

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2012

Larry Siegel, Council 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 Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present. Councilman Paul Stoelting was absent.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were introduced. Brian moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1361 through #1481 were presented for payment. Brian moved to approve the claims; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 12-06, a Resolution Allowing the Clerk Treasurer to Make Certain Transfers, was introduced. Brian made a motion to approve the resolution; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 12-18, An Additional Appropriation for CCI-Cigarette Tax, was presented. The additional appropriation is for \$20,000.00. Bill made a motion to approve Ordinance 12-18; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinski, updated the council on the North Industrial Park project. Cripe Excavating has completed most of their work with the utility installation. There is a 60 foot section of force main left to install. Cripe Excavating will be back in the spring to resume work.

Mr. Konarski explained there were concerns about potential flooding at the site entrance. A meeting was held on December 6; it was determined the best solution would be to install a storm water culvert. Larry asked Mr. Konarski if he could guarantee this would take care of the problem; Mr. Konarski answered yes. Brian asked if high water would affect the pond. Mr. Konarski explained there would not be any more runoff to the wetlands; the water will collect in a roadside swale.

Mr. Konarski discussed the A T & T fiber optic cable on the property. As discussed last month, A T & T is requiring a payment of \$6,000.00. We will request permission to pay this from EDA funds.

For H & G Underground Utilities, all of the water mains are installed. The installation of the 8 inch gravity sewer (EDI grant) will take until late January to complete. H & G plans to remain onsite through the winter as conditions allow. Brian asked if the hydrants can be used if needed. Mr. Konarski answered yes, after they are tested.

Larry presented a plaque to Town Attorney Michael Reed for his years of service to the Town of Syracuse. Attorney Reed stated he has enjoyed working with the town since March of 2000; he added Attorney Landis is a good choice for our new town attorney.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia noted the change to the stormwater for the North Industrial Park will result in a cost increase.

Henry reported on several items. He reported Region III-A executed the agreement for grant administration services. We also received the Release of Funds notification from the State of Indiana for the Oakwood Retreat, LLC acquisition. Henry advised he and Tony met with Oakwood homeowners recently to address concerns. He is also trying to reach NIPSCO about installing gas and electric in the industrial park. The new decorative lights on Main St. are done. He met with the chamber and fourteen merchants about the downtown program; meetings will continue approximately once a month.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported November was fairly inactive. He explained all drug activity now goes through the Kosciusko County Prosecutor's Office.

Tony announced that due to personnel turnover and the loss of three officers, Officer Salazar was unable to take seven of his vacation days, and he (Tony) was not able to take nine of his vacation days. He asked council members to approve carrying over the unused vacation until 2013 with the requirement that the vacation days be taken by February 28. Brian moved to allow Joe Salazar and Tony permission to carry over their unused vacation days; the vacation days are to be used by February 28. Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tony presented an Interlocal Agreement with Kosciusko County. He explained Kosciusko County paid about \$800,000.00 for new software. We can go on their system; the cost will be \$5,000.00 for annual maintenance. Tony added the majority of the maintenance will be paid by Kosciusko County and the City of Warsaw. Tony explained what the new software system will do. Larry asked how we would pay for the \$5,000.00 cost. Tony explained we are currently paying \$2,700.00; this would be a \$2,300.00 increase. There is money left in this year's budget; he asked the council to approve the agreement. Brian made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Kosciusko County; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tony addressed the recent shootings that took place in Connecticut. He met with Dr. Edington, Wawasee Community Schools Superintendent, last Friday night; a few changes were implemented yesterday. Tony added he feels we are in good shape.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, reported that Breakfast with Santa was well attended; over 850 breakfasts were served. The Park Department is advertising for the basketball league sign up.

For the Youth Athletic Complex, the ball fields and fence are mostly complete. The interiors of the restrooms are being worked on, and dugouts were poured. Omar Kropf recently purchased a new building; he donated the toilets and sinks that were in the building to the Athletic Complex.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeremy Sponseller announced he provided the proposed 2013 Water and Wastewater budgets to the council.

Jeremy presented a purchase request. He would like to purchase equipment for computer diagnostics to maintain our fleet of vehicles. The cost would be \$7,200.00 for a computer and software diagnostic package. Larry asked if there will be software updates. Jeremy advised yes, but the cost would be minimal. He would like to encumber some of this year's budget toward the purchase. Tony stated the street department also maintains the police vehicles; this saves the police department a ton of money. Discussion followed on how much the savings would be.

Bill made a motion to approve the purchase of computer diagnostic equipment for a cost not to exceed \$7,200.00. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian moved to approve the 2013 Water and Wastewater budgets; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported the 2013 trash collection calendars are included with the utility bills this month. For our health insurance, Chris Cotton was able to receive a response from two other companies; both quotes were higher than the 9% increase from PHP. Greg Miller, our agent for equipment, property, and liability insurance, advised our premium will have a 5% increase. The electric work in the town hall is complete; Julie thanked Ritter Electric for doing some of the work in the evening so work in town offices would not be disrupted.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed advised he has made arrangements for the transition with the new Town Attorney Vern Landis.

#### DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburgh St, asked where the money goes that is collected for ordinance violations; she was told it goes to the General Fund. She stated she would like to see Hal at the meetings and more enforcement of the housing ordinance.

## 2013 APPOINTMENTS

Brian moved to appoint Tony Ciriello as Police Chief for 2013. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

For the Tree Board, Chad reported there are two openings. The Tree Board recommends appointing Gary Green and Paul Hoffman. Brian moved to appoint Gary Green and Paul Hoffman to the Tree Board for a term from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

For the BZA, Brian moved to appoint Dan List and Ben Plikerd to a new four year term, Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Chad spoke about the Park Board Appointments. Two Park Board terms are ending; one is Dave Van Lue, who is a School Board appointment. The second is Shirley Connolly, who is a town council appointment. Bill moved to appoint Shirley Connolly to another three year term on the Park Board; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Redevelopment Commission appointments were presented; the appointments are for one year. Current members were recommended to be reappointed. They are: Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, Dan Van Lue, and Ernie Rogers. Brian moved to reappoint those members; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Appointments to the Fire Territory Executive Board were discussed. Bill stated he asked Brian to take his place on the Fire Territory Board; he hopes Jeff will be willing to continue to serve. Bill moved to appoint Brian and Jeff to the Fire Territory Board for 2013; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The contract for the new Town Attorney was presented. Brian moved to approve the contract with the new Town Attorney, Vern Landis. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike Reed opened the floor to nominations for Town Council President in 2013. Brian nominated Bill Musser for Town Council President; Jeff seconded. There were no further nominations; Mike Reed closed the nominations. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## OLD BUSINESS

Bill advised that last week the Fire Territory Board voted to approve the renovation of Fire Station #1 with a second floor addition for a cost of \$450,000.00. This expense also requires Town Council approval. Brian moved to approve the renovation of Fire Station #1 at a cost of \$450,000.00; Jeff seconded. Three voted for the motion; Larry voted against. The motion carried.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Larry Siegel, President

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Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer