

TOWN OF CORTLAND
Town Hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Town Board Meeting
May 22, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Mayor Pietrowski called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Deputy Clerk Kaity Siewierski called roll showing as present; Mayor Mark Pietrowski, Trustees Charmaine Fioretto, Brad Stone, Doug Corson, Jim Walker Randi Olson, and Mike Siewierski. Quorum was present. Also present were Public Works Director Joel Summerhill, Engineer and Zoning Administrator Brandy Williams, Police Chief Lin Dargis, and Attorney Kevin Buick.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Corson moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Trustee Siewierski. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Presentation of Eagle Scout Recipient Ethan Bergeson

Mayor Pietrowski recognized Ethan Bergeson in his recent accomplishment of Eagle Scout. Mayor Pietrowski provided Ethan with a Meritorious Achievement Award and a Town of Cortland emblem pin.

Swearing in of Police Department Patrol Officers Joshua Ryder & Michael Bell

Deputy Clerk Kaity Siewierski swore in two newly hired patrol officers, Michael Bell, and Joshua Ryder.

Public Wishing to Speak

Bill Kirkham expressed his concerns to the board about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. He also thanked the Town's attorney, Kevin Buick, for explaining the SSA tax and breaking it down for him.

Heather Black, who lives in town and is the Library Director, addressed the board about her concerns regarding the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. She made it clear that she is not opposed to a bar or restaurant, just not in that location. She is appreciative of the turnout for this public meeting.

Linda Kuersten expressed her concerns to the board about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. She stated there are children at play, the noise will be significant, and the trash and broken glass will not be tolerable. She believes this lot is not appropriate for a bar and that there are other lots for sale in town for this purpose.

Harold Malone expressed he is not in favor of the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. Should it get approved, his bedroom would be 20 feet from the building.

Mark Nenja voiced his concerns to the board about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. He made it clear that he would love a bar in town, just not in this location. Passing this ordinance is not valuable for the town and its residents.

Charlie Alsip stated to the board that there was a house on the property of 86 S. Somonauk Rd. before it was torn down. The residents chose to live next to a house, not a bar. The lot has been vacant since and a bar or restaurant would not be appropriate in that area. He stated it is a great concept but wrong location.

Rhonda Richards addressed her concerns to the board about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. She feels this is the wrong location and wants what is best for Cortland.

Approved:
Attest:

Bill Abbott expressed his concerns for the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd and believes this is the wrong place for a bar. There are other lots available for purchase for this purpose.

Gigi Goochee-Statler asked the board a question about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. Where would the trucks park for incoming deliveries should a bar be placed on this lot?

Sally Coyle, who has been a town resident for 51 years, expressed her concerns and feels uncomfortable with the idea of having a bar so close to her home. She is not opposed to the idea of a bar in town, just not this location.

Martin McDermott addressed the board about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. He is in favor of having a bar in town, just not in this location. He believes it is too small to function properly.

Joan Lee addressed her concerns to the board about the proposed variances for 86 South Somonauk Rd. She is concerned about the property value of the homes in the area.

Amy Maddux addressed her concerns to the board about the proposed variance request for 86 South Somonauk Rd. She is concerned about the parking, kids within the area and violence.

Terri Kammes, who also works at the library, stated that there is limited parking for library staff and patrons. Where would people park should a bar/ restaurant be placed?

Brian Oster stated to the board that he understands that making this determination is a tough decision. When variances do not pass, there is no growth in our community. He stated that everyone has made valid points and thanked the board for taking the time to consider this matter.

Consent Agenda

Deputy Clerk Kaity Siewierski read the consent agenda into the record. Approve Town Board Minutes of April 24, 2023; Approve Expenditure Reports of April 2023 and Accept Treasurers Report of April 2023. Trustee Corson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Trustee Siewierski.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

Consideration of an Ordinance Regarding Certain Variation Requests for Property Located at 86 South Somonauk Rd. *(This ordinance, if passed, would grant variation requests from applicant Amy Aluli to certain regulations associated with setbacks, the location of an open sky patio, and specific parking requirements to accommodate a proposed bar/restaurant/videogaming establishment for Parcel 09-29-207-001 at 86 South Somonauk Rd. The hearing officer report, along with exhibits and staff report from the hearing, is attached as an exhibit. The Town Board may, 1.) pass the ordinance, 2.) modify the ordinance, or 3.) fail to pass the ordinance (which would represent denial of the requests.))*

Trustee Corson moved to approve an Ordinance Regarding Certain Variation Requests for Property Located at 86 South Somonauk Rd, seconded by Trustee Stone. Discussion ensued, the board discussed the pros and cons, discussed the concerns of the speakers, and asked additional clarifying questions.

Voting Yea: Trustee Fioretto

Voting Nay: Trustees Stone, Walker, Corson, Olson and Siewierski

Absent: None

Motion failed on roll call vote

Approved:

Attest:

Consideration of application for Noise Variance for Cortland Summer Fest in accordance with Title 5, Chapter 4, Section 5-4-4 of Town Code: Exemptions: D. Community Events - Exemption request for operation during night hours

Trustee Corson moved to approve application for Noise Variance for Cortland Summer Fest August 11, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. & Saturday August 12, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. in accordance with Title 5, Chapter 4, Section 5-4-4 of Town Code: Exemptions: D. Community Events - Exemption request for operation during night hours, seconded by Trustee Stone.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion

M2023-02

Consideration of Submittal of Grant Agreement Between the State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and The Town of Cortland, Illinois- Ratifying the Mayor's signature of Agreement

Trustee Corson moved to approve the Submittal of Grant Agreement Between the State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and The Town of Cortland, Illinois- Ratifying the Mayor's signature of Agreement, seconded by Trustee Olson.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion

A2023-09

Consideration of DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) Grant Agreement Ratifying the Mayor's signature of Agreement

Trustee Stone moved to approve the DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) Grant Agreement – Ratifying the Mayor's signature of Agreement, seconded by Trustee Fioretto.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

A2023-10

Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Title 6 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 3, Traffic Schedules, Section 2, Speed Limits, to the Town of Cortland Town Code. (*This ordinance, if passed, would modify certain speed limits in areas currently governed by Section 6-3-2 of Town Code, as recommended by the Town Engineer.*)

Trustee Corson moved to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 6 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 3, Traffic Schedules, Section 2, Speed Limits, to the Town of Cortland Town Code, seconded by Trustee Walker. Ms. Williams stated she met with Public Works and the Police Chief to discuss reducing the speed in areas near the splash pad.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski and Mayor Pietrowski
Voting Nay: Trustees Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Absent: None

Roll call vote carried the motion.

Ord. 2023-04

Approve a Temporary Use Permit for the Illinois Department of Transportation for Remediation of Abandoned Storage Tanks Located in the Right of Way of Somonauk Road, Cortland Illinois

Trustee Olson moved to approve a Temporary Use Permit for the Illinois Department of Transportation for Remediation of Abandoned Storage Tanks Located in the Right of Way [Clerks Note: Easement] of Somonauk Road, Cortland Illinois, seconded by Trustee Walker.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

E2023-01

Approve a Contract for Testing Service Corporation (TSC) to Provide Construction Material Engineering for Somonauk Road Paving

Trustee Stone moves to approve a contract for Testing Service Corporation (TSC) to provide construction material engineering for Somonauk Road paving, seconded by Trustee Walker.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion

C2023-04

Consideration of an Agreement between KMF Writing and Scheduling Services and the Town of Cortland for the production of the Town of Cortland Newsletter

Trustee Fioretto moved to approve an agreement between KMF writing and scheduling services and the Town of Cortland for the production of the Town of Cortland newsletter, seconded by Trustee Walker.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Walker and Corson.
Voting Nay: Trustee Stone
Absent: None

Roll call vote carried the motion.

A2023-11

Approve Preliminary Cortland Lions Club Event for Touch-A-Truck – June 17, 2023, Cortland Community Park

Trustee Corson moved to approve the Preliminary Event for Touch a Truck on June 17, 2023, in Cortland Community Park, seconded by Trustee Stone.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Parks Advisory Committee Report

Trustee Fioretto reported that she did a ride along with Joel Summerhill and Brandy Williams to look at the parks. She stated the meetings are going well and they are working towards a plan to bring forward.

Comments

Trustee Olson thanked everyone who showed up for coming and speaking up for what they believe in.

Department Head Reports

Department head reports were provided in the packet. No other reports were made.

Approved:
Attest:

Mayors Report

Mayor Pietrowski reported the Dragon Tail Pond is open. Trustee Corson asked if the pond was stocked with fish? Public Works Director, Joel Summerhill stated the IDNR did not recommend to restock the pond as it is too shallow, but there are plenty of fish still in the pond. Mayor Pietrowski also reported that he played a game of pickleball on the new courts. The splash pad will begin construction after Memorial Day. The shelter at Suppland park will be closed for the time being due to construction.

Adjourn to Executive Session Under Exception to Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired

Trustee Corson moved to adjourn to Executive Session under exception to Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, seconded by Trustee Stone.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.
The Board of Trustees moved to Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.

Reconvene to Open session

Trustee Corson moved to reconvene to open session, seconded by Trustee Walker. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

Possible Action after Executive Session

Trustee Corson made a motion to authorize the town engineer to proceed, in accordance with what was discussed in executive session, seconded by Trustee Siewierski.

Voting Yea: Trustees Fioretto, Olson, Siewierski, Stone, Walker, and Corson.
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Adjournment

Trustee Stone moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Walker. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaity Siewierski
Deputy Clerk