

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

April 17, 2018

Town Council President Bill Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were Tom Hoover, Larry Siegel, and Larry Martindale. Interim Town Attorney Scott Reust, Town Manager Henry DeJulia, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Town Attorney Vern Landis and Council Member Paul Stoelting were absent.

Bill Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Musser asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the March 20, 2018, meeting was presented for approval. Larry Siegel moved to approve the minutes; Larry Martindale seconded. Two voted for the motion. Two abstained due to not being at the March meeting. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 430 through 571 were presented for payment. Tom Hoover moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2018-04, Amending the Town Code Regarding Sewer Rates and Charges, was introduced. Larry Martindale moved to accept the ordinance at first reading, Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2018-05, Amending the Town Code Regarding Waterworks Rates and Charges was presented. After much discussion, the ordinance was tabled.

Ordinance 2018-06, Amending the Town Code Regarding Right Turn Only, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion, none against. The motion carried.

Henry DeJulia presented the CF-1 compliance forms for companies who have requested to received tax abatements. Larry Siegel made a motion to find all the submissions in substantial compliance with the Statement of Benefits for Real Estate and Personal Property. The companies are: JP Incorporated (Jasper Plastics), Patrick Industries (AIA Countertops), Syracuse Properties LLC, Precision Automotive (Technical Services), Poly-Wood LLC, and P.W. Realty, Inc. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Matt Meersman, Director of the Saint Joseph River Basin Commission, introduced himself. Matt explained that the Executive Member (the Council President) is a statutory member of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission. The Council President would also designate a proxy representative to go to the quarterly meetings in Goshen. He explained that the Commission was created in the 1980's to address water quality standards that were not being met by the Saint Joseph River and other streams that flow into it. Legislation was just passed expanding the scope of the Commission to include water quality, quantity, and flood mitigation. Due to recent flooding issues, he is hoping to go down to Indianapolis this coming session and secure some financial resources. He would like to receive some participation from the Town. Discussion followed on what can be done to help fix our flood control structure.

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia informed the council that he has signed the engagement letter for London Witte to do a Sewer Rate Study. He stated that the \$5,000 cost would be included with the Bond. Henry presented two Engagement Letters; one from London Witte to be our Financial Advisor for the Sewer Bonds for \$20,000, and the other from Barnes and Thornburg to act as Bond Counsel for no more than \$28,000. Tom Hoover moved to approve both engagements. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions regarding his report. There were none. He reported about the recent pursuit in town. He stated that the amount of damage is unknown; however, 2 police vehicles received front-end damage but were able to remain in service.

Jim also reported that the recently approved parking ordinance is currently being revised and will have an amendment by next month's meeting.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that the Community Center has been very busy within these 3 months of March, April, and May. He stated that the egg hunt was successful and the 2nd Annual Princess party that was this past Saturday went over-capacity due to people showing up that were not registered. Upcoming events include: Pitch Hit and Run on the 28th of April, Touch-A-Truck will be May 5th, and the Farmer's Market opens the following weekend. He also reported that this coming Saturday will be a Tree planting program at Laudeman Park.

Bill Musser read the Arbor Day Proclamation and designated April 27th, 2018 as the Town's Arbor Day.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent, Rob Merchant, reported about the condition of the sidewalks on Main Street and State Road 13/Huntington Street. He stated that the Pickwick Block Association has offered to pay for the piping needed to do an extension for the storm water. He stated that the cost of the concrete would be \$5,500 and is already budgeted in this year's annual sidewalk replacement. After some discussion, Tom Hoover moved to approve the sidewalk repairs for no more than \$5,500. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob presented the first quote of \$107,898 from Scadata for a Remote Telemetry Units (RTUs) to be installed on the main Lift Stations and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is a requirement from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The cost is already included in the overall Aeration Project amount. They would be installed within 60 days after the project is finished. Tom Hoover moved to approve the \$107,898 for the RTU's. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob also mentioned that there is a second quote from Scadata to add RTUs to the remaining 16 lift stations throughout town. The cost would be \$94,840.00. He will be attending a meeting with Inframark to discuss payment options on this quote.

Rob asked the Council that he would like to send letters to the residents of Fox Run proposing to allow them to hook-up to the existing water lines without the requirement of annexation. The Council instructed him to hold off.

Rob presented a proposal to replace all our current decorative snowflakes with L.E.D. lighted snowflakes. This could potentially save the Town thousands of dollars on electrical costs as well as a possible rebate from NIPSCO. There are 200 snowflakes to replace. Paula informed the Council that payment of the snowflakes would come from the Donation Fund and Riverboat Revenue Fund. Tom Hoover moved to approve the purchase of 200 new LED snowflakes for no more than \$27,000. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob informed the council that we will be receiving 2 rebates from NIPSCO. One is for approximately \$62,000, and the other is for \$450.00 for replacing four of our outdated heaters in the wastewater garage. Kokosing is proposing to submit more applications for various rebates for the replacement of the heating and air conditioning units, the wastewater plant's inside and outside lights, changing to the L.E.D. lights on our decorative street lights, and the new snowflake lights. Bill Musser asked how we would receive the money. Rob stated they would be sending us a check.

FIRE TERRITORY

Brian Richcreek asked if there were any questions regarding the Fire Territory report. There were none. He presented a purchase request for 5 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and 12 Carbon bottles for \$34,435.70 plus shipping from Hoosier Fire Equipment. Tom Hoover moved to approve the purchase; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill Musser introduced Curt Nisly, State Representative for District 22, to the Council. Mr. Nisly stated that he just returned from Indianapolis after receiving a briefing on the Special Session that the Governor will be calling in a few days. He stated that there were about 4 or 5 bills that didn't make the regular session due to time restraints. A couple of them have to do with recent Federal Taxes that Congress just passed and School Safety. He explained on previous bills that were passed that he either authored or co-authored. He stated that there were approximately

6,000 more students this year in which caused the school funding to be cut. He worked on changing the Child Labor law of Indiana so that students under the age of 18 can work until 10pm on nights that there are no school the next day. Another Bill that he co-authored was legalizing CBD oil.

Tom Hoover asked if they are considering legalizing marijuana. Mr. Nisly answered that there is currently no talk on legalizing it for recreational use; however, there is a summer study group that is working on proposing the legalization of medical marijuana.

Mr. Nisly also discussed a bill he is working on that would change "for hire" boat inspections from being dry-dock inspections only to allowing for under water inspections. In the past, he has also worked with the Town on the annexation of our Technology Park. He also discussed briefly about Indiana's complicated alcohol code. He stated it is in a 2-year study process. He will notify us of any changes that may occur within our Town regarding the alcohol code and our Riverfront District. He will also investigate what can be done for our flood control structure, as well as North Webster's; as they are in the same situation.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, had nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Interim Town Attorney, Scott Reust, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Ida Marchand, North Huntington Street, spoke about a walnut tree that she is having problems with. The tree is not on her property and would like to know what can be done with it. Council referred her to Rob.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom Hoover moved to authorize the signing of an engagement for Bose, McKinney, and Evans for legal services on the issues we have with our Wastewater Plant. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Tom also moved to approve Bose, McKinney, and Evans to file a claim against Triad and Severn Trent. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

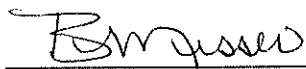
NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

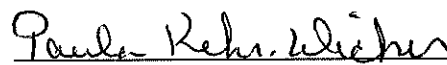
Tom Hoover moved to adjourn; Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:13 pm.

ATTEST:



Bill Musser, Council President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer