

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Cortland met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 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, and Scott Rowley; absent was Terry Tackett. Also present at the meeting were Mayor Moll, Law Director Wilson, Police Chief Andrews, Finance Director Moyer, Fire Chief Rea, and Clerk of Council Horn; absent was Service Director Wittman.

A motion to approve Council Minutes from the August 17, 2015 Council Meeting was made by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, absent; Woofter, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

A motion to approve Schedule of Bills to be paid totaling \$135,144.75 was made by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, absent; Woofter, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE O-23-15 - An Ordinance changing the zoning classification for a portion of Parcel No. 30-000063 located on St Rt 5 to Industrial, I-1 was read and moved for second reading by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL O-23-15** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, absent; Woofter, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED SECOND READING**

ORDINANCE O-24-15 – An Ordinance authorizing the purchase and installation of a metal roof from Dan Detweiler for the city service lab garages was read and moved for second reading by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilwoman Petrosky. **ROLL CALL O-24-15** - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, absent; Woofter, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED SECOND READING**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION R-43-15 – A Resolution accepting the amount and rates as determined by the Budget Commission of Trumbull County and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor was read and moved by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Edwards.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER - Fran, can you elaborate a little on what this is?

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER - This is basically the result of the budget we passed in the previous meeting that we then certified to the county. The county has now turned around and certified back to us what the tax rates are and the amounts they would generate for the coming year of 2016. That is what we are approving this evening.

ROLL CALL R-43-15 - Edwards, aye; Linville, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye; Tackett, absent; Woofter, aye. **RESOLUTION PASSED**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

MAYOR MOLL – First I have some announcements: As a reminder, you need to OPT-IN for the City's Gas Aggregate Program through Constellation Energy. The gas rate is \$3.67/mcf. You need to sign up by September 15th in order to get the rate for the beginning of the term. That's the deadline in the letters that went out. It's for the Nov 2015 thru Oct 2017 billing cycle. You can sign up later and be moved to that program, you just wouldn't get the October rate, and it would be whenever you signed up.

Congratulations to John and Nancy Finley for winning the August Community Pride Award. It was on the internet as well. It is the last one we have this year except for the Business Award. We are looking for business nominations. So, if you know of a business that has made significant improvements to their establishment that would be good.

The last mosquito spraying was last Thursday. Since it was so hot we had a successful evening. We should be good for the rest of the year. It's going to get colder.

We did not get the CHIP grant we applied for this year. It was rejected by the state due to some issues. I really don't think that's a bad thing. We had a lot trouble getting people to apply for the last few grants we had available through the last CHIPS. So, we will hold off for a few years and come back with a grant again when we need it. I think it's the right thing to do.

I will not be here for the next council meeting, September 21st. There is a celebration of the International Day of Peace at Kent State. I am a speaker there so I have to go instead of being here. There is a peace walk if anyone wants to join me, but it definitely conflicts with our council meeting.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

FINANCE DIRECTOR MOYER – I don't have anything to report to you this evening unless you have questions of my department.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – We successfully negotiated a payment for the school resource officer with the school board. They cut us a check for our SRO program for \$30,196. That's good for this school year. That helps us to defray some of the costs and some things. They obviously see the value in that program which I do too.

Secondly, we have a Drug Take Back Program that both police and fire are sponsoring. It is the 26th of this month. You'll see more on that next week coming up. It will be out in the paper. It's from 2:00 to 10:00. They take back any pharmaceuticals, everything except hypodermics, inhalers, liquids. We can still get rid of those but we'd rather not take them.

MAYOR MOLL - Do you take them ahead of time?

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – Yes. We take them year round.

MAYOR MOLL - That's what I thought.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – With this one finally the feds got back on board. They let it go for a couple of years and then started back up which is great because come Monday someone from the DEA will come in and take them all away for me. We have a bunch downstairs.

MAYOR MOLL - If people have questions about it you can bring them in anytime.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – Yes, anytime. Usually the best time is 9:00 to 2:00 Monday through Friday because then our secretary is here for sure. If not, it's kind of hit or miss with an officer but we'll always take them. Other than that, I'll answer any questions you may have of me.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – In regards to the money the school is paying, I think you and I talked about it being significantly more than it was last year?

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – Considerably. I applied for an Attorney General grant not last year but the year before. That helped defray some of the costs that we were passing on to the school. It was a considerable amount, almost half of this figure. That grant has changed dramatically. They want us to be teaching certain canned packages if you will. We would have to pay for the classes and then teach the classes in school which is not feasible for us or the school. It won't work. We aren't eligible for the grants.

MAYOR MOLL - The answer to the question though it was not a significant amount more, it was that they paid more because we had a grant to offset the cost. The cost we presented to them two years ago and last year were the same or similar to this year. It's just that the previous two years we had a grant that defrayed half of that.

POLICE CHIEF ANDREWS – We've tied in not just salary but a lot of the benefit costs which as you know going through negotiations adds up. It is all money for the city so we have to take into account things like that so I have to put a dollar figure on that. Then we prorate his time there and the school year itself and basically then split that in half and come up with some ideas. I talked to Superintendent Wilson and he sees a tremendous value in the program as does the school board and they have no problem with it. I think it's working out real good.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

FIRE CHIEF REA – To give you an update on the MDT project, they went into service today. They are in our squads and we got our first round of training in. We will continue to train our staff in the next week or so. They are in our squads and up and running. The fire trucks will be up and running. In a few more weeks we will have to do some wiring issues. It's a little bit different in the fire trucks. But they are finally in and finally up and running.

The tornado siren out back finally got repaired. They got all the parts in. Main Lite has been working on it for several months dealing with Federal Signal Corp. But they got all the parts in and its up and running as well. I got some reports that we were having some sirens that might not have gone off this past Saturday. I think that is more of a 911 issue than it is that they were not working. We went out several times this year and tested all the sirens and they work so far. So, I think it's on their end.

MAYOR MOLL – Did they say which ones?

FIRE CHIEF REA – Up on Blake. Every time I go out I have 911 tested and it goes off with no problem. I think it's an issue when they are setting off the mass tornado sirens for the whole county that they are not necessarily getting ours for some reason or another.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Are we working on that? It would be handy to hear those things if something happened.

MAYOR MOLL - Because that's usually what they do in a case of a tornado... they set them all off.

FIRE CHIEF REA – Well, yes. We are working on it at a county level. You know how fast that goes. I don't have anything else. I'd be happy to answer any other questions.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
(*SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN ABSENT*)

COUNCILMAN PIROS – I do have a question and maybe someone could answer it for me. The new grass down around the new intersection of High and Main. Is there any progress in getting the businesses to take ownership?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Did you see three of the four corners are...

COUNCILMAN PIROS – The one by the laundromat is going to be four foot high with the weeds soon.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Well, there is an issue there. He is not happy with what the county and state has offered him. So, he is refusing to do anything with that property at this point. However, El Torero cut their grass. I talked to Vince from Wollam Chevrolet and I asked him if he could clean up around his building and cut the grass out front which he did. Windows R Us has cut their grass. So, it's looking a lot better. It's just that one piece of property. Until he decides he is going to do something with it, it's going to remain that way.

MAYOR MOLL - Unless someone comes and cuts it for him.

PATTI KELLER – 328 OLD OAK DR

PATTI KELLER – I was just going to say, can't anyone cut that?

COUNCILMAN PIROS – Yeah, do I need to bring a weed whacker?

PATTI KELLER – What's the big deal. It's just a little strip.

MAYOR MOLL - It's up to you.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – The problem is he didn't have grass before and now he has grass. That's what I heard.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Yes that's part of it. It's more of a money issue. His refusal to want to do anything at this point. He has an attorney. I don't really know other than what I just said.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – I know there were some things on Facebook that makes it look real bad.

PATTI KELLER – Can anyone cut that?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Anyone can go in and cut it I guess if they wanted to. The point is, there is grass strips all down Rt. 5. Everyone takes care of their own grass strips. It's what it is there for. It looks nice.

COUNCILWOMAN PETROSKY - Jim, I will submit a letter or a notice in writing to the Service Director regarding a zoning violation.

MAYOR MOLL - I thought we did that. I'm not sure where we are with that.

COUNCILWOMAN PETROSKY - Okay, well that's what you need. That's what you normally need to do.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - I didn't think we had anything.

MAYOR MOLL - I thought he had but...

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - That would be fine. Thank you, Dee Dee.

LAW DIRECTOR WILSON - Usually several efforts are made at getting the land owner to comply before the city will go on their property. It's a civil process.

PATTI KELLER - So does the land owner or the city own that?

MAYOR MOLL - The city owns it. It's the right-of-way but it's the land owner's responsibility to cut it.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - We set Halloween Trick or Treat for Saturday, October 31st, Halloween night, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. That coincides with other communities around us.

MAYOR MOLL - I think Bazetta is setting theirs for the same time that night unless something comes up.

DIANA SMITH - 4913 WARREN RD

DIANA SMITH - My name is Diana Smith. I live at 4913 Warren Rd, St Rt 5. I wasn't here for the first reading and I'm across the street from this property.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - For the record, the property you are referring to is Parcel 30-000063 located on St Rt 5 changing the zoning to Industrial, I-1.

DIANA SMITH - Right. I wasn't there so I don't know too much of the particulars. I know whatever is done council will have to okay it anyway. Whereabouts is this 18 acres compared to Blake and Sunshine?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Quite a ways up. It's at the furthest north point of his property. Does it border St Rt 11, Mayor?

MAYOR MOLL - It borders Rt 11. It is north of Blake. If you go directly back on Blake it's on the left hand side. Its 18 acres. It's behind the property that's there in front there... the house.

DIANA SMITH – Okay.

MAYOR MOLL - No, it's actually north of there. It's behind the resident that's on the north side of Blake Rd.

DIANA SMITH – Okay, I know it's not going to be a steel mill or anything like that. But if this is approved, where would the traffic going to be coming in and out of? Rt 5?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Yes, off of Rt 5.

DIANA SMITH – They would be coming onto...

MAYOR MOLL - Blake Blvd. That's the access.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – It would go straight back.

DIANA SMITH – I know there is a part of a road that just sits there.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Yes and then it curves around and then it would go back and then north.

DIANA SMITH – Thanks, that's all I wanted to know. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Thank you, Diana.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER - Our next council meeting is Sept. 21st. Prior to that there is a Public Hearing at 6:50 for a zone change at 193 West Main. So, please mark your calendars for that, council.

MAYOR MOLL - This is the previous Lovejoy property. The yellow house on the south side across from Cortland Banks.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFER – Technically, the way it's zoned right now you can't rent out. You can't have anyone living in it. The new owners are changing the zoning so they can live in it. I think there are a couple of apts. there right now and people are living there. So they are going to make it legal before they actually purchase the property and move in.

COUNCILMAN ROWLEY - Is that 6:45 Jim?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – 6:50.

Trash collection in the city will be delayed one day this week due to the Labor Day holiday and Fall Clean Up is Oct 1st and 2nd. So, put items out with your regular trash pick-up at that time.

Lastly, the Splash Pad fundraiser "A Taste of Cortland" at *Country Porch Winery* is on Thursday, October 15th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30.

COUNCILMAN PIROS – With “A Taste of Cortland”, we have 17 area restaurants that have agreed to participate and provide food to us so it is truly everybody within the city. We will have some musical entertainment, background music. It’s going to be a real exciting event. Also, Oct 1st is the first Thursday of October from 4 to 8 p.m. at Beef O Brady’s. We will have another fundraiser. There will also be the first Thursday in November and December, but I’ll remind you as we get closer to those.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOOFTER – How did the last one do?

COUNCILMAN PIROS - Thank you for asking. The last one we had raised over \$330. That was our take of that evening. It was fantastic. With that, it pushed us over the 50% threshold. We do have a meeting coming up with a couple of individuals and hopefully the owner of the business that does the splash pads. We will be talking with him and hopefully getting this all set up. So, that was a major milestone to get to that 50%. Now we will have the other 50% to get but we have until March or so. If anyone needs more information about the *Taste of Cortland* I can provide you with a flyer if you want to post them around town.

MAYOR MOLL - The flyer is on the website as well.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Linville and seconded by Councilman Piros.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL