

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2009

Cassie Cowan, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:02 p.m. Other council members present were Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, and Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present. Councilman Bill Musser was absent.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cassie asked for comments from the public on agenda items. There were no comments.

The minutes of the June 16th meeting were presented. Paul moved to approve the minutes as written; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #729 through #864 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Pam Kennedy, of Housing Opportunities of Warsaw, spoke to the council. Pam explained this grant must be closed out by 9-30-2009. Pam stated she is presenting 4 homes tonight. That will mean we have completed seven houses with the first grant and seven with this grant. We were supposed to complete only ten (5 each grant), so we will get good points during monitoring. We also received \$17,865.00 in NIP funds. \$30,597.00 is left in rehab dollars. We will use all of the rehab dollars plus \$13,000.00 to \$15,000.00 of the match money. We are allowed to go over the \$12,500.00 per house limit if we use match money. So far, we have completed repairs for all who have applied and qualified. Pam presented applicants #4 through #7 for the Syracuse III grant. Applicant #4 will have plumbing improvements, as well as roof, gutters, and the bathrooms will be remodeled. Applicant #5 needs insulation; they will also be building a firewall to an attached garage. #6 has a termite problem that will be taken care of, as well as getting the water away from the house that is causing the termite problem. Finally, applicant #7 will have venting work, hot water heater, and electrical work. Three more homes will be done on Day of Caring August 26.

Pam also described a new countywide program call HERO, which stands for Housing Energy Reduction Opportunity. She advised the program will be funded by an anonymous Syracuse resident and will be run through the churches. Weatherization supplies will be distributed as well as energy saving light bulbs. St Andrews Church will be running the program here; Grace College will do a study on each house to calculate the energy savings.

Brian moved to approve applicants #4 through #7 for housing repairs; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Wightman Petrie, addressed the council. He advised last month Jeremy responded to a request from Wightman Petrie to videotape the proposed sewer connection on Long Dr. Mr. Jones advised Wightman Petrie spent quite a bit of time investigating the least costly connection to the town system.

Some deficiencies were also identified in the town's system along S.R. 13 at the nearest connection point. The engineers determined it would be appropriate to connect on Long Dr. Ken stated they determined it is also most appropriate to connect to the water main on Long Dr. He was advised the council had serious concerns about Long Dr. Ken Jones assured the council that Wightman Petrie considered the age of the lines when they proposed the design. Mr. Jones advised the design is complete and the cost is down approximately \$250,000.00 from the original estimates. The original estimate was \$1.5 million; the current design is \$1.2 million. If the utilities are rerouted as the council is requesting, the cost would be back up to \$1.5 million. Brian asked if that would be \$1.5 million for both (water and sewer). Ken Jones replied yes. Larry commented that rather than running it through the old part of town, it makes more sense to put water and sewer where we don't have it now along S.R. 13 where we may experience additional development. Ken explained the configuration for the sewer along S.R. 13 was moving the lift station, and then installing a force main to the gravity sewer connection on Long Dr. Larry pointed out the problem with the sewer on Northshore Dr by his property. Ken advised there is no water main on S.R. 13. Discussion followed. Ken pointed out various things on the map. Different scenarios were discussed. Brian asked how difficult it is to hook people on; there are two or three businesses on S.R. 13 that want water and sewer. Hooking those people on could be designed into the project. Ken agreed to design the sewer for additional connections; an additional lift station may be needed. He will check to see how many unserved people are in that area. Ken will bring another cost estimate before proceeding. Brian stated if we are going to do it, we need to make it accessible for additional hookups. More discussion followed. Ken added he agrees with Jeremy that at some point we need to do an in depth inspection of the main trunk line and identify any areas that may have infiltration issues. Brian asked the cost; Jeremy replied the whole line all the way to the plant would be about \$5,000.00. Henry added the alternative would also be a better system with the water loop; we could take in other customers. Ken advised the council that based upon this conversation, he will retrigger survey crew. The engineers will complete the planning for a second lift station and include it in the project if we can afford the cost, or set up the system for a second lift station to be added in the future. Ken encouraged the council to consider the request from Jeremy for the video. Ken advised we can include a pay item in the bid to rehab the section of old sewer and have it all done at the same time. We don't have to award that part of the bid if we can not afford the cost. Ken Jones advised they will probably have to ask for more money for engineering; Wightman Petrie can also put the video through their contract. He proposed using EDIT money for this. Mr. Jones will provide a cost estimate for the new design, as well as the cost of the second lift station, before the next meeting.

The approval of CF-1 Tax Abatement forms was considered. Larry asked about the time period on the abatement forms; he was advised it would be for the time period through December 31, 2008. Henry stated they came very close to their projections for Jasper Plastics, they did better with AIA. It does not appear that Betterway has come down (from New Paris) yet. Mike Reed read the statute covering tax abatements. Discussion followed on the forms submitted. He advised completed tax abatement forms were received from Jasper Plastics and Syracuse Properties LLC, and the council can act on them tonight. A third set of forms was

also prepared by AIA Countertops, however, those forms were submitted after the deadline. Cassie stated although they have not met their original employment goals, they have done quite well considering this year's economic climate. Paul made a motion to approve the CF-1 forms submitted by Jasper Plastics and Syracuse Properties; they have substantially complied given the current economic conditions. Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike Reed noted the abatement forms for AIA Countertops were submitted late; if the council wants to grant a tax abatement, we would have to advertise for a public hearing, adopt a resolution accepting the non-compliant return, and then act on the tax abatement. Larry moved to advertise for the public hearing and adopt a resolution to accept the non-compliant documents; Cassie seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry moved to authorize Cassie to sign the CF-1 forms that were approved; Julie is to attest. Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Police Chief Tony Ciriello presented Ordinance 09-07, An Ordinance Regulating the Use of Golf Carts. Tony highlighted what is included in the ordinance. Discussion followed about the type of vehicle this ordinance would apply to, as well as requirements for flashing lights and headlights. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 09-07; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported the Elkhart County Commissioners approved the DPUD ordinance for the industrial park. The grant application for the utility improvements to the industrial park was submitted to the EDA.

Henry presented quotes for updating our website. He explained there are four elements in the design; they are design, administration, a calendar, and web hosting. Henry presented the quotes that were received from Digital Hill, Our Design, The Image Group, and Benson Communications. Discussion followed on the quotes; Brian stated it was confusing because they are not summarized. Henry agreed to provide a summary next month. Paul asked when this is to be done; Henry would like to do it this year. Larry would like samples of the web sites these companies have done.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported that June was a busy month; over 400 calls for service were received in June. There were 24 criminal arrests; and 11 juvenile arrests. Tony went over the numbers and types of arrests.

Tony announced there are several upcoming events in Syracuse. For Syracuse Days on August 6, 7, and 8, the sidewalks by the municipal lots on Main St will be closed for some of the events. The Kiwanis Triathlon will be August 15. The first

day of school is August 18. He also announced a crossing guard is needed at Main & Boston St.

Tony asked for council input on firearms in town buildings. He stated there has been some discussion about prohibiting firearms in town buildings unless the person is a police officer. Tony asked the council if they would like to consider a firearms ban for town buildings. Discussion followed on how it would be enforced. Larry stated he is not sure how an ordinance or a sign is going to work. Brian suggested we may want to consider all deadly weapons, not just guns. Tony agreed to bring sample ordinances next month.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson updated the council on park activities. The Farmer's Market continues every Saturday; attendance has been good. Park Rhythms, formerly Music in the Park, will continue every Thursday through August 13. Concerts are at 7:00 p.m. The Park Department is working with the Youth Center on a mother/son picnic in the park; it is tentatively scheduled for sometime in September. The Park Department is also beginning to work on the Haunted House and Halloween Carnival to be held in October.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller updated the council on several projects. The Pickwick sidewalk has been completed, as well as the Brooklyn St. sidewalk. The Henry St. sidewalk is complete except for the portion where a utility pole needs to be moved. Town personnel will complete that small section once Embarq moves the pole. The Portland Street sidewalk, which was done totally in house, is complete. The road cut on Northshore has been repaired. Jeremy also announced that the problem with the Dana well piping has been solved; there were some valves that were not holding appropriately. M.E. Simpson assisted on this; we just need Bob's Services to assist us with removing the larger pipes. The sidewalk at the Turtle Bay entrance is about half done. For the new street lights, there are only three left that do not have lights installed on the bases.

Brian complemented the water workers on the swift repair they completed on S.R. 13 last Friday.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline informed the council that the Federal Trade Commission has adopted regulations requiring utilities to have an "Identity Theft Prevention Program." She has prepared a program for the Town of Syracuse Utilities and asked the council to approve the program. Brian made a motion to adopt the "Identity Theft Prevention Program for the Town of Syracuse Utilities"; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Julie advised we began to distribute the new garbage stickers yesterday; they are to be used starting August 3.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Tammy Cotton, Executive Director of the Syracuse Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, advised the new banners are in the manufacturing process. She provided information on upcoming events for Syracuse Days. There will be a sidewalk chalk art contest for ages 15+ on the sidewalk across from the library on Thursday. Prizes will be given. The garage and sidewalk sales start Thursday. Many of the churches are also having events. There will be a Battle of the Bands on Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at Lakeside Park. Also on Saturday, there will be a pet parade and a chicken and pork chop barbeque.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian stated he wanted to elaborate on his comments last week. He has nothing against the Park Department. We spend \$389,826.00 on the Park Department, and our portion of the fire territory is \$326,600.00. There is also a quality of life issue with the ladder truck; the one we currently have is unusable. He added Warsaw just bought a ladder truck for over \$700,000.00.

Cassie advised CSX sent a rough draft of the paperwork for donation of the depot to the town. She gave a copy to Mike Reed for his advice, and also to Todd Ziegler of Historic Landmarks. In addition, she faxed a copy to our insurance agent, Greg Miller. Copies will be distributed to the council next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian discussed the level of the dam; he asked if we have standard operating procedures for certain circumstances. Chad explained the procedures that are followed.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Cassandra Cowan, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer