



City Council **Minutes**  
The City of Cortland  
**October 19, 2021**

Council Meeting #20  
**October 19, 2021**  
Via City Hall  
7:00 PM

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

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 7:05 PM

Larry Knickerbocker questioned the SEQR process for this project and suggested that each board had to do one.

Councilperson Michales spoke that he had concerns from his constituents regarding traffic increase and pollution in the water.

Mayor Tobin closed the public hearing at 7:11 PM

**Public Hearing:** Amending article VI overlay Districts Section 300-61 Floodway Zone District.

Mayor Tobin opened the public hearing at 7:12 PM.

No one was present to speak.

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

**Regular Session:**

Mayor Tobin called the twentieth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:14 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments:** No one was present to speak.

**Mayor’s Report:** The Mayor gave an update on the DRI projects. Due to the pandemic, all construction has been put off until after March of 2022. Thank you for everyone’s patience through the road work that has been going on in the City. It should all be finished within the next week.

**Resolution #256 of 2021** – Resolution to approve minutes from October 5, 2021 meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Item #1** – Presentation from Elin Dowd (Consortium’s Ex. Director), on the current state of the Consortium and future initiatives.

The Consortium has expanded and been working with different municipalities. She has offered to come to the City and sit to talk with employees and retirees in depth about the opportunity to get the most out of the insurance with Medicare coverage.

**Resolution #257 of 2021** – Resolution to approve and adopt the 2022 Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement for the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #258 of 2021** – Resolution to approve the special event application, waive the fees and all other required applications for Fall Pumpkin Giveaway on Sunday October 24, 2021 from 4PM – 6PM in Courthouse Park.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Adams

Approved: Ayes – 8  
 Nays – 0

**Resolution #259 of 2021** – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Event/Project</b>	<b>Budget Line</b>
United Way	\$600.00	Day of Caring	A-7110.5407
Total	\$600.00		

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith  
 Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8

Nays – 0

**Resolution #260 of 2021** – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for the Cortland City Police to replace another crossing guard who will be retiring on October 22, 2021, after nearly 19 years of service.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #261 of 2021** – Resolution to allow the Cortland City Police to hire another Crossing Guard to replace the one retiring on October 22, 2021.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #262 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to appoint 2 new members to the Police commission.

A motion was made to amend the resolution to add the 2 new member’s names and approve one at a time.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter  
Seconded by: Councilperson Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #263 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to appoint Cheryl Michales to the Police Commission.

Motioned by: Councilperson Beckwith  
Seconded by: Councilperson Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 0  
Abstention – 1 (Michales)

**Resolution #264 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to appoint Mike Whitmore to the Police Commission.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #265 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize a City Police Department transfer of \$5000.00 from the gasoline budget line to the vehicle maintenance line.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #266 of 2021** – 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.

Thank you to all involved.

Motioned by: Councilperson Adams  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 2 (Bennett, Beckwith)

**Resolution #267 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to prepare and advertise the RFP for rehabilitation of Parker School for an Early Education Center.

Motioned by: Councilperson Carpenter  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 1 (Beckwith)

**Resolution #268 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the mayor to select and execute a contract with a contractor presenting the best offer regarding Parker School.

Motioned by: Councilperson Silliman  
Seconded by: Councilperson Adams

Approved: Ayes – 7  
Nays – 1 (Beckwith)

**Resolution #269 of 2021** – Resolution to allow the Mayor to enter in an agreement with Bert Adams Disposal. This would extend our current agreement for one year at the rate of exactly \$300.00 per ton collected. The term of this agreement would expire December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #270 of 2021** – Resolution to Authorize the issuance of a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$25,000,000 to fund the estimated cost of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Homer Avenue and adjoining Water, Sewer and Storm Water infrastructure within the City.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #271 of 2021** – Resolution to abandoned and transfer a portion of Alvena Avenue to GCMC and authorize the Mayor to execute any documents after review by Corporation Counsel to complete the transfer. Such Documents include a letter of Understanding regarding the respective rights and obligations after such transfer.

Motioned by: Councilperson Adams  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #272 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Corporation Counsel to execute on behalf of the City a stipulation modifying the assessment of Conifer Cortland Associates and to authorize refunds of over tax payments as necessary.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8  
Nays – 0

**Resolution #273 of 2021** – Resolution of a local law changing the Zone of property located on River Street in the city of Cortland from R-1 to GB-1 known as Tax Map #87.53-03-16.200.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 6  
Nays – 2 (Beckwith, Michales)

**Resolution #274 of 2021** – Resolution to declare a Negative Declaration regarding the Homer Avenue Gateway Project based upon the review of the SEQR at the 10/5/2021 City Council meeting.

Motioned by: Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by: Councilperson Silliman

Approved:           Ayes – 8  
                          Nays – 0

**Item #17** – Consideration of a Resolution to adopt funding priorities for the American Rescue Plan funds.

A motion was made to table this item until the November 16 meeting.

Motioned by:       Councilperson Tytler  
Seconded by:       Councilperson Bennett

Approved:           Ayes – 8  
                          Nays – 0

**Item #18** – Discussion on the possibility of the State DOT installing a pedestrian walk light and push button (very similar to the two recently installed at Owego and Prospect) at the crosswalk on Tompkins street at the railroad tracks near Folmer Drive.

*Council thought this was a great idea to push forward to see if the State DOT would approve.*

**Resolution #275 of 2021** – Resolution to request a Walkway and light system at Folmer dr.

Motioned by:       Councilperson Carpenter  
Seconded by:       Councilperson Bennett

Approved:           Ayes – 8  
                          Nays – 0

**Item #19** – Discussion of 2022 City of Cortland budgets.

The budget hearings have been set for Tuesday October 26 at 6:30PM and Tuesday November 2 at 6:30PM. Cortlandville came back with half a year contract with the City, however it is not in the best interest of the City and would make it hard to plan a budget for the year.

**Resolution #276 of 2021** – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to execute a settlement agreement with Avant Grid Incorporated for \$8,500 for gross received taxes.

Motioned by:       Councilperson Silliman  
Seconded by:       Councilperson Bennett

Approved:           Ayes – 8  
                          Nays – 0

**Adjournment**

Motioned by:       Councilperson Bennett  
Seconded by:       Councilperson Carpenter

Approved:           Ayes – 8  
                          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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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RAYMOND A. PARKER, CITY CLERK

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MAYOR BRIAN TOBIN