

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 20, 2012

Larry Siegel, 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, 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.

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

The minutes of the February 21, 2012 meeting were introduced for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; Bill abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #255 through #362 were presented for payment. Brian made a motion to approve the claims; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Wightman Petrie was not present to provide their monthly update.

Town Attorney Mike Reed asked Chad to provide information on Ordinance 12-02 and the requests to vacate land. Chad presented a map of the area for the Youth Athletic Complex. Chad explained on the original plat, North St. and Portland St. extend into the vacant land, as well as Ash St. and several alleys. Those areas on the original plat have never been vacated. In order to build anything for the Athletic Complex, those streets and alleys must be vacated. Chad added he went before the BZA last week for a variance for the maintenance building; the variance was granted. Mike Reed explained in order for the council to approve the vacation request, they must find that the vacation must not impair access to any property not owned by the town, and it also must not impair access to a public place. He added it appears the council could make those findings since the land has not be used since 1896. Larry opened the Public Hearing and asked for public comment. Dick Peletier spoke; he stated he is in favor of granting the request to vacate. There were no further comments from the public. Larry closed the Public Hearing. Paul made a motion to adopt Ordinance 12-02; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported he received responses to his requests for proposals for construction engineering inspection for the EDI and EDA grants. He explained the proposals will be scored, and a recommendation will be made at the April meeting.

Henry will be attending a meeting with the State this week in Elkhart County about the standards the state has set to consider a site to be shovel ready; we hope to register our site as shovel ready once the work has been completed.

Henry reported Casey's General Store has opened. He explained improvements were made, such as passing blisters, erosion control, and landscaping as required by INDOT and APC.

Henry discussed our heating and air maintenance contract; he explained the three year contract expires in July. He would like to get packets together and get quotes from other companies. Brian asked if we really accrue \$10,000.00 worth of maintenance every year; it was noted our current contract includes replacement parts. Henry explained we do have a problem with our electrical components: they are outdated. Havel Brothers is maintaining it now, but may not in the future. The council would also like to see quotes on updating the electrical components.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 251 calls for service in February; he provided a breakdown of arrests and accidents. The police department has been monitoring the traffic situation around the new Casey's General Store; it seems to be working well.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, reported on the upcoming Easter Egg Hunts. On April 6, there will be an evening hunt for middle school students. On April 7, the Park Department and VFW will hold the Easter Egg Hunt for elementary students. Both events will be at Lakeside Park.

Chad updated everyone on the progress for the Youth Athletic Complex. The \$80,000.00 match for the K-21 Foundation grant was met, and we have received a check from K-21. We are working with Pacemaker Buildings on a maintenance building and concession stand. The plans must be submitted and approved by the state; Pacemaker is helping us with that. Hostetler Landscaping will be working on the seeding. The Park Department has requested quotes on wells and electrical work for the complex. Chad hopes they may be able to have football at the end of the season.

A Walk-a-thon fundraiser has been scheduled for May 12. Dick Peletier distributed brochures about the walk-a-thon; he advised he has talked to the schools and the police department. He has secured sponsors to cover the cost of the walk-a-thon, and the walk will be on the trails in town.

Larry stated this is a great example of the community coming together.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Superintendent, reported that the sludge barn door approved last month has been installed by Pacemaker. The new sidewalk by the library is moving forward. Cripe Excavating had trouble obtaining parts for the lift station repair at Oakwood; the parts have come in and work started today. Jeremy discussed the sidewalks on the southeast corner of Lake St. and Main St. Due to the amount of excavation and concrete work, it may be more than we can do in house.

Jeremy presented several purchase requests. The first request was for a pump for water line repairs. Two quotes were received; the lowest quote was from Brandeis for \$3,215.00. Jeremy explained it is an electric submersible pump and will be used when we repair water lines. Jeremy

discussed the problems we are encountering with the current equipment. He added the cost could be split between the water and street departments.

Paul made a motion to approve the purchase from Brandeis for an amount not to exceed \$3215.00; the pump is to be delivered in 30 days. Jeff seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy's second purchase request was for a new mower for the water department. They would like to purchase a zero turn style mower that will be used on the empty land by the water plant and well field, which is about 4 ½ to 5 acres. The deck on the current tractor is deteriorating; they plan to keep the old tractor to remove snow from the sidewalks uptown. The water department looked at purchasing a John Deere and a Skag. The Skag was cheaper; they would like to purchase the Skag mower from Goshen Farm and Lawn for \$7,495.20. Paul moved to approve the purchase of a 61" Skag mower from Goshen Farm & Lawn for a price not to exceed \$7,495.20; the mower is to be delivered in 30 days. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy's last purchase request was for a one ton dump truck for the street department. He advised the street department has a fleet of 10 trucks that are 1 ton or larger; he added the street department has not purchased a vehicle since 2006. Jeremy explained with Oakwood coming in there will be additional runs to that part of town for brush and other things. For now, this truck would be considered an addition, not a replacement. They do have one truck that is questionable and has about 8,000 hours on it. Jeremy explained the lead time to order a new truck would be eight to sixteen weeks; they would like to find a truck that is in stock on the lot. He asked the council to give him permission to purchase a vehicle for up to \$43,000.00. Discussion followed on makes and models of trucks, as well as our current truck fleet. Larry asked Jeremy to justify the additional vehicle, which Jeremy did. Brian noted the Oakwood streets added an additional 10% to our street miles. Paul made a motion to authorize Jeremy to purchase a truck for a price not to exceed \$43,000.00 within the next 30 days; Julie is authorized to issue a check to pay for the purchase. Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced that the remaining Oakwood residents will receive trash and recycling pickup starting April 9. Pickup began in November for the full time residents who requested pickup right away; the remaining residents were promised pickup starting in April.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Dick Peletier welcomed the Boy Scouts who attended the meeting; he added they are giving \$500.00 toward the Youth Complex. He asked if the railroad has been contacted about not taking care of the depot. He was told Hal is taking care of it.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

Brian asked about the fire information that was distributed to the council; Bill explained it is informational at this time.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Larry Siegel, Council President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer