

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 17, 2018

Town Council President Bill Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 6:59 p.m. Other Council members present were Tom Hoover, Paul Stoelting, Larry Siegel, and Larry Martindale. Town Attorney Vern Landis, Town Manager Henry DeJulia, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

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 June 19, 2018, meeting was presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 866 through 1008 were presented for payment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Dan Richards spoke before the council on behalf of Sawyers Country Edge to request a zoning variance for the property at 1205 N Long Drive. Currently the property is zoned as a residential district. They would like to change it to a commercial district. Dan Richards stated that the Area Plan Commission has approved the variance unanimously with limited uses. It was explained to the council that the limited use would remain with the property and not the owner. If the property sells, and the buyer wanted to change the use, they would have to go through the Board of Zoning again. Ron Stuckman, owner of Sawyers Country Edge, explained to the council how the building would be set up. Mickey Scott, Turkey Creek Fire Territory, commented that the building would need another tap for a fire sprinkler system, including a backflow preventer. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the variance. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion Carried. Ordinance 18-08 was signed by council for this variance.

2019 BUDGETS

Henry DeJulia asked the council if they had any questions regarding the Town Manager's budget. There were none. Henry also asked if there were any questions regarding the Cumulative and various fund's budgets. There were none.

Chad Jonsson discussed the Park Department Budget with the council. He informed them that the increase in the wages were due to possibly hiring a full time administrative assistant. He also explained the increase in his new equipment line item was to budget for a new truck. Council asked what would be done with the old truck. Chad stated they would have to get rid of it since it would not be beneficial to keep it. He stated that his total budget has decreased due to the removal of the new restrooms in Lakeside Park.

Jim Layne spoke on the Police Department budget. He informed the council that the video equipment in the interrogation room needs to be renewed. He also explained that since the Law Enforcement Academy has been underfunded, all police departments now must pay for their student's ammo and fees. He also stated that the in-car radars need to be replaced. He will try to submit grants for them, but it is not guaranteed. Jim requested the council allow him to hire a part-time code enforcement officer and to have them start the first of August. Tom Hoover moved to approve hiring a part-time code enforcement officer. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob Merchant pointed out that the Street Department's budget is being decreased by over 4% for 2019. He explained it was due to being fully staffed so no overtime will be needed.

Paul Kehr-Wicker asked the council if they had any questions on the Clerk-Treasurer's budget. There were none.

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia presented a new contract for maintenance of the Heating and Air Conditioning units for the Town Hall. He stated that they did decrease the first year of the three year contract due to the 2 new units being installed. The first year will cost a total of \$9,504.00, and the second and third year will cost \$10,392.00 each. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the new Havel contract. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against.

Henry showed a video that was made to advertise the Town of Syracuse. The video was created by Tommy Vance Productions and will be posted onto the Town's website.

Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineers, presented two options for three projects, stretched out for seven years, that may be submitted to the Community Crossings Matching Grant program. He suggests that the council approve the second option that pertains to the Medusa Street project first with other projects following. The total cost estimate is \$740,000 with the Crossroads Grant paying \$285,000. Larry Siegel stated that we do not know how long the program will last. Larry Siegel asked Jeremy what the likelihood would be for us to get awarded the funds. Jeremy explained that since we were awarded funds last year, the State will try to award to other municipalities that have not received awards first, if the requirements are met. Lengthy discussion followed. Tom Hoover moved to approve Option 2. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; the motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions regarding his report. There were none. There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that there were 282 participants in the Annual Mudtastic Classic. He also reported that this past 4th of July was the busiest ever, even for the 6 food vendors. There were 300 riders in last weekend's Tour De Lakes. Chad announced that the Community Garage Sales will be August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. There will be a Triathlon on August 11th. He also announced that Darin Lursen is the newly hired Program Director and will be starting this coming Monday. Tom Hoover asked Chad what kind of plans are being done for Laudeman Park. Chad answered that it is a work in progress; however, they are looking into working with the Wawasee High School landscaping class or inviting the neighbors to provide ideas.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent, Rob Merchant, informed the council that he would like to have an amendment to our current water and wastewater use ordinances. He stated that when a resident makes a request to have their water service shut off for an extended amount of time, it should be required that the meter is removed. He would also like to change what charge is being applied to the account. Currently, if the meter is removed, the inactivated water account is charged the flat rate unmetered sewer rate (e.g. \$48.14). He believes that if the water is accessible, the meter is removed, and inactivated temporarily, that the account should be charged the minimum metered sewer rate (e.g. \$14.97).

Rob reported that he had Ortman Well Drilling, for \$3,150.00, replace a mechanical seal and packing on a high service pump. He also stated that another high service pump could not be repaired. It was replaced for a cost of \$6,560. We have also received \$3,690 in rebate from NIPSCO for changing to LED bulbs in the decorative lights. Rob announced that he received a letter from a representative for the Pickwick Square uptown. The letter is thanking the Town for improving the sidewalks. Rob stated that the streets that have been tore up for the milling and paving should be finished by the end of next week.

Rob presented a request to have A & Z Engineering assist the Town in the application for the 2018 Community Crossings Grant application. Tom Hoover moved to approve the engineering for no more than \$10,100. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott reported that the Turkey Creek Fire Territory and Turkey Creek Township have approved the quote from Milestone Construction for the building improvements for stations #1 and #2. The cost would be no more than \$500,000.00. Construction would start on October 1st and be completed within 150 days. Tom Hoover moved to

approve the Milestone quote for the building improvements for stations #1 and #2. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

Mickey then presented the 2019 Fire Territory Equipment Replacement Budget. Tom Hoover moved to accept the budget; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

Mickey stated that the Pork Chop fundraiser went very well.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, presented a purchase request for a new generator for the Town Hall. She suggested going with the quote for a Generac generator from Middlebury Electric for \$17,849.00. Tom Hoover moved to approve the purchase from Middlebury Electric for the amount not to exceed \$17,849.00 and to be completed within 60 days. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

John Heckaman, Turkey Creek Township Advisory Board member, thanked the council for approving the new construction for the Fire Territory stations.

Sharon Fowler spoke about various issues she has with multiple properties owned by the Stuckman family. She also stated her concerned on non-plated vehicles parked on various properties.

OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.


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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:29 pm.

ATTEST:



Bill Musser, Council President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer