31, 2021.

Welcome Sam Adams!

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 4
 Nays – 0

Resolution #229 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the change of title for a previously approved hire from a Youth Services Specialist to a Recreation Supervisor position at the Cortland Youth Bureau.

Entry level position. After further discussion with staff, civil service and the Mayor. The salary is budgeted.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith
 Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #230 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the special event application and all other required applications for CNY Wellness Festival on Saturday October 9, 2021 from 9AM – 5PM in Courthouse Park.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
 Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #231 of 2021 – Resolution to waive the fees associated with the CNY Wellness Festival.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
 Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #232 of 2021 – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

Donation	Amount	Event/Project	Budget Line
Joe Cortese & Molly Lane	\$200.00	Porch Fest	A-7550.5405
Mr. Alex Hair Fashions	\$100.00	Porch Fest	A-7550.5405
Cash Donation	\$1,630.00	Porch Fest	A-7550.5405
Total	\$1,930.00		

Thank you!

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
 Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #233 of 2021 – Resolution to allow a sound device permit on September 9, 2021 for, “The Squeeze Juice Bar” at 105 Main Street from 3-7pm. A DJ will play music the help celebrate the grand opening of the Squeeze in its new location.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Adams

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #234 of 2021 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Grant Agreement with the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and all other contracts, documents, and instruments necessary to bring about the project and to fulfill the City of Cortland’s obligations under the Grant Agreement. The grant is an Engineering Planning Grant for a potential Aeration System Upgrade project.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

Resolution #235 of 2021 – Resolution that the City of Cortland authorizes and appropriates a minimum 20 percent local match as required by the Engineering Planning Grant Program for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration System Upgrade study. Under the EPG program, this local match must be at least 20 percent of the EPG grant award of \$24,000. The source of the local match, and any amount more than the required match, shall be provided by the Sewer Fund. The maximum local match shall not exceed \$4,800.00 based upon a total estimated maximum project cost of \$24,000. The Mayor may increase this local match using in-kind services without further approval from the City of Cortland.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter
Seconded by: Councilperson Adams

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Item #10 – Consideration of a Resolution to Cancel the Loan Agreement with Cortland Rural Cemetery, Inc. and Forego Collection of all Advances and Accrued Interest made Thereon:

Whereas: in December 2018 the City and the Cortland Entered in an installment loan agreement when in the City would advance the Cemetery funds to sustain operations, and

Whereas: In January 2019 the City advanced \$8,000 to the Cemetery, and

Whereas: Pursuant to the installment agreement the City is not to receive any repayments during the first ten years of the advance, and

Whereas: the City is to receive the full amount of the loan plus interest on December 18, 2028, and

Whereas: The Board of the Cemetery has decided that it is in the best interest of the Cemetery all assets to Forest Lawn Incorporated, and

Whereas: As a condition precedent to the transferred Forest Lawn, Inc. is requiring that all indebtedness to the City be cancelled, and

Whereas: the Common Council of the City deems it in the best interest of the City and its residents to fully cooperate with the Cortland Rural Cemetery as it undertakes such actions that enhances the financial and operational sustainability.

Therefore be it resolved that the City is forgiving all advances and accrued interest there under owed to the City by the Cortland Rural Cemetery, Inc.

Council asked for information regarding the company taking over the loan from the City.

A motion was made to table this item until the September 21 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith

Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Item #11 – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt funding priorities for the American Rescue Plan funds. (Mayor Tobin)

A motion was made to table this item until the next meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler

Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Item #12 – Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with SEIU.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Item #13 – Discussion regarding the status of Parker School, and the proposal to turn it into an early childhood education center for daycare, Head Start, and Early Head Start.

The YWCA and CAPCO would like to move along with the project and start putting out RFP's for construction in the building. Council decided that it has been a long time since this project has been talked about. Everything got put on hold because of the pandemic. Council would like a refresher of what is going to be expected.

Item #14 – Discussion on the opportunity for the city to collaborate with the County Planner to determine new ward boundaries, based upon the recently completed 2020 Census. This can include changing boundaries, and potentially the number of council members.

The new census suggest possibly changing the boundaries. Council is interested in hearing about the possible changes.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session regarding contract negotiations

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett

Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #236 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the sound device permit for the Chamber’s Event on September 23, 2021 from 12PM – 7PM.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

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 7th DAY IN SEPTEMBER 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