



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
October 5, 2021

Council Meeting #19
October 5, 2021
Via City Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brian Tobin, Councilperson Sam Adams, Bruce Tytler, Katy Silliman, Tom Michales, Jackie Chapman, Troy Beckwith

Excused: Councilperson John Bennett, Bill Carpenter

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

Public Hearing: regarding the rezoning of a piece of property on River/Port Watson St. Tax Id #87.53-03-16.200.

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

Larry Knickerbocker spoke regarding the concerns with the City's composition plan, the aquifer, increase in traffic, and spot zoning.

Joe McMahon in the Chairman of the City's Planning Commission. He stated that the board reviewed the proposed project for this site and had no concerns or issues. There was a traffic study done and submitted.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:11 PM.

Public Hearing: regarding the abandonment of a portion of Alvena Avenue.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:11 PM.

No one was present to speak.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:14 PM.

Public Hearing: for the effectiveness and impact of Community Development Block Grant 285PW130-18 project known as Clinton Avenue/North Greenbush and Washington Street Infrastructure Project.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:14 PM.

No one was present to speak.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:16 PM.

Public Hearing: regarding the City purchase of Parker School.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:16 PM.

Sharon Stevans – spoke in support of this and what a great project this is.

Johanna Ames – spoke in favor of the project and shared her experience with her employees having issues with getting child care so they can work.

Bob Haight – read letters from local businesses that are in support of this project

Shelly – spoke in support of the purchase.

Susan Williams – spoke in support of this project, it benefits the County as a whole.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:26

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the nine-tenth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:26 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

Dr. Gigi Peterson – spoke regarding her concerns with SUNY Cortland’s COVID-19 safety procedures.

Jeff Fitts – would like Council’s support on promoting an officer to a Road Sergeant.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1 – quiet

Ward 2 – very noisy at night with students, furniture and abandoned car on Maple Ave.

Ward 3 – lots of litter around the City, he would like to put money aside in the rescue fund for dealing with rodents in the City.

Ward 5 – quiet

Ward 7 – the building on River St that is being demolished has come a long way.

Ward 8 – Thank you for those that helped with the Clinton Ave clean up. It looks beautiful, thank you City Fire for the great response to flooding issues and small fire.

Mayor’s Report:

Work is still being done on Clinton Ave, Delaware Ave, and Owego St. This should be finished up in the next month. The Mayor asked for an Executive session at the end for contractual matters.

Proclamations:

- Fire Prevention Week (October 4-10, 2020)

Resolution #247 of 2021 – Resolution to approve minutes from September 21, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Michales

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #1 – Update on Covid-19 safety protocols at SUNY Cortland.

Fred Pierce was present for the meeting. He talked about the current procedures that are in place and some modifications that have been done. There are currently only 3 active cases of COVID. The County Health Department is responsible for contact tracing.

Resolution #248 of 2021 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with all other required applications for the “Pumpkin Chunkin” on Thursday October 21, 2021 from 2:30PM – 5PM at Yaman Park.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #3 – *Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into a purchase agreement and sign all necessary agreements to transfer Parker School from the School district to the City of Cortland. (Ric VanDonsel)*

Item #4 – *Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to prepare and advertise the RFP for rehabilitation of Parker School for an Early Education Center. (Ric VanDonsel)*

Item #5 – *Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the mayor to select and execute a contract with a contractor presenting the best offer regarding Parker School. (Ric VanDonsel)*

Items 3-5 were tabled until the October 19 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #249 of 2021 – Resolution for the Department of Public Works to design and renovate the dumpster corral in the Groton Avenue/Orchard Street parking lot, and for the finance department to implement a user fee to cover the cost of operation.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #250 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract modification with NYS DEC for the Food Rescue & Reuse project, contingent on review by Corporation Counsel.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #251 of 2021 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for the Cortland City Police Department for 2 new patrol officers to replace a 20 year veteran officer who has announced his retirement and an officer who is transferring out effective October 24, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman
Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #252 of 2021 – Resolution to allow the Cortland City Police to hire 2 new patrol officers to replace the 2 patrol officers leaving on October 24, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Michales
Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #253 of 2021 – Resolution to transfer from the Waste Water’s Fund Reserve for Equipment Repair and Replacement (Account G915) \$50,198.53 to the Funds Operating Equipment Repair Account (Account G8130-540200) to fund the repair of the final clarifier sludge collector rail, chain and flight systems.

Motioned by: Councilperson Tytler
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #254 of 2021 – Resolution to 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.

Motioned by: Councilperson Adams

Seconded by: Councilperson Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 5

Nays – 1 (Councilperson Beckwith)

Item #12 – Presentation and discussion to set up workshop dates on the Mayor’s proposed new 2022 budget for General, Water and Wastewater Fund.

Workshop dates have been set for Tuesday October 26, 2021 at 6:30PM and November 3, 2021 at 6:30PM. These will be on ZOOM.

Item #13 – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt funding priorities for the American Rescue Plan funds. A motion was made to table this item until October 19, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Chapman

Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Resolution #255 of 2021 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to proceed relative to the Downtown revitalization project with Fisher Associates Supplement #1.

Council asked that some landscaping be added to beautify the area.

Motioned by: Councilperson Adams

Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Item #15 – SEQR of Part 2 and 3 of the Homer Avenue Gateway project.

Ric VanDonsel reviewed the SEQR with Council and it was determined that it is a Type 1 unlisted action therefor it's declared Negative Declaration.

Item #16 – Review SEQR for the Aeration Systems upgrade.

Ric VanDonsel reviewed the SEQR and was determined as a Type 2 action.

Item #17 – Discussion and set a date for a Public Hearing on amending article VI overlay Districts Section 300-61 Floodway Zone District.

A date has been set for October 19, 2021

Item #18 – Discussion on the rezoning of a piece of property on River/Port Watson St. Tax Id #87.53-03-16.200.

A third Public Hearing has been set for October 19, 2021.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session regarding contractual matters

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman

Seconded by: Councilperson Adams

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

A motion was made to exit out of Executive Session

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman

Seconded by: Councilperson Adams

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Councilperson Adams

Seconded by: Councilperson Tytler

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 5th DAY IN OCTOBER 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