



City Council Minutes
The City of Cortland
May 5, 2020

Council Meeting #10
May 5, 2020
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

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

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric Van Donsel, Director of Finance Mack Cook, Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Friedman, Interim Director of Code Enforcement Mike Tenkate, City Clerk Ray Parker, Confidential Secretary to the Mayor Devon Rainbow, Superintendent of WWTP Bruce Adams

Regular Session:

Mayor Tobin called the tenth Common Council meeting of the year to order at 7:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

No one present to speak.

Ward Report:

Ward 1: Today is Giving Tuesday an opportunity to express generosity. Did get question about recycling and a question about taxes for the elderly/disabled.

Ward 2: Quiet in the 2nd ward. Neighbors are being considerate of other neighbors and when they are not the police go over to remind people of the need for social distancing. There are some concerns with the recent burglaries in the City.

Ward 3: Someone in Ward 3 wanted to Comment on item 1 & 2. He understands the intent and agrees with enforcement. He is dissatisfied with the City's poor record keeping of snow removal (especially on Bellrose Ave), lack of street sweeping, and consistent tardiness with yard waste removal. This person also stated that maybe some diligent effort by the City might prompt repeat offenders to take more pride in their neighborhoods and maintain their properties as they should. Public areas in the City are bad and would like to see them kept better. Alderman Tytler stated he would like to thank the Code Office for the Otter Creek repairs. DPW helped with some issues on Broadway. Complaints/concerns with those not practicing social distancing. Thank you to all the departments that provide services to the public.

Ward 4: The Milk & Dairy Giveaway there were lots of cars. Thank you to all involved.

Ward 5: Noticed people are out and social distancing (following guidelines).

Ward 6: Congratulations to City PD on burglary arrest.

Ward 7: All quiet.

Ward 8: Question about whether the milk in the give a way was pasteurized or not. There has been a burglary that is still being looked into. There are some code issues needing looked into. One was 75 Church Street and the other is Bartlett, Hyatt and an issue with 6 Williams Street. Interim Director of Code Enforcement Mike Tenkate responded and will look into the concerns.

Mayor's Report:

Thank you to Pudgies for the free pizza giveaway! Thank you to all involved in the Dairy Giveaway! Recognize the Teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day. There was an Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting on Monday May 4th. There was lots of conversation regarding projects.

Proclamation 1: Building Safety Month (May 2020)

Proclamation 2: Arson Awareness Week (May 3 - 9, 2020)

Proclamation 3: Peace Officer/Police Week (May 10 -16, 2020)

Mayor Tobin read the proclamations.

Resolution #99 of 2020 – Resolution to approve minutes from April 21, 2020 meeting.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #100 of 2020 – Resolution to adjust the City's enforcement of right of way/garbage removal.

Captain Tenkate stated that they are looking to change the way code processes complaints. If hazardous to general public, a work order is generated, and the Code office contractor is contacted to clean it up. If it is not hazardous a notice of violation is issued. After 30 days it is investigated again. They can appeal the violation and if after 30 days the fees are still not paid, the fees would get levied to taxes.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #101 of 2020 – Resolution to adjust the City's enforcement of lawn maintenance.

Alderman Silliman explained that concerns have been brought by Mecke Nagel before Council in support of allowing people to let lawns grow for insects. There are ways to do that and still maintain the property. Captain Tenkate stated this policy is specific to grass, weeds and uncultivated vegetation.

Motioned by: Alderman Chapman
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #102 of 2020 – Resolution to declare the following equipment surplus property so it may be sold on Auctions International:

A: 2009 Ford F150 Pickup: VIN# 1FTRX14W19F; Mileage - 51,095

Captain Tenkate stated the truck has underlying issues. Mayor Tobin stated the funds will go into revenue.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Carpenter

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Resolution #103 of 2020 – Resolution to authorize the City of Cortland Fire Department on behalf of the City to apply for the FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID 19 Supplemental Program (AFG-S), included under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and if awarded allow the Mayor to accept said grant funding. The grant is a competitive grant with a 5% local match.

Chief Friedman stated this is FEMA Grant. Possible refunding for PPE from post, present and future. There is a 5% match which is already met by what they have already spent on PPE. Looking to get between \$60,000 - \$70,000 back from this grant.

Motioned by: Alderman Carpenter
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Item #5 – Discussion on the City’s Credit Card Policy.

The Credit Card Policy is for current cards. There are no cards for DPW or Clerk’s Office. Police and Fire have credit cards. Need a policy with procedures within each department. Bring this back on May 19th for further discussion.

Item #6 – Discussion on the City’s response to COVID 19

We have plateaued at 32 cases in Cortland County, which is good news. Social distancing concerns with the nice weather coming, people are wanting to get out and get together. There is the question of when we are reopening and questions with the reopening of businesses. May 15th is the official date for NYS to reopen. Exposure is still a real concern when talking of reopening. If we open things that others are not, people will travel to other counties causing more exposure. Will be looking at opening regional approach. What are we going to do for our youth during this time, especially when people go back to work? We

cannot expect them to stay inside all summer long. People are willing to help financially. However, safety is still a concern. City Hall and its current functions, can this continue and be sustainable? More random acts of kindness can help everyone through this tough time. You can call 2-1-1 for resources. There is EAP/ENI program through the City that can help people as well.

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Union Grievance with no action anticipated.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Motion to exit Executive Session.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Adjournment

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman McCarthy

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 5TH DAY IN MAY 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