

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 20, 2010

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the June 15th meeting were presented. Paul moved to approve the minutes as written; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims # 729 through # 854 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported that an archaeological study was done for the industrial park ; nothing was found. The next step in the process is to have a wetlands delineation study conducted; Henry believes this will be the last study we will have to do.

The installation of the decorative lights on S.R. 13 has begun; we are waiting for a permit to bore under S.R. 13 for the electric service.

The Syracuse Wawasee Trail Committee has received a \$20,000.00 matching grant from the K-21 Foundation for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over McConnell ditch. Brian added he talked to County Commissioner Brad Jackson about moving the recycling bins to accommodate access to the bridge; the county will work with us on that.

Councilman Larry Siegel arrived during the Town Manager's report.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 462 calls for service in June, which is up from previous months. He announced the Pride Ride motorcycle ride is this weekend. Tony also reminded everyone the Syracuse SummerFest will be held from July 29 through July 31. There will be events throughout town, including events at Lakeside Park, the Liberty lot on S.R. 13, and garage sales.

PARK

Henry Kohl, Park Board Member, gave the Park Department report. The Park Rhythms concerts will continue every Thursday until August 12. The Artisan and Farmer's

Market will continue to be held every Saturday until October. The Wawasee Kiwanis will have their triathlon on August 14.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, reported a new wastewater truck was purchased for \$25,101.00. Public Works has been doing some work in the area of Pickwick and Forest; the work is on hold until NIPSCO moves a gas line. The Street Department has been running behind on grass and brush pick up since the storms; they are also down one man. Jeremy hopes to be caught up soon. He also reported we have had five water leaks since last Thursday.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline advised a letter was sent to town residents with a schedule for the delivery of the new trash carts. Julie added that Borden's will be using an area near the wastewater plant as a staging area to assemble and load the carts for delivery. Carts will be delivered from July 26 through July 30; the first day for pickup with the new carts will be August 2.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed advised they are still working on the paperwork for the Vega Field property; they hope to close soon. He also advised he has a meeting scheduled this week with Parker Hannifin and Attorney Steve Snyder regarding the easement for the trail over the ditch.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Musser said he was asked by a resident who comes uptown by boat why there are no longer trash cans uptown. Henry will look into it.

2011 BUDGETS

Brian reported Fire Chief Mickey Scott was present. He asked council members if they wanted to talk to Mickey about the \$500,000.00 Equipment Replacement budget. Larry noted council members previously requested that these things be on the agenda; Brian answered it is a budget meeting. Council members had no questions. Larry stated just because there are no questions, that does not mean we agree to it. Brian congratulated the fire department on a job well done with the fire at AIA Countertops; he stated it was out in one hour. Henry noted he believes our snowflakes were just moved from that location to our new storage building. Brian added we knew going in with the Fire Territory that we would need a couple of years to catch up. He explained he has had several discussions with Mickey about never coming down on the

Cumulative Fire fund. He stated the department is agreeing to come down, they made a sound fiscal choice with the purchase of the new fire truck and eliminating two fire trucks, and the cost of the 20 year plan has come down. Brian added he agrees with Larry that he does not want to see \$500,000.00 per year for the Cum Fire, and it is nice to see cooperation in conceding to the fact we do not want to see \$500,000.00 every year.

Henry presented the department budgets. He highlighted the line items in the budgets that had changed. The Town Manager's budget has an increase in Other Capital which is used for decorative lights and banners. He brought it back up to previous budget levels; the overall budget increase is 4.44%. For the Police budget, there will be two patrolmen who will be attaining master patrolman status in 2010; that affects the Patrolman line item. The Street department increases were in Garage and Motors, Repair Parts, Snow Removal, Signs and Supplies, and Equipment Repairs. Henry explained he asked Jeremy to create a new line item in the Street budget for Beautification Maintenance; this will be for maintaining over 100 decorative lights, brackets, and poles. For the Park Department, health insurance has a large increase: an employee who has refused the health insurance will probably be retiring next year and the replacement may need it. The Park Department also lowered the amount budgeted for Nipsco; however, mowing costs have increased. For the Clerk's budget, Public Relations was increased slightly in case we decide to pledge funds to KEDC. Trash collections increased to reflect the cost of the new contract.

Henry presented possible projects the council may want to approve. They include:

- 1) Kern Road – total estimated cost is \$150,000.00. Henry stated we could probably hold up another year or two on this project. This project could be funded by using \$75,000.00 from the Paving line item in the Street budget and \$75,000 from Local Road and Street funds.
- 2) Post Office stormwater issues. This project we would bore through and take the stormwater to the pipe that empties into Syracuse Lake. Paul asked if the drainage problems are due to the developer not keeping promises, or if it is the town's responsibility to fix it. Henry stated water is sheeting from the post office parking lot and the hill. Jeremy advised the condos added to the problem. Larry asked about stormwater laws as far as drainage onto a neighbor's property. Henry was directed to review and see if the BZA made any conditions when they approved the zoning, and if so, to determine if the developers complied.
- 3) Front St from John St to Medusa St. This project would replace water lines, and includes stormwater mitigation and paving.
- 4) Front St from Medusa St to Chicago St. This project includes stormwater management, curbs, and paving
- 5) Maple Grove, Forest Lane, and Pickwick storm water improvements. Henry noted there is also a lot of flooding on Chicago and Harkless. The plan is to channel the water to an existing storm drain. Larry noted that many of the yards have swales that have been filled in, and they are damming up the ditches. Larry stated the swales are probably in our right of way; we may have the ability to go in and empty those things back out again. Jeremy noted there may be residential turmoil if we dig them out; it would be harder

to mow and grow grass. He suggested we could make redeveloping the swales as part of the project.

Larry commented that our roads are in the worst shape they ever have been. Streets are not ground off and resurfaced like we used to do. Henry suggested we could look into a "durapatcher". This piece of equipment costs \$55,000.00 to \$60,000.00. It can be used to fix pretty big sections and they last five to six years. Henry added \$75,000.00 doesn't buy much paving anymore. Paul questioned if we should budget more than \$75,000.00. Brian is intrigued by the durapatcher. Larry pointed out the benefits of grinding down a street and then resurfacing it. Paul suggested adding \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 to our annual paving budget. Discussion followed on increasing paving, swales, and drainage. Larry commented \$75,000.00 bought a lot more years ago. After discussion, it was decided to budget \$125,000.00 for paving; the Paving line item in the Street budget is to be increased to \$100,000.00 and \$25,000.00 is to be budgeted from Local Road and Street.

Henry also advised he would like the council to consider a new dump truck for the street department in 2012; the oldest truck is 27 years old. The estimated cost is \$70,000.00; Henry suggested paying for it out of the Rainy Day Fund. Council members decided to wait until the 2012 budget is presented. A short discussion followed on the durapatcher, It was suggested we could have an area completed as a demonstration. Henry advised we have to rethink the stormwater project, especially if we take the swales back.

Henry explained he is recommending a 2% raise for the employees; this can be done without increasing taxes. Brian noted we have been under maximum levy for four years; the total amount under max for those years is \$114,227.00. This budget is projected to be under maximum levy by \$71,829.00. Henry added the amounts budgeted are a worst case scenario; our departments have shown if they don't need it, they don't spend it. Brian announced the cost of a 2% raise is \$22,607.00. Paul clarified it would be \$11,000.00 if a 1% raise is given. Larry asked if Henry has budgeted enough to take the decorative lights all the way south on S.R. 13. Henry stated he doesn't know how much room there is and how many lights it will take, but it will be close. Right now we have enough places to take us down to Pizza Hut in 2011.

Bill asked if we our getting our money's worth for the \$25,000.00 cost of the building inspector. Henry advised he does building inspections only, he does not do ordinance enforcement. Bill noted his report lists the same properties every time. Tony was asked his opinion; he stated building inspections are more difficult and time consuming. Ideally, that job should also do code enforcement. He added the police department just tagged 19 cars this week for expired plates.

POLICE

Tony discussed the Police Department budget; he noted Henry covered most of the items. Larry asked about health; Julie advised we projected a 20% increase. She added she spoke with Chris Cotton and he feels confident 20% will cover it. Brian asked if enough is budgeted for Gas and Oil and Garage and Motors. Tony advised we have new vehicles in our fleet, so Garage and Motors should be enough. Gas and Oil should be okay unless there is a major increase. Tony added the regular maintenance done by the Street Department helps a great deal. Paul clarified there are no vehicle

purchases projected; Tony said no. Paul stated he has no problem with Police budget with the 2% increase.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy discussed the Street Department budget. Brian asked why there is an increase in Snow Removal. Jeremy explained he budgeted the same as this year's budget plus the amount that was encumbered from last year; he does not want to run short. Brian asked why NIPSCO decreased; Jeremy explained we tore down two inefficient buildings and replaced them with one new and more efficient building. Brian stated he is okay with the Street budget.

PARK

Henry Kohl, Park Board member, discussed the 2011 Park Department budget request. Brian asked about the mowing line item. Henry Kohl explained it is due to higher bids; he added it also includes fertilizing. Paul stated he is okay with the 2% for the Park budget.

CLERK

Julie asked Paul when he said he was okay with the 2%, did he mean the budget with the 2% raise. Paul stated yes. Julie noted her largest increase was in Trash Collections; the increase is due to the new contract.

Council members discussed the budgets that were presented. Larry stated he appreciates the town employees and what they do; he agrees with Paul. Bill stated he agrees with a 2% raise; Jeff also agreed. Brian commended the employees for the job they have done; he is glad we are giving a raise. He commended department heads for their attention to detail and fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers that will enable us to be under maximum levy by about \$180,000.00 for the last five or six years.

Julie recapped the amounts for the cumulative funds. She asked council members if they want to get additional information on major projects and then do an additional appropriation for any they decide to do; council members advised yes. She advised at this time the proposed 2011 levy is \$1,457,000.00; that compares to the 2010 levy of \$1,458,809.00.

Larry asked about Oakwood annexation. Henry advised there were some people that had an interest, however, since no one know who owns what, it can not be pursued at this time.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; Bill seconded. The motion carried. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Woody, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer