



City Council **Minutes**
The City of Cortland
July 21, 2020

Council Meeting #16
July 21, 2020
Via Zoom
7:00 PM

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

Excused: Alderman Bruce Tytler and Alderman William Carpenter

Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel, Director of Finance Mack Cook, Deputy Police Chief Paul Sandy, Police Chief Catalano, Fire Chief Friedman, Interim Director of Code Enforcement Mike Tenkate, City Clerk Ray Parker

Regular Session:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing - Public Hearing on odd/even parking at Dexter Park Parking Lot
No one to speak. Closed Public Hearing at 7:05pm.

Public Comments

Proclamation: Our quest to become the Votingest City.

Mayor Tobin read the proclamation.

Alderman Kat McCarthy shared that the Cortland ReUse initiative, a group that is looking to start up a non-profit reuse center in Cortland County, is working on a deconstruction project in partnership with Finger Lakes ReUse. Through this effort, they are taking apart a building that needed to come down and instead of demolishing it, deconstructing it piece by piece. The group is still looking for additional volunteers to help. If interested and looking for more information, you can go to the website cortlandreuse.org.

Resolution #145 of 2020 – Resolution to approve minutes from July 7, 2020 meeting.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Beckwith

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #146 of 2020 – Resolution to allow the Mayor to bring City employees back off of furlough, according to a two date schedule some on July 31st and some on a later date.

This was tough on everyone. The City received zero Federal Assistance. There are concerns from Alderman Beckwith that are going to be emailed to Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel. Alderman Silliman had concerns on why we want to wait to bring some people back and Mayor Tobin responded that there are still financial concerns. The sales tax receipts are a big part of the decision making process and they have been typically released by two Fridays ago and just came in last Monday, so we had a shorter time frame to really have an understanding of what the Sales Tax numbers for June coming in July might look like. Looking to bring other employees back on August 14th.

Motioned by: Alderman Chapman
 Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 4
 Nays – 2 (Alderman Michales & Alderman Beckwith)

Resolution 147 of 2020 – Resolution to extend Corporation Counsel’s appointment as Zoning Officer until August 14, 2020.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #148 of 2020 – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate the following donations to the Youth Bureau.

Donation	Amount	Event/Project	Budget Line
Kings Daughters	\$500.00	Summer Programs	A-7550.5405
Total	\$500.00		

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
 Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #149 of 2020 – Resolution to appoint Kathleen O’Connell as the City of Cortland Historian.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
 Seconded by: Alderman Chapman

Approved: Ayes – 6
 Nays – 0

Resolution #150 of 2020 – Resolution to accept, recognize and appropriate \$1,094.40 in proceeds from the sale of 10 vehicles from the City Impound Lot that were classified as abandoned to A3120.401.00- Equipment repairs to help pay for maintenance and repairs of the existing fleet in 2020.

Motioned by: Alderman Bennett
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #151 of 2020 – Resolution to lift the hiring freeze for the Wastewater Department.

Motioned by: Alderman Chapman
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #152 of 2020 – Resolution to hire a Senior Account Clerk in the Wastewater Department to replace an employee who will be tendering a two-week notice upon return from furlough. Target hire date is 8/3/2020 in order to facilitate training of the new hire in what is a very complex set of duties.

Motioned by: Alderman Silliman
Seconded by: Alderman Bennett

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Resolution #153 of 2020 - Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Quadrant Viral Testing LLC of Syracuse, NY for testing of wastewater for presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA. This is a one year agreement with a sixty-day exit clause. The agreement covers weekly testing at \$200 per test.

The City was involved in a program that was initially started out of ESF, SU and Upstate Hospital in testing wastewater for the presence COVID RNA and have had 8 test results and no RNA found. Bruce recommends approving only if someone transports testing. The idea is that it gives advanced notice to the City. City can get out of contract within 60 days.

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 5
Nays – 1 (Alderman Beckwith)

Resolution #154 of 2020 – Resolution to approve the Local Law regarding All Night Parking at Dexter Park Parking Lot.

Would be looking at 5 spots for odd parking and 5 spots for even parking.

Motioned by: Alderman Beckwith
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

Approved: Ayes – 6
Nays – 0

Item #10 – Discussion regarding painting of curbs, sidewalks, City streets.

Have received requests to paint curbs. DPW reviews the banners, they typically go up really fast and come down as fast. Had a couple request to paint in support of Law Enforcement. We feel they are missing the message of the painting of BLM on the street if they paint something regarding Law Enforcement. Mayor Tobin would support Council passing a resolution basically saying any painting, writing or art work of public property including but not limited to street, curbs, sidewalks, that is not washable by water is not permitted without approval by Cortland City Common Council.

Item #11 – Discussion regarding the possibility of adding Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in downtown Cortland.

Looking to promote electric cars. Nic Dovi has DRI information on it and it was proposed but it didn't make the cut. Zero cost to the City.

Item #12 – Update on Cortland Forward Committee.

They are having weekly Zoom meetings regarding racism in the community. The main goal is education and helping people get to a place where everybody looks and says Cortland has an equitable community, we all have opportunities across the board.

Item #13 – COVID19 and Response

The number of cases have increased. We have opened playgrounds, churches, restaurants, and limited youth activities. Will work very closely between the City Leadership team and the SUNY Leadership team to address issues and concerns on and off campus. Within City Hall there have been some discussions regarding changes/reconstruction on 2nd floor. SUNY reopen plan is on their website.

Alderman Beckwith would like to have a discussion on Hubbard Street parking at the next meeting.

Public Comments –

Kristina Ferrer – Wanted to add as far as working with SUNY Cortland and TC3 on possible community guidelines and things like that just to please take into account nontraditional students just because those of them that have families & children as it is a little bit different in limiting their contact to Frat houses or dorms, some of those community guidelines could really cause a bad impact.

Jeremy Stiles has some zoning questions he needs answered and was wondering who to call. He has been referred to Corporation Counsel Ric VanDonsel 607-844-7167.

Matthew Slowey spoke regarding the blue line painting. He stated this is not a response to BLM and he has thought about doing this several years ago. He stated the local Police Departments are in favor of something like this. Their role in the community is to serve the people.

Adjournment

Motioned by: Alderman McCarthy
Seconded by: Alderman Silliman

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 21ST DAY IN JULY 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