

# SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

## REGULAR MEETING

October 16, 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. Interim Town Attorney Scott Reust, Town Manager Henry DeJulia, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Town Attorney Vern Landis was 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 September 18, 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 1281 through 1425 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 2018-10, Budget for 2019, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2018-12, Additional Appropriation-General (Police Dept.) & Local Road & Street, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2018-05, Transfer of Funds from Local Road & Bridge Matching Grant to Local Road & Street and Motor Vehicle Highway, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

### TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia presented a Certificate of Substantial Completion from Kokosing. He requested the council approve the certificate. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion, Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported that there have been numerous meetings regarding the Flood Control Structure and how to finance the repairs. There will be a meeting tomorrow at 5:30 with the Turkey Creek Township. He also reported that the 2018 Community Crossings Grant application has been completed and sent to Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Henry announced that the railroad crossing on Main Street is still being worked on and he is unsure how long it will take to complete.

### POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions regarding his report. There were none.

Jim stated he has been getting complaints regarding the semi-truck traffic turning onto Main Street from Huntington Street. He would like to have it rerouted and suggest having the trucks go South on Huntington Street over the tracks, turn west onto Railroad Avenue, and then turn north onto Main Street towards the industrial park. He stated that there is congestion with traffic when a truck is making a turn south onto Main Street. Discussion followed with suggestions on having a traffic study done and what the weight limit is on the Main Street bridge.

Jim announced that Trick or Treat hours on Halloween would be from 6pm to 8pm. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) audit is in process. He will have more information and/or the results by next month's meeting.

There were no ADA complaints.

### PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that the Farmer's Market has ended with the last session being last weekend during the Fall Festival. This coming Saturday will be the Indoor Garage Sale at the Community Center from 9am to 2pm. The Haunted Thrill at Crosson Mill haunted house will be October 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and the 31<sup>st</sup>. The Lakeland Youth Center will also have a carnival on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Chad also stated that the lighting ceremony for the Holiday Magic will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> between 4pm and 7pm.

Chad announced that the new L.E.D. sign has been installed at the Community Center. It was given to the Park Department as a donation.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent, Rob Merchant, asked if there were any questions on his report. There were none.

Rob presented a purchase request for a new Dump Truck. He stated he would be replacing Dump Truck #4 that is 23 years old. After receiving 3 quotes, the lowest is from Byers Chevrolet for a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 3500H and includes a snow plow with the total cost being \$45,345.00. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the purchase from Byers Chevrolet, to be delivered within 60 days. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Rob stated he will send out bids for sale of the old truck.

Rob asked the Council for an amendment to the Public Works' Employee's clothing policy. The original policy was due to a contract with Wildman Uniform service many years ago. They no longer use Wildman for the uniforms and feel the current policy of 6 short sleeve shirts, 5 long sleeve shirts, and 11 pairs of trousers is too costly. He would like to change it to 5 short sleeve shirts (to be replaced every spring), 3 Long-sleeve sweat or T-shirts (replaced every fall), and 6 pairs of work jeans (replaced as needed). He would also like to add to the verbiage of the policy that uniforms are not to be worn for personal use outside of work and all clothing must be turned back in at the end of employment. The council agreed to change the policy.

Rob reported that the Street Lights have all been changed to L.E.D. bulbs and a rebate request will be submitted to NIPSCO.

There was a chemical spill at Jasper Plastics' parking lot from a Semi-truck. The spill ended up in the creek due to storm water flows from the rain on Monday. Rob contacted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who then referred him to Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Rob then was referred to Ed Rock from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ed Rock then sent him to Mickey. The use of 'booms' provided by the Fire Department capture what was floating on the surface of the water. Rob informed the Operations Manager at Jasper Plastics who then threw out a few bags of a product that absorbs the oil substance. Rob thanked Mickey and the Fire Department for their assistance.

Rob requested the approval from Council to allow the Sewer Vacuum Truck and a Dump Truck to be taken to the Fall Festival at Brooke Point Inn. The Council agreed.

Rob also reported that the Wastewater Plant looks good and just needs some fine tuning. He is planning on using the savings from the project to repair the main gate.

#### FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott asked the Council if there were any questions on his report. There were none. Mickey reiterated that the Fire Department did provide floatation booms to assist containing the chemical spill. He stated that IDEM did contact him today and they are supposed to be sending someone from South Bend to see what they would need to do. Mickey said they normally get the floatation booms from Ed Rock through FEMA and once FEMA finds out who caused the spill, they will bill them.

Mickey stated that the installation of the new public information L.E.D. signs will be happening soon.

#### CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, asked if the Council had any questions on her report. There were none. Paula informed the Council that the employee health insurance premiums will be going up approximately 8 ½%. That is less than the budgeted 15%.

Paula presented a purchase request regarding the Town Hall generator. She explained that the originally purchased generator needs more voltage than what the building's electrical set-up can provide. Apparently, there was an error made when writing the specifications for the quote. Gary Garber stated that the current generator can be used for a lift station that was in the plans to be replaced anyway. Paula requested that the Council approve the purchase of a different (corrected) Generac generator from Middlebury Electric for \$12,391.00 that will work for the Town Hall. Once that generator is installed, the Wastewater Department will move and install the current generator at the lift station at MedStat/Verizon. The correct generator for the Town Hall should be delivered within 4 to 6 weeks. Paul

Stoelting moved to approve the purchase of the Generac Generator for the Town Hall. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paula made an announcement that the Clerk's Office would be closed on October 18<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> for training.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Interim Attorney, Scott Reust, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler asked if the Council has been in a large commercial vehicle. She stated that other drivers need to give semi-trucks more space to turn. Sharon also stated that she does not believe the Police Department needs to have confidential funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Musser stated that the Goodwill shed at Family Dollar should be cleaned up within the next month. The Eye Center container at Family Dollar is now removed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:45 pm.

ATTEST:

Bill Musser, Council President

Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer