

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Cortland met in regular session on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Administration Building, 400 N High St, Cortland, Ohio with Council President Jim 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 Law Director Wilson, Police Chief Andrews, Fire Chief Rea, Service Director Wittman, and Clerk of Council Horn; absent was Mayor Moll.

A motion to approve Council Minutes from the April 20, 2015 Council Meeting was made by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Tackett. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, abstain; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, abstain. **MOTION PASSED**

A motion to approve Schedule of Bills to be paid totaling \$110,571.36 was made by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Linville. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE O-11-15 – An Ordinance authorizing the expenditure to Thomas Fok and Associates, Inc. to perform detailed design for the Downtown Waterline Replacement Project – Phase III was read and moved for third and final reading by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. **ROLL CALL O-11-15** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED THIRD AND FINAL READING**

ORDINANCE O-12-15 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Alexander’s Pest Control, Inc. for mosquito control was read and moved for second reading by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilman Edwards. **ROLL CALL O-12-15** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED SECOND READING**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION R-20-15 – A Resolution supporting the City of Cortland to apply for Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds programmed by the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments to improve portions of East and West Main Street was read and moved by Councilwoman Petrosky and seconded by Councilman Piros.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – Don, are we looking at 2017 for this? 2018?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN - I am not sure exactly what the funding year is for ODOT but it is out three or four years. We are getting the funding lined up which is part of the application process.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - The reason I asked that question is so people realize how long it takes to fund these projects. They don’t happen overnight.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Right. This will be an official request into a programming package to the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. Once they receive that, and they see support from the body as a whole they will go ahead and procure our spot in the Federal Highway funding for say fiscal year 2019 which could be as soon as 2018. So, even though you look at Main St. down over the hill and on the other side of the bridge on East Main, it's in good shape. But we are looking three to four years down the road to have the funding in place so when it's deplorable we will be able to get the roadway resurfaced. With this being federal aid highway, we will get 80% paid for with the federal gas tax.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Thank you for explaining that.

ROLL CALL R-20-15 - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

ORDINANCE O-13-15 – An Ordinance establishing the wage rates of seasonal part-time employees of the City of Cortland was read and moved by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilman Piros. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Rowley.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - How many do we have, Don?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN - Typically we hire four. At this point, we have two committed to coming back. So, there is a potential for two openings depending on the laborer position that we are currently looking to fill.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – Mainly, all they do is mow?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – They are assigned a myriad of tasks from weed whacking, retention basins, painting fire hydrants, to mowing the parks.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Filling the street cracks.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Yes, they are part of the crack sealing crew. As the employees get a little bit more experience, they are given a higher degree of tasks.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - What is minimum wage now?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN - I believe it was going up to \$8.10. So, this is keeping pace with that. That's where the need is to revise this so we are paying more than minimum wage. Also, I did increase the incremental per calendar year from \$.25 to \$.30. One other change for the record is once the employee has four consecutive years of service, they will be locked in at that rate. They will need to work four consecutive years in order to do that.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – Have we had people like that?

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - Yes.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – This is actually the first year that we are going to have someone that worked four years then went away to grad school and wanted to come back. It didn't make sense for them to start at the first year rate. So, we corrected that language.

ROLL CALL ON SUSPENSION OF RULES –Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **ROLL CALL O-13-15** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, aye; Woofter, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED EMERGENCY**

MAYOR'S REPORT:
(MAYOR MOLL ABSENT)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - As you see, the Mayor's seat is empty. He's not here tonight so we will dispense of the Mayor's Report and move onto our Finance Director's Report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER – The only thing I have this evening is that I will report that the city's portion of the GAAP preparation for 2014 has been completed. All of the work papers have been turned over to the section of the State Auditor's Office that finishes them up to prepare the actual report for filing. The deadline for that is May 30th. I have been in contact with the State Auditor's Office to make sure it will be completed and it will be filed prior to that date. Other than that, that's all I have this evening unless there are any questions of my department.

COUNCIL WOMAN PETROSKY - I know you have been working really hard to get this all accomplished. Thank you for that, I appreciate it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - Pretty soon Fran will be taking some time off. You leave on May...?

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER – Friday will be my last day for six weeks. Then I'll be back by the end of June.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:
POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – The Soap Box Derby will be in town this weekend. They will set up Friday night and hopefully be done Saturday, possibly Sunday. It's the same place. There have been no problems with West Main St people or merchants. It all looks good. Other than that, that's all I have and I'll answer any questions you have.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – Can we put a closed sign back off of old Rt 5 before you get on McCleary Jacoby?

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – Where you come off McCleary Jacoby to go down Warren Meadville or vice versa?

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – Yes.

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POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – That’s actually the township and they have been directed to contact Trumbull County. They have done that in the past. Last time, I think somebody dropped the ball. That’s part of their requirement, and they usually do. Last time, either they or the county did not get the sign out there until Saturday I think. If not, our guys usually check and if we do need one, we can grab one of ours temporarily.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – I happen to be one of the guys that went down through there. I completely forgot about it until I got there. It was 7:00 at night; it was all done. I thought I’d just go up and pull into the Packard lot and go around and come out. Boy, they yelled at me. I said I was sorry. It was after 7:00 in the evening. They were done running. There wasn’t anyone on the street.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – Normally they have run late at night. It depends on the meet also. This meet is a rally meet. It’s more for promotions and advertising, not for standings. The rally in June is the one that matters for the kid’s standings. They take that pretty seriously. I think last year, they ran the June meet up until they couldn’t see any more.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Chief, I noticed the soccer fields at Pearl Park were very busy tonight. There was one “No Parking” sign up down by the parking lot. Did we put that up or is that something they had?

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – I noticed that a couple weeks ago. It was probably left over from last year or matted down maybe in the snow. We didn’t put that up. If they are out there playing, now we can put a few up.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Yes, they are out there playing.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – It’s probably a good idea to get those signs up early.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – It’s just that the sign is in an odd location.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Was it soccer or baseball?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – I don’t know. I was watching the road.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – It’s baseball.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS - It’s probably not a bad idea to get a few of those thrown up there to get people’s attention.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – I saw they started on the restrooms there. You didn’t see they dug that up, Jim?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - I did. I was going to let Don speak on that.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

FIRE CHIEF REA – As you know, the tornado siren out back hasn’t been working. I contacted Main Lite Electric the day after our last council meeting. They came out the following day and will be out again today or tomorrow to finish up the work. This past weekend we had our weekly tornado siren test and the one at the high

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school didn't go off. I don't know whether it's a 911 issue or not. I'll talk to them tomorrow. I also contacted Main Lite Electric to check all three sirens to make sure they are up to snuff.

I issued "No Parking" for the garage sales that are coming up May 15th and May 16th. So, there will be no parking there. We will be out to put those signs up with the police department the night before. It will be the mailbox side of the streets. We will also throw some signs up in front of fire hydrants in case some people think for some reason it will be okay to park in front of them. Last year it worked very well. I don't think we had any incidents. Hopefully, we can repeat it this year. That's all I had, I'll be happy to answer any questions.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – If have driven up Pearl St, you noticed they started the Pearl Park Restroom Facilities. The foundation is in. The deadline, I believe, is the end of August. Hopefully, it will be done sooner than that. This relatively dry spring has allowed things to get done earlier.

The High/Main St. project, you will notice the excavator is on site. I'm pulling my hair out with that project because they've gone past two water main services and they hit them both. And this is after they removed all the asphalt. They removed the markings we had for the water lines and ripped out all the boxes. It has been a very frustrating process. So, there is no such thing as free money, I guess. We are paying very little for the project but a lot of headaches.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Who covers that cost when they damage things?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – That will be worked out in the process.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - That means us.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – There's a lot of finger pointing going on at this point. The excavator ripped the water service back all the way across the street to the main. So, there is definitely not a lot of attention being made to what he was excavating. I apologize this is a little more detail than you guys are accustomed to but it's still fresh. It's very frustrating.

On a positive note, all the water lines for the Downtown Waterline Replacement - Phase II has been installed. The next step is to charge the line with water. Dave, did they make your connection today?

FIRE CHIEF REA - Yes. They have that all sealed back up.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – There was a discrepancy in the plans that we had to work through. Now I think the next step is to charge the water lines and then they will convert everybody over to the new waterline and then the sidewalks will be restored.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - I think those guys did an excellent job. They were very speedy. They certainly didn't drag their feet on Phase II. I was impressed on how quick they went.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – We are fortunate they like to work in the city. They are definitely a more reputable contractor to have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – This is Foust, right?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Correct, Foust Construction.

Today I conducted the first round of interviews with the laborer applicants. We received 43 applications. I whittled it down to ten. I have five more tomorrow. This is replacing an existing retired service department worker. We have another retiree at the end of June. So, there is a potential that we will be hiring two new laborers out of this pool of candidates.

COUNCILMAN ROWLEY - Those are permanent jobs, Don? The others are temporary?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Yes.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT – Do they have to live in the city?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – No. Residency requirements were struck down several years ago and Cortland never had one. Other than that, I'll entertain any questions Council may have for me.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – Don, have you received a notification or complaint about on a property on Greenbriar in regards to refuse?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Not of my recollection. I will have to check with Terri. She may have received a written complaint. What's the address?

COUNCILMAN PIROS – 231 Greenbriar. I was out cutting my grass and had an influx of neighbors.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Did you educate them on the process of how to initiate that?

COUNCILMAN PIROS – One said that she had contacted city hall. That's why I wanted to see if you had a formal complaint filed.

COUNCILMAN TACKETT - What's the stuff?

COUNCILMAN PIROS – Stuff that would normally go out on your Thursday night garbage pick-up.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – It wasn't sitting out on junk day, was it?

COUNCILMAN PIROS – No.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – I do know we had one on Stahl. But... (Inaudible) ...educated process. Once again, the suspected complaint for a property maintenance code violation needs to be submitted in writing. Typically, Terri handles those. Once we receive that complaint, we schedule an investigation. Based on what we find there, we will issue an order for abatement if necessary.

COUNCILMAN ROWLEY – Any update on the Dollar General?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – They actually came in and pulled a demo permit.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – I saw someone doing work there today. It was an individual laborer. I don't know what he was doing.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – I believe there is asbestos in that building. It was built in 1948. So, the abatement crews are going to be working. Once they remove the asbestos the demolition will begin.

COUNCILMAN ROWLEY - Is that the white concrete building?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Correct.

COUNCILMAN PIROS - The old auto parts store.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Don, is this going to be an actual Dollar General Market or just a Dollar General Store?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – I think it's just a store, I don't remember it being a market.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – There is a difference between the two. One is a little larger store selling more grocery items. I was just curious.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – They came in six months ago, at the end of last year. My memory is not fresh.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Kevin, how is the Splash Park going?

COUNCILMAN PIROS – It's moving forward. Donations are trickling in. The Parks Board is meeting next Monday, May 11th to talk with the committee about progresses and solicitations.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Kevin, just so you know, we have our walk-thru scheduled that evening.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – We are going to do it after. We were going to do it before tonight's meeting but a couple of the committee members couldn't meet at the last minute.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Oh, I didn't know tonight's meeting was cancelled.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – There was an emergency out-of-town obligation and they couldn't make it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Tomorrow is Election Day so don't forget to go out and vote. Exercise your rights. The city is wishing you support our police department tomorrow. We have that levy. So, if you students are old enough to vote, please do so.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – And the schools.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - Yes, the schools as well. We don't want to leave them out.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL