



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
February 4, 2020

Council Meeting #3
February 4, 2020
25 Court Street
7:00 PM

Present: Aldermen Kat McCarthy, Katy Silliman, Bruce Tytler, William Carpenter, Jacki Chapman, Troy Beckwith, Thomas Michales

Excused: Alderman John Bennett

Staff Present: Director of Administration & Finance Mack Cook, Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, City Clerk Raymond A. Parker, City Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Friedman, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow, Superintendent

WWJP Bruce Adams

Public Hearing 1: Public Hearing on amending Code section 107 regarding registration of Vacant Buildings.

Opened public hearing at 7:02pm and closed public hearing at 7:04pm as there was no one to comment.

Public Hearing 2: Public Hearing on amending Article 11 section 31 & 32 prohibiting turns from Groton onto Otter Creek Place.

Opened public hearing at 7:04pm

Jo Schaffer spoke stating there has always been a safety issue. It is a single lane street and needs to be defined as one way.

Penny Pozella spoke stating she understands the need to limit traffic. Has never experienced heavy pedestrian traffic and there is a sidewalk the kids can use. She agrees with eliminating the right hand turn on to Otter Creek from Groton. There is a possibility of congestion on Groton Avenue. People may speed more coming from Townley to Groton Avenue.

Jim Place spoke stating he lives on Pine Crest. He has concerns with traffic at Groton Avenue and Townley. Possibly paint a white line along edge of the road to help cars.

Christine Place spoke stating she lives on Pine Crest. There is huge amount of traffic with students and staff. Eliminating left turns on to Groton from Otter Creek is a good idea. It should be more of the number of cars on the street, not just speeding.

Angela Gellatly spoke stating she lives on Otter Creek. There has been a traffic study. There are aggressive drivers because of the narrow road.

Public Hearing closed at 7:22pm

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the third Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:22PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

Mecke Nagel spoke about environment safety specifically reminding everyone that we live on sole source Aquifer. We need to be good stewards. One step to protecting the aquifer is to ban pesticide spraying. Another aquifer issue is fireworks and the particles in the fireworks. Looking to possibly get noiseless fireworks. Fireworks are used illegally in Cortland and it is a Police/ Code Enforcement problems.

Bonnie Quackenbush spoke stating she is creating an entity called Patchwork (People Acting Together for Community Health). She is working with Deacon Pat Kinney at Grace & Holy Spirit an incredible place that reaches out to the community in many ways. There are a lot of things that they would like to have happen but don't really have to funds to make them happen. There are 9 categories they work on. Green bag ladies, there is volunteer group that is distributing free cloth bags to those who need them. They are at the United Presbyterian Church 25 church street from 10am-12pm on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month. Donation of cloths and items is welcomed. The contact information is Greenbags.cortland@gmail.com.

Ward Report:

Ward 1: Traffic concerns where Yong Street meets Cowance Street and has been brought to the attention of DPW. This is the 1st week of glass only recycling collection. A lot of confusion for the pickup of recycling.

Ward 2: There were some concerns with shoveling of sidewalks, concerns with potholes and DPW is filling them as quick as they can. Call DPW or Council member with any immediate concerns. There was a concern about a house on W. Court Street that was sold and is being advertised as sorority house on Facebook and as an event space. The City is aware of this problem and is looking into it. Spam calls seem to be a problem.

Ward 3: Happy with the sidewalk changes but concerned with conditions of some sidewalks. Concerns with W. Court Street house. Glass only first full week of month.

Ward 5: Happy with sidewalks but also questions with conditions of the sidewalks. Concerns with recycling issues.

Ward 6: Quiet. Update on the 40mph on Route 13 to 30mph.

Ward 7: Trash / Recycling issues & concerns.

Ward 8: Notices did not go out to everyone, especially renters. Possibly another notice going out by DPW. Mixed concerns with sidewalks.

Mayor's Report:

Trash pickup is weekly with recycling collection with the first week glass-only and subsequent weeks mixed recycling (no glass). This system was the City’s best option regarding cost. This is due to changes made by the County. Stickers should be placed this week on bins that are rejected.

Proclamation:

Alderman Kat McCarthy read the proclamation celebrating 100th Anniversary of the League of Women of Voters of the United States.

Resolution #41 of 2020 - Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 21, 2020 as presented.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #42 of 2020 – Consideration of a local Law to amend Article 11 section 31 & 32 prohibiting turns from Groton onto Otter Creek Place.

Concerns were brought forward regarding safety and possible traffic pattern changes on Groton Ave.

Motioned by: Alderman Tytler
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

A roll call was done.
Ward 1– Yes, Ward 2- Yes, Ward 3- Yes, Ward 5- Yes, Ward 6- Yes, Ward 7- Yes, Ward 8- Yes

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #43 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with other required applications for Chill –A– Bration on Saturday February 29, 2020 from 12PM - 5PM.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Michales

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #44 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the special event application along with other required applications for Shakespeare in the Park on August 14-16, 2020 and August 21-23, 2020 from 6PM - 9PM.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Resolution #45 of 2020 – Resolution to waive fees for the special event application for Shakespeare in the Park.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #46 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the re-appointment of Elizabeth Wavle-Brown as City Historian.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #47 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the appointment of John Busch to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Motioned by: Alderman Chapman
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #48 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the re-appointments to various Boards and Commissions listed on the attached list.

Thank you!

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #49 of 2020 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze to fill an anticipated vacancy in the Fire Department.

Motioned by: Alderman Michales
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #50 of 2020 – Resolution to commence with the hiring process to fill two anticipated firefighter position vacancies subsequent to the promotional process specific to Shift Captain and Captain of training (MTO).

Chief Friedman stated he received a letter for intended retirement effective March 30, 2020. He is currently serving as Mutual Training Officer. The promotion would be effective April 1, 2020. Hiring date would be February 25th to get them into training.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #51 of 2020 – Resolution to recognize and appropriate \$2, 804.32 in reimbursements to A3120.5408.01 (Uniform & Safety).

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #52 of 2020 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Town of Cortlandville.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #53 of 2020 – Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Cortland Fire Department Board of Engineers.

Thank you!

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Resolution #54 of 2020 – a Local Law to Amend section 107 of the City Code changing rates and fee for registration of Vacant Buildings.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman

Seconded by: Alderman Tytler

Approved: Ayes – 7
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy

Seconded by: Alderman 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 4TH DAY IN FEBRUARY 2020. 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