

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 21, 2017

Town Council President Tom Hoover called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 6:58 p.m. Other Council members present were Larry Martindale, Bill Musser, Paul Stoelting and Larry Siegel. Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Town Manager Henry DeJulia was not present.

Tom Hoover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

Tom moved to change the agenda to allow for a presentation from Clevenger Insurance. Paul seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paula introduced Gina Clevenger of Clevenger Insurance. Paula asked the Council if they had any questions for Gina on the Physician's Health Plan insurance renewal. Paul asked why there was a decrease in the premium. Gina explained that it was due to the difference in classification of the Town. Previously we were classified as a large group, and now we are a small group. Tom asked where Clevenger Insurance was located. Gina answered that they have offices in Warsaw, North Manchester, and North Webster. Tom asked if Gina worked out of all those offices. She replied that she mainly works out of Warsaw but is mobile and always available. Tom asked if she was the principle agent. Her answer was yes. She added that her husband is the president of the company. Paula addressed the council and requested approval on having the Town contribute the full \$2,500 annual deductible to the employee's Health Savings Account; rather than the current \$2,000. She explained that the new policy did increase the deductible; however, with the substantial decrease in premiums, we would still save approximately \$13,000 a year after contributing the extra amount for the deductible. It was asked if an ordinance needs to be modified for the increase. Paula stated it may need to be put into the Salary Ordinance. Tom stated that the council would like to table approving the Salary Ordinance until next month anyway.

The minutes of the October 17, 2017, meeting was presented for approval. Larry Siegel moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1424 through 1561 were presented for payment. Larry Siegel moved to approve the claims; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-05, Adopting the Employee Handbook, was presented. Larry Martindale moved to approve the ordinance, Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-11, Appropriation Reduction for Local Road & Street and Rainy Day, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-12, Additional Appropriation for Cumulative Storm Sewer Fund, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-13, Salaries & Compensation for 2018 was presented. Larry Siegel moved to table the ordinance until next month. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-14, Designating and Naming Almond Street, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-15, Drilling of Potable Water Wells amendment, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia was absent.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions on his report. There were none. Jim reported that there was a meeting regarding the parking on various streets. He stated that two-thirds of the participants agreed to have one-sided parking. Jim asked the Council to instruct Vern to prepare an ordinance to enforce the one-sided parking.

Jim presented the 2018 Terminal Services Data Agreement with the Kosciusko County. He explained this is a \$5,000 a year agreement for use of their mobile information system. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the 2018 Terminal Services Data Agreement for \$5,000 to the Kosciusko County. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim announced that some of the officers in the department are participating in the No Shave November. Donations will be used to help the elementary students.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that the end of October was the Haunted Thrill at Crossen Mill. He stated there were more participants than ever. He announced that Breakfast with Santa would be on the 2nd of December from 8 am to 11am. He also stated that the decorations are being put up and they are mostly finished. Chad reported that the Master Plan is still being worked on and should be completed within a couple months. He also informed the Council that J.P. Developers removed the Northshore Drive restrooms for free so that they may have the bricks and other items from the demolition.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant asked the Council if there were any questions on his report.

There were none. Rob requested to amend the approval of a Dump Truck from a previous meeting. He stated that it was approved to be paid fully to W.A. Jones. The payment actually needs to be split between two vendors. Norris Truck Services, who provides the truck, for \$95,825.00 and W. A. Jones, who installs additional parts and outfitting, for \$46,882.00. Bill Musser moved to approve the amendment. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob reported on the increase of sewer flow due to the significant amount of rain we have received. He stated that the Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) from Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District (TCRSD) has increased by approximately 92% compared the previous weekend's measurement. Rob stated that something needs to be done by TCRSD to control the flow. If we exceed our flow capacity at the plant, we will have to report it to the state. Lengthy discussion followed on what can and cannot be done regarding the contract with TCRSD.

Rob distributed the 2018 Wastewater Budget to the Council that shows an overall increase of 4%. He explained the various items under the 2017 expenditures were increased due to maintaining the current aeration system and professional services for the TCRSD contract.

Rob discussed the meeting for the selection of a contractor for the Guaranteed Savings Contract (GSC). He announced that Kokosing was rated the highest. He mentioned that Plymouth has used both Kokosing and Theineman for GSC projects and they stated they would choose Kokosing again. Jeremy Hardy of Commonwealth Engineers was present to explain the process of choosing the contractor. He stated that the council would need to authorize the highest rated contractor, Kokosing, to provide the pricing of the job. If the

Council does not like the pricing from Kokosing, they would then go to the next highest rated bid, Theineman. It was also mentioned that Kokosing has been through a GSC before; whereas Theineman has not. Paul moved to authorize Kokosing to proceed with the getting pricing for the aeration equipment and construction. Bill seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy reported that he received a long list of comments from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) regarding the construction permit application. Rob and he will resubmit with the needed information.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott asked the council if they had any questions about his report. There were none. He announced that there were 110 total responses for October. Mickey emphasized the importance of carbon monoxide detectors in homes. He stated that there have been many deaths in homes caused by carbon monoxide. Mickey also announced that Kidde fire extinguishers are being recalled. There are numerous brands made by this company and they will replace with new ones for free.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, confirmed with the Council on not having a year-end meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Dennis Wright of 302 N Harrison Street spoke before the Council. He stated that he has lived in his house since 1992. He stated that at the time he moved in, there was a no parking sign on the 300 block of Harrison on the east side. He is requesting that we put that sign back. Paul asked Jim if that idea was part of the proposed parking resolution. Jim explained that the proposed resolution includes one sided parking (east side) for all streets in the area. Mr. Wright asked if the 300 block could be the exception and make the west side have the parking. Mickey explained that the parking could not be in a zig-zag fashion or it would defeat the purpose of allowing safety vehicles through. Paul mentioned making people park on the west side instead of the east side. Jim explained that the east side was decided due to the ease of fire apparatus to make the turns. Mr. Wright then requested that if parking must remain on the east side only, then the sidewalk accesses should be treated the same as driveways and alleys. In which, there would be no parking allowed in front of them. Jim stated that it would be a slippery slope to allow one thing for one part of the area and different for another. Tom commented that this was discussed at a recent meeting with the residents and the majority agreed to having one-sided parking. Mr. Wright then asked about trash pick-up with one-sided parking. Jim explained that the trash would be removed from the no-parking side. Mr. Wright stated that there would be some people that won't want to move their trash across the street and suggested putting their trash in the alleys? Sherry Hughes spoke up regarding the trash pickup and explained that the trash company will not pick up if it is blocked and damage has happened when alleys are congested. After more discussion, Tom thanked the speakers for their input and stated that they would take all their suggestions under advisement.

OLD BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Musser received a letter from Nancy Harter thanking the Town for the street light in Oakwood.

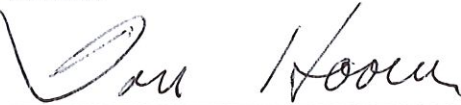
Bill asked about lighting at the corner of Syracuse-Webster Road and Milford-Syracuse Road. He stated that it's difficult to see the crossing guard let alone people and kids crossing the road in the mornings to school. He would like to have that area looked at. Rob mentioned that they will be changing the decorative lights to LED's and that could give more light to the area. Lengthy discussion followed regarding adding a light near the railroad tracks and other suggestions.

Bill also mentioned that there is a pond between 710 and 712 S Harkless Drive that flows across the road and could cause accidents due to speeding vehicles. Rob stated he may need to look at the swells and culverts. Bill added that the water just sits there until it sinks in the ground and needs to be draining to the channel.

Bill Musser moved to adjourn; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:08 pm.

ATTEST:



Tom Hoover, President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer