

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

October 19, 2010

Brian Woody, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Jeff Morgan, Bill Musser, and Larry Siegel. 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 announced there is young man present who would like to speak to the council; he asked the council if they had any objection to proceeding out of order with the agenda. Council members had no problem.

Bill Dixon introduced Dylan Dunithan; he stated Dylan is working on his Eagle Scout project. Dylan explained he is working with the Red Cross on a disaster preparedness class. There will be a mock disaster afterwards. The total cost is \$2,000.00; he is asking for a \$1,000.00 contribution from the Town of Syracuse. He advised items such as books, pencils, and food will be needed. A maximum of one hundred people will be able to attend the course. It is scheduled for November 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; food will be provided. Dylan spoke about the tornado in Nappanee and the floods in other parts of Indiana. Brian stated it is a good idea; he suggested Dylan also talk to the police and fire chiefs. Bill asked where this will take place; he was told it will be held at the new scout building. The Red Cross will have instructors conducting the class. Brian asked Julie if we have funds in our Public Relations account; she advised we do. Bill Dixon explained one of the values to the town is that at the end of the class, those 100 people attending will commit to having access to certain resources. A resource list will be prepared. Bill Dixon cited access to sand as one of the resources. Larry asked where these 100 people will come from. Dylan advised he will advertise throughout the community. The method of payment was questioned; Bill Dixon advised we would make the check out to the Boy Scout Troop. Bill moved to contribute \$1,000.00 to the Boy Scout Troop for their Public Disaster Boot Camp to be held November 20; the amount is to be paid from the clerk's budget. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes from the September 21 meeting were presented. Larry moved to approve the minutes; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1077 through #1193 were presented for payment. Brian moved to approve the claims; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry introduced George Robertson, the new Executive Director of the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation, which replaced KDI. Mr. Robertson explained this is his 5th trip to Syracuse. He knows it is important to smaller communities to know they are not forgotten. He talked about determining the assets of the community. County businesses have state of the art technology; there is a lifestyle of friendliness and service. He discussed how we are going to change our approach. Mr. Robertson noted the pipeline for prospects is presently

the State of Indiana; we need to develop our own pipeline. A marketing strategy will be developed just for Syracuse, for example. The branding for the county now is that we are the orthopedic capital of world. Mr. Robertson noted he is also dealing with other companies; the county is not just orthopedic industries. He explained we have three important things going for us in this county. They are innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and a skilled workforce. He announced a meeting will be held on October 27 to present a report on county wide economic development actions. Mr. Robertson talked about the Syracuse Industrial Park; he is meeting with neighboring counties to spark interest. A marketing approach to the park will be developed; he will be looking for niche markets. Larry stated he feels we now have someone in the county who can share our vision. He asked Mr. Robertson to review how the structure of his office has changed. Mr. Robertson explained the major structural change was that we need to have our own economic development office if we are going to be competitive. It is now a stand alone organization; all towns are represented. It is funded about ½ by government and ½ by the business community. He noted our budget is only half the amount of the neighboring counties. KEDCO is now located in the courthouse annex. As part of the rebranding to emphasize innovation and entrepreneurs, the board voted to create a Kosciusko Hall of Fame of entrepreneurs and innovative people.

Mike Reed presented the trail easement with Parker Hannifin. Larry moved to accept the Trail Easement Agreement with Parker Hannifin and authorized Brian to sign the document; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Mike Reed advised that Parker Hannifin will donate the land that the bridge is on to the town. Larry made a motion stating if Parker Hannifin donates the land, we will accept the donation. Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Henry added we will also have to accept the bridge once it is constructed.

Ordinance 10-09, An Ordinance Requiring Deposits on Water and Sewer Accounts, was introduced. Mike Reed advised the deposit amount for a Public Authority in Section 3 was left blank; council members need to decide on an amount. After discussion, council members decided to omit section 3 and add public authority to Section 2; Section 2 also includes industrial, commercial, and multi-family. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 10-09 as amended; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 10-10, An Ordinance Creating a Town Budget Account, was presented. The ordinance creates a fund for the deposits. Jeff moved to adopt Ordinance 10-10; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported he will be attending a pre-construction meeting in Chicago on Thursday for the EDA Grant.

Henry discussed the \$500,000.00 EDI grant we received. He asked council members if they wanted to use these grant dollars to bring sewer to the other businesses that are just off of SR 13 and accessed from County Line Rd. They were not part of the original EDA project, and the estimated cost is about \$100,000.00. Henry stated he would like to look at using the EDI money for sewer for those businesses and deceleration lanes for the industrial park. Larry asked if those projects are compliant with the terms of the grant; Henry answered yes. It was the consensus of the council to proceed as Henry suggested.

Henry noted we may not receive the decorative lights until the end of November or beginning of December. The foundry is down, and the company we ordered them from can not get them.

Council members congratulated Henry on his work in obtaining the EDA grant.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 345 calls for service in September. There were eight criminal arrests; four of them were felonies.

Tony reminded everyone that Trick or Treat will be on Saturday, October 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tony discussed the stripe that was painted on the town hall sidewalk. He advised the yellow line delineates the sidewalk area from the parking area; the lines were suggested at an IACT Risk Management/ADA compliance class to reduce our liability. Henry added if we don't have a written plan for sidewalk replacement, we need a resolution that states we will replace sidewalks as money is available. Tony gave an example of a written plan. Larry stated we may already have something in place; Julie will find that documentation.

Tony advised he spoke to the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation last week about the impact of economic development on emergency services.

Tony reported he attended the meeting on trails with the residents of Wawasee Heights. At the meeting, many of the residents expressed concern about motor vehicle traffic. Tony described the problems the residents brought up. Tony proposed erecting stop signs and yield signs as follows:

- Make Manor Drive a stop where it intersects with both Pickwick and Hillside
- Make Pickwick a yield where it intersects with Manor
- Make Hillside a yield where it intersects with Manor
- Make Hillside a stop where it intersects with Kinder

Larry asked if we need an ordinance to create a pedestrian crosswalk. Tony will research it and include crosswalks in the ordinance if needed. Tony stated if the council agrees with his suggestions, he will work with Mike Reed to create an ordinance. Council members agreed with his suggestions.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Parks Superintendent, updated the council on park events. Last Saturday was the last day for the Artisan and Farmer's Market; a lot of people attended the activities. This Friday, October 22, is the first Middle School dance this year. On Saturday, October 23, the Lakeland Youth Center will be holding their Halloween Carnival from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Park Department will have their Haunted House at the Community Center on October 28, 29, and 30. The Haunted House will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; the cost is \$5.00.

Chad announced the Chamber of Commerce will be having their Holiday Magic Program this year on November 13. There will a tree lighting, music, and choirs. The town will have the snowflakes up in time for this event.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller announced that the tree trimming and street paving are done. Trees have been ordered for the fall planting; eleven trees will be planted. A new sidewalk was installed on the south side of West Main St. Jeremy described how the project was completed. The plan right now is to put one or two decorative lights and two or three ornamental pear trees in that area. If funds are available, Jeremy would like to redo the sidewalk on the north side of the street next year. Visibility issues due to parked cars at the intersection of Dolan and Main were discussed. Parking spaces have been designated. If that does not solve the issue, Tony stated we may have to amend the parking ordinance for that intersection.

Jeremy discussed the lift for the bucket truck. He advised he can get a new lift unit installed on our existing truck for under \$18,000.00. \$17,000.00 has been appropriated from the Rainy Day Fund; the additional \$1,000.00 cost can be paid from existing budgets if the council approves. Larry moved to approve an additional \$1,000.00 expense for the lift; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline discussed the bid award that was made on August 30 for the bar screen. The motion was to approve the bid submitted by DW² for a Duperon bar screen. We have since found out that payment will be submitted to Duperon, not DW². Jeremy clarified that DW² is actually the sales rep. Brian made a motion to make the check out to Duperon for the bar screen; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against.

Julie reported our recycling numbers are still up with the new carts. Town residents recycled 27,175 pounds in September 2010; 8,090 pounds were recycled in September of 2009.

Julie announced the clerk's office will be closed on Wednesday, November 3 for annual software training in Wabash, Indiana.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian reported he and Larry attended the last meeting for the Fire Territory Board. The board approved raising the EMS rates; Larry noted we will still be among the lowest in the area. He added this has the potential to possibly lower the tax burden. Bill asked about the ambulance service changing to a new billing company. Brian explained the current billing company will lower their percentage by 2%, but only if a five year contract is signed. Other billing companies have lower rates and a good collection rate, but no five year contract is required.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry asked Town Attorney Mike Reed to update us annually on changes to the Indiana Code. Mike Reed advised he receives a summary; he will provide it to Larry. Discussion followed on 2009 legislation for annexation. It was noted that legislation has specific population amounts, and we do not qualify under any of the population numbers listed. Henry advised we could go to our state representative after the election and see if the state code could be amended so the Town of Syracuse would qualify.

Brian and Jeff discussed a variance request that is on the BZA agenda for Thursday. Discussion followed on building and storing in the right-of-way. Henry, Jeff, and Brian agreed to meet at the variance location.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Woody, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer