



January 22, 2019

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Cortland met in regular session on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Administration Building, 400 N High St, Cortland, Ohio with Council President Deidre Petrosky presiding. Members of Council present were James Edwards, Kathy Fleischer, Patti Keller, Don Moore, Kevin Piros and Scott Rowley. Also present at the meeting were Mayor Woofter, Law Director Wilson, Finance Director Gibson, Police Chief Morris, Fire Chief Rea and Service Director Wittman; absent was Clerk of Council Horn.

A motion to approve Council Minutes from the January 7, 2019 Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilwoman Keller. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

A motion to approve Schedule of Bills to be paid totaling \$203,349.48 was made by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Rowley. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE O-50-18 - An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Great Improvements to perform interior renovations at the City of Cortland Administration Building was read and moved for third and final reading by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilwoman Fleischer. **ROLL CALL ON O-50-18** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED THIRD AND FINAL READING**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION R-05-19 – A Resolution authorizing the Clerk of Council to advertise for Statements of Qualifications for providing professional services for various public improvement projects for the City of Cortland was read and moved by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilman Edwards.

MAYOR WOOFTER - I think Don ought to explain what this is.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – You have the advertisement in your packet as well as the package of what is to be submitted as part of the Statement of Qualifications. We have not gone out for the annual Statement of Qualifications for quite some time but we have some projects that are exceeding the \$50,000 threshold. By Ohio Revised Code, we have to go based on a qualification-based selection process and this will satisfy that.



January 22, 2019

ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-06-19 – A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cortland, Ohio to place his signature on the Final Plat for Bowers Plat No. 1 was read and moved by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilman Edwards.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - They are just dividing the two lots, apparently?

MAYOR WOOFER – There's the house up front and the commercial building in the rear.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - They are doing this because they are going to sell one?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – That is correct.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - I figured.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Yes. This comes to council as a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. It has been reviewed by them and meets all the ordinances as far as the setbacks for the existing structure. The second parcel in the back that houses the Bowers Insurance Group will actually have property that goes out to the driveway but the house is going to retain ingress and egress rights on that driveway.

ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-07-19 – A Resolution declaring property within the City of Cortland at 183 Grove Street abandoned and presuming it a nuisance and referring the property to the Trumbull County Land Bank was read and moved by Councilwoman Keller and seconded by Councilwoman Fleischer.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY - Don, would you like to address this resolution and the next three?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – These are some vacant properties that have been subject to exterior property maintenance code violations starting back last year. Two of these properties, 183 Grove and the 137 West Main, are actually being examined by the Land Bank for them to take them back. Actually, 137 was a Land Bank property and that is being looked at being brought back into the Land Bank and then the 183 Grove has already been deemed unfit for human habitation by the Trumbull County Health District. We are just trying to get additional tools available to the city should that fall



January 22, 2019

through. So, this will be the first step. Based on the exterior property maintenance code, they are considered abandoned. There is no intent by any of the property owners for future use of these so they are thereby a nuisance. These resolutions are formally declaring these a nuisance so we can take them to the next step.

COUNCILMAN MOORE – I have a question on 137 West Main while we are talking about it now. The minutes of the last meeting of the ... (INAUDIBLE)... services referenced it was gutted and new beams were being installed. Was the being rehabbed?

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – It was in the process of being rehabbed when it was abandoned.

COUNCILMAN MOORE – But now it's not.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – When the Trumbull County Health District went, they could not get inside and from an inspection from the exterior they could not declare it unfit because it was in a state of disrepair.

COUNCILMAN MOORE – So, there is no work being done on it then.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – No.

MAYOR WOOFER –The individual that owns 183 Grove and 137 West Main is the same person. The house on Grove, he does have a certain amount of time to improve that property to have the Health District come back out and re-inspect it and then approve it for habitation. So, he does have time for that. If he fails to do so, then there are still other hoops he would have to go through, as well as the other properties. They are all behind on taxes. It puts us in a better position to see these properties turned over to the Land Bank. If the taxes aren't paid, then the Land Bank has the right to go in and take them through their process.

COUNCILMAN MOORE – Does this go through a sheriff's sale? Or does using a Land Bank avoid that?

MAYOR WOOFER – I believe that avoids a sheriff's sale.

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER – (INAUDIBLE)... just tax foreclosure by the county from my understanding.



January 22, 2019

MAYOR WOOFER – That’s correct. So, once the county forecloses through the taxes, then the Land Bank can take... (INAUDIBLE). They are very close on getting the 137 West Main back because that’s further along in the process.

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER – The ones on High Street though, they are also going through that process but they are....

MAYOR WOOFER – Well, they are not being looked at by the health dept.

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER – But are they being looked at by the auditors? That is my question.

MAYOR WOOFER – I’m sure because they are behind in taxes.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – While we are doing the 183 Grove, these are the properties that some they are aware of and some they are not. So, when we send the letter to the Trumbull County Land Bank, I will list them all and then they will go underneath their investigation. They will look into the taxes and do what they can. If the Trumbull County Land Bank goes through the foreclosure process, they will take ownership of it and have the vehicle by which they can either do a renovation or a demolition and then do a final disposition of the property. The city also has the ability to go through the process under the exterior property maintenance code, utilizing the Law Director, notifying the individual, giving them such time, but then we would have to pay directly to have the houses torn down and we still would not retain ownership of the property. So, we would spend a lot of money to get them torn down but there would be no benefit. Then there would be a long shot to even be able to recoup any costs especially if they are already back on taxes. It would end up in the Land Bank anyway. So, the first step is to see what the Land Bank can do. If they fall short, then we will examine what is available from the city end to dispose of these properties.

COUNCILMAN PRIOS - So, only the 137 was originally in the Land Bank. The other 3 will be new to the Land Bank.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – Correct.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY - I would like to thank the Mayor, Don and Patrick because they have been working on this and approaching this from several different angles. I appreciate your diligence and hard work that went into getting this process rolling.

MAYOR WOOFER - You’re welcome. Thank you.



January 22, 2019

ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-08-19 – A Resolution declaring property within the City of Cortland at 123 North High Street abandoned and presuming it a nuisance and referring the property to the Trumbull County Land Bank was read and moved by Councilwoman Fleischer and seconded by Councilman Moore.

ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-09-19 – A Resolution declaring property within the City of Cortland at 125 North High Street abandoned and presuming it a nuisance and referring the property to the Trumbull County Land Bank was read and moved by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilwoman Fleischer.

ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

RESOLUTION R-10-19 – A Resolution declaring property within the City of Cortland at 137 West Main abandoned and presuming it a nuisance and referring the property to the Trumbull County Land Bank was read and moved by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilman Moore. **ROLL CALL**

- Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye.

MOTION PASSED

ORDINANCE O-01-19 - An Ordinance authorizing an amendment to the Fire Chief's Employment Ordinance O-52-17 was read and moved by Councilman Keller and seconded by Councilman Edwards. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilwoman Fleischer.

MAYOR WOOFER - Since this was submitted by myself, I'm going to defer to Patrick to explain this.

LAW DIRECTOR WILSON – The Fire Chief had the opportunity to opt of the city's health insurance plan and we talked to our health insurance carrier and there is no prohibition in doing so during the calendar year. Unfortunately, the way the Chief's contract was written, similar to the other dept heads, was that he could only opt out on the police anniversary date which, in the City of Cortland, is Sept 1st. So, we got clearance from our health insurance broker that we would not be violating any of the policy terms by allowing the Chief out at this time effective January 1st. We need to re-write his ordinance, the section only dealing with health insurance. It's noted in the ordinance that opting out does benefit the city financially. So, we thought why prohibit the Chief from doing so if he can do it at this time.



January 22, 2019

ROLL CALL ON SUSPENSION OF RULES - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **ROLL CALL ON O-01-19** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED EMERGENCY**

REPORTS:

FINANCE DEPT REPORT:

FINANCE DIRECTOR GIBSON – You have my report. We are still working on year-end. W-2s are done. 1099s will go out soon. I am hoping mid-February to have a Finance Committee Meeting to go over the budget so we can get the budget done early this year. That’s all I have. I’d be happy to answer any questions.

POLICE DEPT REPORT:

POLICE CHIEF MORRIS – You all have a copy of my Dec report in your packets.

The new cruisers are being built as we speak so hopefully they will be here in another week or so. We desperately need them.

I am wearing one of the new vests tonight what was delivered. We got four of these that came in at no cost to the city because of grants. This is the newer look. A lot of guys have already been wearing them. This outer carrier is the trend. That is what most of our guys are wearing now. This is what they look like. I would like to add that we take a lot of our old vests and give them to the fire dept so they can use them in their active shooter preparation. We are trying to re-utilize some of our older vests to help them out. I think they have quite a collection now.

FIRE CHIEF REA – Yes.

MAYOR WOOFER - Did you mention about receiving the cars?

POLICE CHIEF MORRIS – Yes. They will be here in about a month or so. Other than that, I can answer any questions that you might have.

FIRE DEPT REPORT:

FIRE CHIEF REA – Our new ambulance is set for final inspection on Feb 12th. If everything looks good then they will drive it home that day and have all the decals put on it. Hopefully, if the gentleman isn’t busy, we should have it around the 15th or 16th so we can start putting the radios in and get it on the road by the end of February.

This morning, I had the privilege of meeting with Congressman Ryan at his office down in Warren. We were down there to get some support for our MARCS project in the county. Hopefully, we will get a little grant money out of FEMA for it. (INAUDIBLE)... his full support and not only write a



January 22, 2019

letter to FEMA but also some stuff in the background to push this project forward with Trumbull County Fire Chiefs. It was a very productive meeting. Other than that, you have my monthly report and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY - I'm glad your meeting was productive.

FIRE CHIEF REA –I have to thank his office and Congressman Ryan. They were very receptive. Next week, we are going to meet with the representative in the northern half of Trumbull County to try to get his support as well. I don't see a problem. This is a \$1.8 million project we are trying to get.

MAYOR WOOFER - Is that Portman?

FIRE CHIEF REA – No.

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER - Joyce?

FIRE CHIEF REA – Joyce. That is it. I don't have a date yet. His representative is going to come to us and we will try to get them on board. I don't see a problem with that. Keep your fingers crossed. We could use the \$60,000 to outfit us.

SERVICE DEPT REPORT:

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – You received my monthly report in the packets. Winter Storm Harper kept us busy over the weekend. I think, all in all, we responded as best we could based on the accumulation of snow in the short amount of time as well as the temperatures going down into the teens which really makes the salt ineffective. So, a lot of the roads are snow covered. We are starting to warm up. We will probably be out in the catch basins tomorrow as we are supposed to be getting an inch of rain.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY - And then snow the next day.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – And then right back down to the cold. So, it's not going to get better for a little while. We will do the best we can based on what Mother Nature throws at us. Other than that, I will entertain any questions that council may have of me.

COUNCILMAN MOORE – Don, from what I have read on social media, everybody is pretty happy with the streets. Good job. Your guys are to be commended in tackling that and getting that done. It's a good reflection of the city and their services.

SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN – I will be sure to pass that along to them.



January 22, 2019

MAYOR'S REPORT:

MAYOR WOOFER – I had put at each one of our places this evening a little information on the new Trumbull County Visitors Bureau. It is the guide they are doing this year. In the past, they did just a small trifold, an 8.5 x 11 type thing. I'm sorry. I take that back. It was a pamphlet about the size folded as a trifold with several pages in it. This year they have gone to a full size magazine. As you may or may not have already read, it will be distributed throughout Ohio along I-90, 70, 71 and 80 as well as the Ohio Turnpike. It will be placed in local hotels. The ad that I had created for this, there's a sample there. I want to thank Tracy Omerzo. Tracy is the one that originally designed the city logo. I reached out to her to come up with an ad and her and I kind of went back and forth a few times on it. This is what we ended up with. She has done this as a favor for me. There is no charge for it so I want to thank Tracy for doing that for us.

Also, I will be speaking at the next Rotary Meeting on Tuesday. I will be giving them an update on things that have happened in the city over 2018 as well as asking them for financial help on the renovations of the tennis courts. I think they are considering taking that on as a project to fund.

Also, I want to thank you everybody for allowing me to attend the governor's inauguration that was held a week or so ago. It was pretty interesting. It was very well attended. There were several thousand people there. They used the capital building to have their gala. It was very nice. Unfortunately, I didn't have the audience of the governor or the lieutenant governor but I did mingle and talk and put ourselves out there that... well, I won't talk politics. Anyway, it was very nice to have been there.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - The Governor's Spokesman, Dan Tierney, is a Cortland boy. He went to Kennedy. He didn't go to Lakeview. He went to Lakeview in the early years. We moved to town in 1990 and he was one of the first friends that my son made. He lived over on Maple, the next street over.

MAYOR WOOFER –Maybe that's why I got invited. I couldn't figure out how...

(LAUGHTER)

COUNCILMAN MOORE - He was the Spokesman as Attorney General and now he was retained with the Governor. So, there is a Cortland tie there.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

NO QUESTIONS OF COUNCIL FROM AUDIENCE

COUNCILMAN MOORE - Kathy, are you still on the Visitor's Bureau?



January 22, 2019

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER - Yes.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - Did you have anything to do with this?

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER – I really don't have anything to do with the visitor's guide.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - Looks like a good idea.

COUNCILWOMAN FLEISCHER – Beth is doing a great job. I think you guys are going to hear a lot more about Trumbull County Tourism.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - Be sure our ad gets good placement.

(LAUGHTER)

MAYOR WOOFER – This is kind of Step 1 as part of my goal for this year - to help promote the city. I thought this was a great opportunity to get things moving with it.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - This looks like it would be an excellent back cover to that.

(LAUGHTER)

MAYOR WOOFER – Well, this is only a quarter page, it is not a full page ad.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - Do we have to pay something for that?

MAYOR WOOFER – Oh yeah. We do have to pay for that. We are taking that out of our... we have a fund with some money in it that we use for advertisement and promotion of the city.

COUNCILMAN MOORE - Seems to be a good use for it.

MAYOR WOOFER – Yes.

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

ROLL CALL - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, aye; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**



January 22, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL