

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Cortland met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Administration Building, 400 N High St, Cortland, Ohio with Council President Woofter presiding. Members of Council present were James Edwards, Dennis Linville, Deidre Petrosky, Kevin Piros, Scott Rowley, and Terry Tackett. Also present at the meeting were Mayor Moll, Law Director Wilson, Police Chief Andrews, Finance Director Moyer, Fire Chief Rea, Service Director Wittman and Clerk of Council Horn.

A motion to approve Council Minutes from the December 29, 2014 Special Council Meeting was made by Councilman Tackett and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. **ROLL CALL** - Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE O-81-14 – An Ordinance whereby the City of Cortland authorizes funding to S.C.O.P.E., Inc. to support its services for the Cortland Senior Center was read and moved for third and final reading by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. **ROLL CALL O-81-14** - Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED THIRD AND FINAL READING**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION R-01-15 – A Resolution authorizing the adoption of same rules and regulations as in the past based upon Robert’s Rules of Order was read and moved by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL** - Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-02-15 – A Resolution authorizing the Clerk of Council of the City of Cortland, Ohio to advertise for sealed bids for regular and premium grade of gasoline and oil for both bulk and pump rates for use in the city vehicles of the City of Cortland, Ohio was read and moved by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. **ROLL CALL** - Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-03-15 – A Resolution appointing Frances E. Moyer Clerk of Council Pro-Tempore in the absence of the Clerk of Council in 2015 was read and moved by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL** - Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-04-15 – A Resolution authorizing the Clerk of Council of the City of Cortland to advertise for bids for the Downtown Waterline Replacement Project – Phase II was read and moved by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-05-15 – A Resolution authorizing the Clerk of Council of the City of Cortland to advertise for bids for restroom facilities at Pearl Park was read and moved by Councilwoman Petrosky and seconded by

Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL** - Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-06-15 – A Resolution declaring it necessary to levy a tax to support the police levy fund in excess of the ten mill limitation was read and moved by Councilwoman Petrosky and seconded by Councilman Piros.

COUNCILWOMAN PETROSKY - I would like to make a brief statement pertaining not only to this resolution but the next one. Last week the Finance Committee met with the Finance Director and the Mayor. We decided that it has become necessary to put an additional 1.5 mill levy on the ballot for both the Police and the Fire Departments. In the past, we have simply replaced existing levies to generate the funds necessary to operate these departments. However, we have seen a decline in property values, so a replacement of the current levies will not generate sufficient money to fund these departments. We are left only with the option of putting additional levies on. Without these 1.5 mill levies, by the end of 2017, the city would face a \$200,000 shortfall in the Fire Department budget and a more than \$300,000 deficit in the Police Department budget. The Finance Director's current budget projections indicate that with these 1.5 mill levies the budgets of both the Police and Fire Departments should be in the black through at least 2017. We are hoping at that time that the property values will have increased enough so that only replacement levies will be necessary at that time. The city is able to offer excellent services to our residents through both the Fire and Police Departments. If our residents like these services at the current levels at which they are being provided, then it is necessary that we put these levies on the ballot and pass them.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - Fran, would like to speak to the fact of how much these levies would generate and what it would cost the taxpayer please?

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - The 1.5 mills in the Police Department and the Fire Department both will generate approx. \$198,000 a year. The forms I provided council shows how that would take us through next year and then in 2017. We would still be in good shape in 2018. Historically, we have replaced levies when we passed new contracts and that's how we fund them. Since we don't have that option this time we needed to place these two levies on the ballot.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - Based on your information you provided each of the council members, I'd like to mention that a 1.5 mill would work out to \$52.50 per year or \$4.38 per month for each assessed value of \$100,000. It would be wise for people to look at their tax papers they receive from the county to see what their assessed value is. Most homes in Cortland are not anywhere near the \$100,000 assessed mark.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - The factor is about 35%. So if your house is actually valued at \$100,000, you are paying tax on an assessed value of \$35,000. That's the formula that is used. So, if you are looking at your evaluation, don't look at your appraised value, look at your assessed value.

MAYOR MOLL - So, you are saying this \$52.50 would be for appraised value of \$300,000 which is pretty much outside the range of most homes in Cortland.

COUNCILWOMAN PETROSKY - Right.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - I think our average value in Cortland is around \$150,000 or less.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - Right, in order to have a \$100,000 assessed value the house would have to be worth more than \$300,000.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - So, on average, a home that is appraised at \$150,000, the assessed value is going to be somewhere around \$50,000. It will be half of this number. The best thing to do is for everyone to check their tax bills and look at their assessed values and base it upon that. It works out to be very affordable. Rather than paying \$52.50 per year, you are going to be pay somewhere between \$20 to \$30 per year.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - What percentage of this is going towards salaries for the employees?

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - I don't have a percentage, but if you look at the spreadsheets it will show it.

MAYOR MOLL - A significant part of our expenses are salaries.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - It's on her breakdown. It shows what the salaries are.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - I know. I just want it for the record.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - Of the \$1.1 million for the Police Department, only \$237,000 of that is operating. So, the vast majority is wages and benefits. They pretty much cut their operating budgets down to the bare minimum. I did not prepare percentages, but if you'd like those I can...

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - No, that's fine Fran.

ROLL CALL - Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye.
MOTION PASSED

RESOLUTION R-07-15 - A Resolution declaring it necessary to levy a tax to support the fire levy fund in excess of the ten mill limitation was read and moved by Councilwoman Petrosky and seconded by Councilman Rowley.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - We already addressed these concerns. Both levies are the same amount, 1.5 mills. Any questions or comments?

ROLL CALL - Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye.
MOTION PASSED

ORDINANCE O-01-15 - An Ordinance providing for the Council of the City of Cortland, Ohio to appropriate funds for the operation of the various funds of the City of Cortland, Ohio and its political subdivisions was read and moved by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL ON SUSPENSION OF RULES** - Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye. **ROLL**

CALL O-01-15 –Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye.
ORDINANCE PASSED EMERGENCY

MAYOR’S REPORT:

MAYOR MOLL – I’d like to say welcome to the students here tonight. You are welcome back anytime. On your agenda, there is a website. If you need any additional information you’ll find most of what we’ve done tonight and information about council members and other things on the city’s website. I encourage you to go look at that.

The Christmas Tree Recycling Program for residential pickup is this Wednesday, January 7th and 14th. Also, you can drop off your Christmas tree at Willow Park now through the 23rd of January.

Our city offices will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19, 2015.

Lastly, I am asking for your approval this evening of two appointments to boards and commissions. The first one is a re-appointment of Wendy Bonar on the Board of Zoning Appeals. It has not met in about three or four years now but we still need to have members of that board. She has agreed to serve another five years through the end of 2019. The second one is for Cara DeToro for the Parks and Recreation Board. She is a new member also serving for a five year term. She is an educator currently employed at TCTC, a YSU graduate and lives here in Highland Ridge. She has expressed interest not only for this appointment but for the previous one I had. I’d like to have her approved as well. She fits the profile of the kind of people I’d like to have on the Parks Board which is younger with kids so we can address those situations. We have the older people covered, so we need to cover some other areas.

As a reminder, at our Parks Board meeting, we are going to have a representative of company that does splash parks come and make a presentation. So if you are interested and would like to come, its next Monday, January 12th at 5:00 p.m. If it’s different than that I’m sure Rhonda will let you know.

MAYOR’S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS:

Cara DeToro	Parks & Recreation	Term expiring 12-31-19
Wendy Bonar	Board of Zoning Appeals	Term expiring 12-31-19 (Renewal)

A motion to approve the Mayor’s Appointments was made by Councilman Tackett and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. MOTION PASSED

MAYOR MOLL – I apologize for springing that on you tonight. I got caught up in the holiday and didn’t get it together in time for the packet. I am working on filling an open position for the Zoning Board. We have six applicants that I will be interviewing over the phone. Hopefully, we’ll have someone at the next meeting for you. There is nothing on the agenda so far this month for zoning so I’m not too concerned about not having that appointment made.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – What’s the date of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting?

MAYOR MOLL – Monday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER – I will take the resolution tomorrow morning and forward it to the county. They will then certify the amount and send it back to me to be placed in language that will be passed at our second meeting in January which will actually then place it on the ballot We will have another piece of

legislation for each of these levies at the next meeting. It will contain the actual ballot language as well as the amount of money that will be generated by the new levy.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – And just to clarify, that will be for the May ballot.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER – Yes.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – The Trumbull County Prosecutors requested that one of our officers, Detective Morris, participate on the Homicide Task Force Committee this year. I talked with the Mayor about this. Dave has been serving with the Juvenile Task Force for a few years now and picked up a lot of great experience at no cost to the city. We also received training and equipment and some other things from the prosecutor's department. I think it would be a great idea for him. He would be in a backup role as an Evidence Technician. The current officer is a Warren officer who I think may be retiring down the road. So, Dave would be a perfect candidate. He just received his certification last year from the Ohio Peace Officer Committee as an Evidence Technician (Inaudible) which is very hard to get. It will be a great thing for him, great thing for the city and a great thing all around if we start sharing some of that.

Secondly, we talked about the levy coming up. We have some ideas that we are starting with to try and get the word out to the community about what we do, what our function is, what we are providing and what we need. A lot about what we talked about tonight is helpful. If you have any ideas, anything you think would be beneficial that you would like to see, please give me a call and let me know. Everything is available. We have some speaking engagements and some other things as well as some programs that will be coming on board. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

FIRE CHIEF REA – Thank you for the support for this levy. We are going to need it as the time grows closer. We are going to need to be on the same page. I don't think it's a huge amount that we are asking for. It's a very reasonable amount. Once you sit down and look at some of the things we've lost over the past few years whether it's due to rollbacks or the recession, we've done a pretty good job of managing our money over those years. We made it through the recession without doing a whole lot of replacing (Inaudible). Also some of the rollbacks the state took back. I think the Police and the Fire Departments did a pretty good job at that time, but it's time for ten year old levies to be renewed or our alternative putting a new one on. So, thank you for the support. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – In regards to what Tom said, you have some speaking arrangements set up. Are you doing this together? Police and Fire?

MAYOR MOLL - The Good Morning Cortland one we are. Both of them will address the crowd there.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – My recommendation would be if the police is doing one that the fire would be involved too if at all possible.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – No problem. That's a good idea.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – My feeling is that since the levy is the same amount you are going to get the same questions and it's going to generate a little bit different amounts for each of the departments. I think it would be wise to do that if possible. Thank you.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – I will be finalizing the dates to advertise the upcoming projects, the Downtown Waterlines as well as the restroom facilities at Pearl Park. I do not have a specific bid opening. I hope to have that in the next couple days. Hopefully, by the second meeting in February we will have legislation to award contracts. The goal is to bid these in the early part of January hoping to get better pricing. Other than that, I'll entertain any questions council may have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – I would like to address that the sled hill is not open. Do you want to address that or should we let the Mayor address that?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – If anyone has any questions about that they need to contact the Trumbull County Commissioners and the Trumbull County Metro parks. Through their decision, they decided to close the park after we expended time, resources and money in getting the sled hill, in our opinion, operational this year. It was sprung on us mid-December.

MAYOR MOLL - What they asked us to do is impossible to do this time of year. We won't be able to do it. We won't be able to open it this year because they want us to re-grade it and do some other things that just won't work in the winter.

COUNCIL WOMAN PETROSKY - That's too bad.

MAYOR MOLL - Yes. We will try to get it open next year; or maybe they will.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Next year the city will be adding to the actual size of the hill anyway. It's going to grow.

MAYOR MOLL - It was a temporary opening because we do anticipate increasing the size every year until we get it big enough.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – We are going to set our second meeting in January for Tuesday, January 20, 2015 because Martin Luther King Jr Day is Monday, January 19th and the city offices are closed that day. Same time, same place.

As Council President, I thank you all for coming this evening as well. Like the Mayor said, you are all welcome to come back to council any time and listen to what we have to talk about. Otherwise, go to the website.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – Before we end, I wanted to talk about a comment that Terry made earlier. I just wanted to go back and get some more clarification. The entire amount of these levies is not for wages and benefits. It's a very small portion of the entire amount that's going to be generated based upon the figures that Fran gave us. I didn't want it to look like...

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - No. It's not the entire amount. It's for the operation of the department.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – Exactly, but it's a very small percentage that's...

LAW DIRECTOR WILSON - No.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – No. It's still the biggest percentage of the amount generated.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – I'll look at these numbers again.

COUNCILWOMAN PETROSKY - To take that a step further though, like the chiefs have said, we made it through the recession with the levies that we did have and they budgeted their accounts very wisely. They also put off expending money on things that they need because they know they didn't have excess funds available. I can direct you to them for those exact purchases but there is equipment that will be needed and this additional money will allow us to purchase it. For example, I know we will be needing a new ladder truck and those types of things which we have put off. Again, if you want to know those specific items that they are in need of, please feel free to ask them after the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilwoman Petrosky and seconded by Councilman Linville. ROLL CALL - Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye; Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye. MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 7:29p.m.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL