

Who's Watching Your Money?

Three Audits in the Past Year Fault the City's Fiscal Oversight



Two New York State audits found over \$200,000 in inappropriate or unapproved spending.

- Two state Comptroller's audits this year found lack of financial and administrative oversight by the Mayor and Common Council.
- One audit¹ revealed that credit account purchases were "not properly supported or for questionable or inappropriate purchases," including perfume and flowers.
- The second audit² cited overpayment to staff for leave and vacation hours valued at \$134,900 during the audit period alone. The Comptroller recommended that the Council review the payments and seek reimbursement, which has not occurred.
- According to the Comptroller, the "City paid \$59,500 to provide health insurance for two Council members without proper approval and establishment of eligibility requirements and contribution rates."
- A review of the Comptroller's audit in a *Cortland Standard* editorial (9/3/21) stated responsibility lies with the Mayor and the Common Council and labeled it "mis-management."
- Comptroller's audits in 2010 identified similar problems, which the Mayor and Council failed to correct.



The City has overspent and created budget deficits over the last two years.

- The City's *Independent Audit*³ found weaknesses in financial reporting and reported that financial information and governmental activities should be monitored and recorded on a timely basis.
- The audit also faulted the City's budgeting for over-stating revenues, which resulted in the City spending more money than it had.
- The Council's failure to review current financial statements and constrain non-budgeted expenditures, along with not pursuing repayment of loans to not-for-profits, businesses and individuals, contributed to these deficits.



Scott Steve has a proven record of safeguarding public tax dollars, and saved clients money with cost controls.

- While serving as Chairman of the County Legislature, Scott led a bi-partisan effort to restore financial accountability and modernize operations at the County level.
- As a business consultant, he works with clients to reduce their costs, manage projects, and streamline operations.
- Scott will place the review of the City's fiscal activities on monthly Council meeting agendas.

ELECT SCOTT STEVE 
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CORTLAND

To Restore Accountability and Transparency

1. <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/audits/city/2021/05/14/city-cortland-credit-accounts-employee-reimbursements-2020m-141>
2. <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/audits/city/2021/08/27/city-cortland-non-contractual-employees-payroll-benefits-2020m-161>
3. <https://www.cortland.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/439?fileID=3973>