



December 16, 2019

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.**

The Council of the City of Cortland met in regular session on Monday, December 16, 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, Kevin Piros and Scott Rowley; absent was Don Moore. Also present at the meeting were Mayor Woofter, Law Director Wilson, Finance Director Gibson, Police Chief Morris, Fire Chief Rea, Service Director Wittman and Clerk of Council Horn.

A motion to approve Council Minutes from the December 2, 2019 Regular Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Rowley and seconded by Councilmember Keller. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

A motion to approve Schedule of Bills to be paid totaling \$ 63,435.52 was made by Councilmember Piros and seconded by Councilmember Edwards. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE O-41-19** - An Ordinance authorizing an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program for the 2020 Asphalt Resurfacing Program and to execute contracts as required was read and moved for third and final reading by Councilmember Piros and seconded by Councilmember Fleischer. **ROLL CALL ON O-41-19** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED THIRD AND FINAL READING**

**ORDINANCE O-42-19** - An Ordinance authorizing an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program for the Mecca Street Resurfacing and Intersection Improvement Upgrades and to execute contracts as required was read and moved for third and final reading by Councilmember Rowley and seconded by Councilmember Edwards. **ROLL CALL ON O-42-19** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **ORDINANCE PASSED THIRD AND FINAL READING**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – We have a resolution this evening for Mayor Woofter. Mayor, would you please stand? In appreciation for your 18 years of service to the city, it gives me great pleasure to present this to you.



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**(COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY READS RESOLUTION R-39-19)**

***A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING MAYOR JAMES WOOFER  
FOR HIS 18 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CORTLAND  
AS A COUNCIL MEMBER, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL AND MAYOR***

*WHEREAS, Mayor James Woofter is being recognized for his service of eighteen (18) years to the City of Cortland from 1992 to 1995 and 2006 to 2019; and*

*WHEREAS, Mayor James Woofter served on the Planning, Zoning and Building Commission for four (4) years from 1992 to 1995; City Council for ten (10) years from 2006 to 2015 with four (4) years as President of Council from 2012 to 2015; and four (4) years as Mayor from 2016 to 2019; and*

*WHEREAS, under his leadership and guidance, Cortland City expanded many of its services to include online utility billing, an updated city website, park improvements such as the Veterans Memorial and tennis courts, new computer/software systems to enhance the City's technology and security and a new phone system; and*

*WHEREAS, his work for the City has been marked by exemplary dedication in the best interest of our community; and we appreciate all his assistance to the City of Cortland through these many years.*

***NOW THEREFORE***

***BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND, OHIO:***

*Section 1. That the Council of the City of Cortland, does on its own behalf, and on behalf of the residents of the City hereby recognize and honor Mayor James Woofter for his loyalty and dedicated service to the community for eighteen (18) years.*

*Section 2. The Council of the City of Cortland, Ohio does hereby extend a heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks to James Woofter for his distinguished and outstanding service.*

**(APPLAUSE ~ COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY PRESENTS MAYOR WOOFER WITH A PLAQUE)**

**MAYOR WOOFER** – I've ran over this in my head about nine hundred times. First of all, I want to thank all our city residents for their continued support and voting me in office to lead the city. I certainly appreciate that over the years. I've hoped and tried to be a very good Mayor for our city but I'm only as good as the people that I'm surrounded by. I really appreciate the hard work and dedication that I've received from each one of my department heads. Thank you. And I thank my family and my good friend Linda for all their support. I also want to thank each one of the council members. A Mayor can only do what he can do; he has to have the vote and support of council. Dee Dee, I appreciate all your help over the years.



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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** - My pleasure.

**MAYOR WOOFER** – And Rhonda, especially. She’s my Yoda.

**CLERK OF COUNCIL** – You’re welcome. Congratulations.

**MAYOR WOOFER** – I’ve used this guy a lot.

**(POINTS TO LAW DIRECTOR WILSON)**

**LAW DIRECTOR WILSON** - Well done, Jim.

**(MAYOR WOOFER WALKS AROUND THANKING AND SHAKING HANDS)**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – Personally Mayor, it’s been an honor for me to serve along with you during your time both as a council member and mayor. I appreciate your dedication to the improvement of the city watching you check off each of the new completed services on your to-do list, and there have been quite a few as you heard in the resolution. I admire and respect you in your service to the city and I thank you for making this transition so easy. My very best wishes to you as you enjoy your new adventure.

**MAYOR WOOFER** – Good luck to you, Dee Dee. I know you’ll do a good job.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – And I know your phone number.

**(LAUGHTER)**

**COUNCILMAN PIROS** - He’ll change that.

**(LAUGHTER)**

**RESOLUTION R-39-19** – A Resolution honoring and commending Mayor James Woofter for his 18 years of dedicated service to the City of Cortland as a Council Member, President of Council and Mayor was read and moved by Councilman Piros and seconded by Councilman Fleischer. **ROLL CALL-** Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye.  
**MOTION PASSED**

**RESOLUTION R-40-19** – A Resolution authorizing the adoption of a City-wide Drug Free Workplace Policy was read and moved by Councilman Rowley and seconded by Councilman Fleischer.



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**MAYOR WOOFTER** – I'd like to make a comment on this. This is my last resolution. Thanks to our police and fire for really pushing this forward as they did this year and to Patrick for his work on finally getting this policy into place. Everybody had to have their hands in this policy. Each of the dept heads took it back to the unions members and had them approve this before we actually brought it to council. I'd like to ask each of the council members, if you haven't read it already, you should review this and know what you are approving here tonight. This will be added to their contracts as an addendum to their contract. I believe, once you get approve this, it will go back to the unions and they will sign off on it for final approval of the drug policy. I appreciate your support on this.

**LAW DIRECTOR WILSON** – To follow up, and Jim is right. The procedure will now be for the service dept, fire dept and police depts to take it back to their unions to sign off on a Memorandum of Understanding, once you approve it tonight. Jim has shown some good humility here because he is the driving force behind getting this policy through this year. It's been on the table, it's been negotiated, it's been discussed, and we needed an impetus to get it on to the council agenda and passed. Jim has pushed for about a year now to get it done. So, thank you, Jim. Well done.

**MAYOR WOOFTER** – You're welcome. Thank you.

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

**REPORTS:**

**FINANCE DEPT REPORT:**

**FINANCE DIRECTOR GIBSON** – You have my report. I've been working on year-end. I do have pledge forms if anyone would like to contribute to the United Way. They are in my office, so if you would like to do that just let me know and we will get you signed up. They will be payroll deduct. Other than that, congratulations Mayor. Enjoy your free time.

**MAYOR WOOFTER** – Thank you.

**POLICE DEPT REPORT:**

**POLICE CHIEF MORRIS** – First I want to thank the Mayor for his leadership. For the 1 ½ years that I have been Chief, he has given me given me a lot of freedom to implement programs that, I believe, have improved the dept. Having his support behind those programs has made it a lot easier. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mayor. I hope you enjoy your retirement.

They only other thing I have is... and we will have a presentation later once it comes in ... Lou Wollam Chevrolet/Chevy All- Stars made a very generous sponsorship. It will upgrade our ballistic helmets for our officers and heavier duty armor that officers can use in pretty bad situations. Each one of our cars will have those in them because of the very generous sponsorship. Once those items come in,



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you will get a presentation of them. I don't want to get into too much detail of what that stuff will protect us from right now, but it is a very wonderfully added pieces of equipment that will keep our officers safer. We are very thankful for that.

**FIRE DEPT REPORT:**

**FIRE CHIEF REA** – You have my month end report. I don't have anything else. Mayor, thank you for the time that you have served with us. I know I've kept you on your toes a couple of times throughout the years. You gave me some good advice and helped guide me when I needed it. Thank you very much.

**MAYOR WOOFER** – You're welcome. Thank you.

**SERVICE DEPT REPORT:**

**SERVICE DIRECTOR WITTMAN** – First, I want to thank council for the support on the ordinances for submitting the OPWC applications. Those will be going in this week and on down to Columbus. I know it was a tough decision accepting almost \$300,000 in grants for roadway improvements. That will definitely help us in the upcoming annual resurfacing program as well as the improvements on Mecca St and the intersection. That will be an over \$1,000,000 project with no cost to the city. You have my monthly report. I'll entertain any questions council may have. Seeing there are none, I'd like to thank the Mayor for the last 4 years that I've worked with you directly and with council. It has not always been a smooth road. To echo what you said, you are only as good as the people that are employed by you; but us, as employees, we are only as good as our leader. I think how we work together and how we have come together in these last 4 years has really shown the leadership that you have given us as dept heads.

**MAYOR WOOFER** – Thank you. I appreciate that very much, Don.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**MAYOR WOOFER** – I'm pretty excited about this. We saw in the newspaper recently that Newton Falls was bragging about their 5% reduction that they were going to be able to provide their residents for electricity. I'm proud to say, through the negotiations with Buckeye Energy, which is the company we have dealt with for years, I was able to obtain a much lower kWh fee. This will start in July of 2020 and run for 3 years. It is a 9% kWh deduction for our residents on our next electric aggregate. We are currently paying 5.54¢ per kWh and the new rate is 5.05¢ per kWh. On top of that, I was able to obtain, through our provider, a \$99,000 grant which will be awarded to us over 3 years. We will receive \$33,000 a year which will go into our general fund for any expenditures you see fit in the next 3 years. I'm hoping some of this money can be earmarked for our parks since we are being awarded this grant through the cost of the kWh, so the residents are directly paying for this. We were able to obtain the 9% savings for them and also get the \$99,000 grant. So, I was pretty happy about that.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – Congratulations and thank you for that.



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**MAYOR WOOFER** – Thank you. I have some quick announcements. Again, winter is coming. We are supposed to have snow tonight. It is up to the residents, if you have sidewalks in front of your homes or businesses, to clear the sidewalks. It is the responsibility of the property owners. Be mindful as you are plowing your driveways or sidewalks that you don't blow or shovel the snow out into the road. Please try to keep it on your own properties.

Again, Eastlake Sled Hill is now open. We just need snow so it can be used. That might happen overnight.

Today, I gave authorization to close the City Administrative Offices at 12 Noon on Christmas Eve. Of course, it will also be closed Christmas Day which is Wednesday Dec 25<sup>th</sup>. Phones will be in operation these days so you can still call in if you need to and leave messages. Republic trash will be delayed one day next week. So, prepare or that.

So, that's all I have to say. Merry Christmas to everybody if I don't get to see you before Dec 31, 2019 at 11:59:59. After that, it will be Dee Dee.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – I have a couple of announcements as well.

First, my appointment to Mayor will leave my current council seat vacant. We are accepting applications that need to be submitted by 12 Noon, Monday, Dec 30, 2019. To date, we have only received one application.

I would also like to remind council of the following meeting dates. On Monday, Dec 30, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., we have a short Special Meeting to approve bills and deal with appropriations. Then on Thursday, Jan 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., council will have a Re-Organization Meeting. The following Monday, Jan 6, 2020, begins our regular council meetings.

### **NO COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – Since this is my last council meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my members of council. These individuals are truly dedicated in their service to the City of Cortland and they have made my job as Council President very easy. So, I thank you all very much.

### **NO QUESTIONS OF COUNCIL FROM AUDIENCE**

A motion to set Special Council Meeting for Monday, December 30, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. was made by Councilmember Rowley and seconded by Councilmember Fleischer. **ROLL CALL** – Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – At this time, I would like to thank and recognize Councilman Jim Edwards. Jim has served 8 years on Cortland City Council from Jan 2012 through Dec of this year, 2019. He served 8 years on the Safety Services Committee and most recently, 2 years as the Chairman



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of the Planning & Zoning Regulations Review Committee. Jim, council and community appreciate your service. Thank you.

**(APPLAUSE)**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PETROSKY** – We do have cake for Jim and Jim. You are all invited to stay after and join us for cake and coffee.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Rowley and seconded by Councilmember Piros. **ROLL CALL** - Edwards, aye; Fleischer, aye; Keller, aye; Moore, absent; Petrosky, aye; Piros, aye; Rowley, aye. **MOTION PASSED**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.**

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**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

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**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**