

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 2009

Cassie Cowan, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Bill Musser, Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, and Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present.

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 October 20, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes as written; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Cassie asked for approval of claims #1230 through #1346. Brian so moved; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The CF-1 tax abatement form for Precision Automotive d/b/a Technical Services was presented. Paul moved to approve the CF-1 for Technical Services; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Town Attorney Mike Reed discussed the easement documents provided by Parker Hannifin. He advised he made some modifications and sent the document back to Steve Snyder, Parker Hannifin's attorney. Larry moved to table the Parker Hannifin easement; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Josh Weaver, of Wightman Petrie, was the next agenda item. He was not present.

Chris Cotton, of Hall & Marose Insurance, appeared before the council to discuss the health insurance renewal. The premiums for 2010 will increase by 19%; he asked the council if they had any questions on the renewal. Chris added our loss ratio was the reason for the increase. Paul asked if we should get other quotes. Chris advised if we move to another carrier, we will give up the 5% chamber discount, which is about \$11,000.00, so the savings would not be that much. In addition, the wellness benefits through other carriers are usually capped; PHP covers wellness at 100%. Discussion followed on changing to other carriers. Larry questioned if Chris made the decision not to go with other carriers without consulting the council. Chris noted our 2010 premium is only 10% higher than the premium we paid to John Alden in 2004, which is far below the marketplace. Our loss ratio with PHP is nearly 150% over the five years we have been with the company. Chris is not recommending we change carriers, but we can do it. Chris advised we can expect to receive offers about 1% to 2% lower than the current quote. Cassie asked if other companies pay attention when we start shopping. Chris explained we tend to work with the same underwriters when we shop; they already have our group's history on file. The underwriters will compare the current applications with previous applications and take this into consideration when they quote. Brian moved to renew the health insurance with our current carrier, PHP. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported on the EDA grant for the North Industrial Park. He advised he received an e-mail recently that the application is moving through the process and will be considered in the next round. We applied for a \$2.1 million grant for water and sewer to the industrial park.

Henry made two announcements. He applied for a Harkless grant of \$5,000.00 for beautification. Also, the Town of Syracuse received a safety award for 2008 from IPEP, our workman's compensation carrier.

Henry advised he received requests for street lights at two locations. One was received for a location on Maple Grove behind Bales Butcher Shop, and a second request was on E. Palm Dr. Henry stated he and Tony checked out these locations, and they do not feel street lights are warranted. He asked the council to notify him if they disagree with the recommendation. Tony provided information on existing street lights near those locations.

Henry reported on several items. There was a problem at the railroad crossing on S.R. 13. He contacted the railroad, and the problem was fixed in nine days. He added he appreciated the prompt response. Henry, Jeremy, Tom Miller, and Mike Reed are looking into the contract with the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District; they hope to resolve some issues. Henry discussed the storage building quotes that were presented last month. They have requested quotes on a taller building that is 16' high; we received one quote that was about \$3,000.00 more. He will present it for council approval when he receives the second quote.

Cassie asked about year end appointments. Julie advised the earliest we normally make the appointments is at the December meeting.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello advised there were 311 calls for service last month. Everything has been taken care of with the car computers and new air cards, and they are working well.

Tony announced the Syracuse Police and Turkey Creek Township Fire Department are sponsoring an under 21 dance at the Community Center on November 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The admission will be canned goods or non-perishable food items, which will be donated to the food pantry. Town employees have also been asked to donate items for the food pantry.

Tony advised Syracuse Police covered for the sheriff's department after the recent death of Jeff Shaw. Cassie asked for a moment of silence to remember him.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson introduced Chamber Director Tammy Cotton to discuss the upcoming Holiday Magic. Tammy reported events start this Thursday, November 19, and continue through Saturday, November 21. There will be free carriage rides from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Lakeland Youth Center. At 4 p.m., events will start at Crosson Mill Park. There will be refreshments, and Ronald McDonald

will appear, as well as the 5th grade choir, cloggers, and Santa. Chad advised that after the events at Crosson Mill, the Lakeland Learning Center will have their Christmas program at the Community Center. The decorated trees and wreaths will also be auctioned off.

Chad reported the new decorative snowflakes have not arrived yet. Last month, the Park Department had their annual Haunted House. Thursday and Friday went very well; on Saturday, Halloween, they closed early. Also the annual carnival with the Lakeland Youth Center went well.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller presented two purchase requests. He would like to purchase street signs from Allied Municipal Supply; the cost is \$813.09. Brian moved to approve the purchase; delivery is to be in 30 days. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Jeremy advised we need to order trees for our fall planting. He requested permission to order ten trees at a cost of \$1,280.00 from Pine Nursery. Brian moved to approve the purchase of ten trees with delivery in two weeks; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; one against. The motion carried.

Jeremy presented the 2010 budgets for Water and Wastewater. Brian complimented Jeremy on the low increases. Brian moved to approve the 2010 water and wastewater budgets; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Brian asked when we have to be compliant with the new bar screens. Jeremy advised the deadline is 36 months from our permit date, which was June 2008. We will need to purchase the equipment in the spring of 2010.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline discussed the recent purchase of the tornado warning siren from the Cumulative Fire balance. Since they were purchased with town funds, they would normally be shown as town property. She asked the council if they would like to donate the equipment to the Turkey Creek Township Fire Territory, since they will be ones testing and maintaining the warning siren. Brian moved to give the tornado warning siren to the Fire Territory with the condition that they continue to maintain it; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie presented a quote from Municipal Code Corporation to update our code book with the most recent ordinances. The quote was for \$840.00 and includes 10 copies. Brian asked how often this will occur; Julie advised probably annually. Discussion followed on the cost of the copies; Julie agreed to look into reducing the cost and the number of copies. Brian moved to approve the update at a cost not to exceed \$840.00; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie asked the council if they would like to handle the year end matters as they did in 2008. If the council would like to do this, a resolution will be presented at the regular meeting in December allowing the clerk treasurer to make any necessary transfers. The encumbrances will be presented at the January meeting. It was the consensus of the council not to have a year end meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

Josh Weaver, of Wightman Petrie, gave his report on the utility project for the North Industrial Park. He advised they are working with Gasvoda on the equipment for the booster stations. The other changes have been incorporated into the project. Cassie requested an e-mail with an update before the next council meeting.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

James Kitson, of South Harkless Dr., asked the council to look into some shrubbery that is growing over the sidewalk in the 200 block of W Chicago St.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian noted the first loan under the Commercial Retail Façade Improvement Program was on the claims docket. He asked why the no left turn sign on Medusa St was still up since we rescinded the ordinance last month. Mike Reed advised the sign can be removed.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Brian moved to adjourn the meeting; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Cassandra Cowan, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer