

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2012

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry asked for comments from the public on agenda items. Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburgh St., asked what the salary and transfer ordinances were for. She was told the employees will receive a raise in 2013, and the transfers are for line items within a department budget.

The minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Brian moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1213 through #1360 were presented for payment. Brian made a motion to approve the claims; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance #12-15, An Ordinance for 2013 salaries, was presented. Paul made a motion to adopt the salary ordinance; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance #12-16, a transfer ordinance for the police and park departments, was introduced. Bill made a motion to approve Ordinance 12-16, Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance #12-17, An Ordinance Providing for Decennial Redistricting, was presented next. Henry pointed out the various districts (wards) on the map. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 12-17; Bill seconded. Five voted for the ordinance; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Jones Petrie Rafinski (formerly Wightman Petrie) gave his monthly update to the council for the North Industrial Park. He advised Cripe is making good progress and is moving well. He explained there is an open matter of a change order for Cripe Excavating. The change order is for the additional costs associated with the Kinder Morgan pipeline. Mr. Jones explained when the project was designed, Wightman Petrie was advised the typical buried depth of the pipeline was at three feet. Near the highway, the pipeline actually dips down to go under the road. We must lower the pipeline to eliminate conflict. Mr. Jones added there was no way they could anticipate this. Cripe is requesting an additional \$1.70 per foot and \$200.00 for manholes. The total cost of the change order is \$2,874.00. Paul moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for Cripe Excavating; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mr. Jones continued with his report. He advised the A T & T fiber optic cable runs parallel to U.S. 6. We knew there would be costs to reimburse A T & T for the engineering and protection work for the fiber optic; we were never able to get a number from them. In September 2011, the town was made aware of the issue. We had no contact with A T & T until October 16, 2012. This would be our obligation under the easement agreement; the cost is \$6,000.00. Henry advised Mike Reed has reviewed the proposed agreement. Henry added what will actually happen is a sleeve will be inserted over the fiber optic line to protect it when the road is put in. Larry asked what we need to do. Henry stated the council needs to authorize a check for \$6,000.00 to A T & T. Brian asked what prevents A T & T from sending us a bill for \$60,000.00. Henry advised A T & T told Brett the final cost will probably be less than \$6,000.00. Once they receive the \$6,000.00, a contract will be sent to us for our approval. Brian moved to pay A T & T \$6,000.00 for work on a sleeve to protect the fiber optic cable. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mr. Jones continued with his report. H & G is making good progress; they are wrapping up the directional boring. They will continue as long as the weather permits. Larry asked about water accumulating at the construction site. Ken Jones stated we may need to change the grade to reduce the severity of the slope. We can change it up until it is paved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported our wastewater department won two awards from the IWEA; one award was an environmental award, and the second was a safety award. He added we have a class II plant, and we meet all the standards of a class IV facility.

Henry advised R& R Visual completed the camera work in Oakwood; they found root balls and areas of pipe separation.

Henry advised we held a public hearing for the Oakwood grant; there were no remonstrators. There is an agreement with the Parent's; Henry asked the council to authorize him to sign the agreement. Brian moved to authorize Henry to sign the agreement between the Parent's and the Town of Syracuse; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Henry presented a grant agreement with the State of Indiana. Brian moved to have Larry and Julie sign the grant agreement with CDBG; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Henry asked if anything else comes in piecemeal for the CDBG grant, would it be ok for Henry, Larry, and/or Julie to sign. Paul moved to authorize Henry, Larry, and Julie to sign any additional grant paperwork that may be required; Bill seconded. Larry noted most of the things that the state is coming up with at the last minute don't significantly affect the grant. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry stated he provided council members a copy of the proposed contract with the new Town Attorney. If he doesn't hear anything from the council, Henry will send it to the new town attorney next Monday. The contract will be presented at the December meeting for council approval. Larry would like the new town attorney to return the contract in seven to fourteen days.

Henry continued with his report. He stated JPR talked about developing a website for the industrial park; their proposal did not include hosting the site. Henry would like to have our own site that we can maintain. Digital Hill provided a quote for \$29.95 per month and \$5,015.00 to have the web site developed. Paul moved to approve the cost of \$5,015.00 to develop the website and the \$29.95 monthly charge; Jeff seconded. Brian asked if we asked for any other quotes; Henry advised we did not. Digital Hill designed and hosts our Town site. Four voted for the motion; Brian voted against. The motion carried.

Henry reported the wiring for the decorative lights is complete. He is working on a Main St program with the chamber. Larry suggested integrating the Farmers Market with the Main St project. Bill asked if the Main St program is more of a façade program. Henry stated they have planning grants we could apply for. Larry suggested including Chad in the planning.

Henry distributed a handout about overhead and underground electrical facilities at the new industrial park; we don't have definitive costs yet. Henry recommends we install the electric below ground. He pointed out various locations on a map; the cost to bring in the electric at one location was \$51,000.00 and \$21,000.00 at a second location. A third option is \$63,000.00 to install underground electric throughout the park. Larry asked how we can be a shovel ready site if there is no electric. Henry pointed out those costs do not include natural gas; that estimate is \$28,000.00. Henry was asked how

we would pay for this; Henry will check and see if it can be paid from the grants. He estimates it would cost about \$115,000.00 for electric and gas; Henry is still working with NIPSCO. Larry pointed out NIPSCO has land for a substation on U.S. 6; he questioned bringing the electric in from S.R. 13. Discussion followed. Henry pointed out we would recover some of the costs when the lots are sold.

POLICE

Calvin Kline, Police Captain, reported there were 305 calls for service in October. There were four accidents and six arrests.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, advised Holiday Magic was held last Saturday and was well attended. Breakfast with Santa will be held on December 8; many local organizations are involved in this event. For the ball park, things are moving slowly. The interior drywall has been installed and the bathrooms finished. Grant applications are being submitted; they are still planning on having ball games there in the spring.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, reported the Oakwood leaves are making it longer to get through town for the leaf pickup.

Jeremy presented his annual request to chip the brush pile. The low quote was from Cripe Excavating in the amount of \$2,850.00. Paul moved to accept the quote from Cripe; Larry seconded. Bill asked if the street department is done picking up leaves; Jeremy answered they are still working on it. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline advised we received our health insurance renewal . The renewal rate is 9%; we budgeted for a 15% increase. Our agent, Chris Cotton, recommended we have employees fill out an enrollment form online to submit to several companies to see if we can get a lower rate.

Julie noted the council has adopted a resolution for the past few years to authorize the clerk to make the necessary transfers at year end instead of having a year end meeting. Council members directed her to prepare a resolution.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed was not present.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Dick Peletier stated he asked the council earlier this year to contribute funds for the Youth Athletic Complex; he asked if a decision had been made. He noted Kiwanis has run the ball program for the last 30 years. He discussed what has been paid by Rotary, Kiwanis, and other agencies over the years; they serve about 300 to 400 kids in town. He asked the town to stand up and give to the project.

He explained Kiwanis will run the concession stand; that money will be given to the town. Brian asked how much they need for the winter. Dick Peletier stated he asked for \$40,000.00 last month; he will take whatever the town can give.

Larry objected and said Mr. Peletier is not giving the town credit for what the town has done. The town purchased the land and incurred costs when they did the land swap. There are stormwater issues that will cost \$80,000.00 to fix. Larry said he wanted to make it clear the town has stepped up and has been very supportive; the town has contributed effort and money. Discussion followed.

Brian stated he would like to contribute \$40,000.00 today. He went over various fund balances. Julie pointed out an additional appropriation would be needed. Since it is late in the year, Cigarette Tax and Riverboat would only require council approval. Jeff stated he would like to give, but he is concerned about maintenance and park costs. The town will have an ongoing commitment from now on.

Bill asked if they receive \$40,000.00, what comes after that. Dick stated \$350,000.00 has been raised; \$400,000.00 was the initial goal. In addition, \$110,000.00 will be needed for lights. We have someone who has committed to matching up to \$60,000.00 for lights. Paul asked if they had details on the remaining costs. Chad listed and provided estimated costs for items such as the sprinkler system, restroom fixtures, electrical work on the interior, finishing the baseball dugouts, and a concrete pad.

Paul commented this is much bigger than he originally anticipated. Larry noted the town was originally told they would only need to pay for mowing. Brian moved to advertise for an additional appropriation of \$40,000.00 from the Cigarette Tax Fund for the Youth Athletic Complex. Henry would like to see funds appropriated for maintenance and have them raise money for the rest. Dick Peletier noted other organizations have promised to help with the maintenance; the concession stand will be used to raise money to give to the town to cover maintenance. Bill seconded. Larry asked if we need to earmark funds for the industrial park. Henry explains it depends on the grant; we may have to fund some of the engineering until end of grant. Larry added we will need to spend \$80,000.00 of stormwater money. Julie pointed out we may have some cash flow problems with the EDA grant; the town has to pay the contractor first and then wait for reimbursement. The money in EDIT must be kept there for cash flow purposes. Chad stated we bought the mower already; some electric and water costs will be ongoing. Brian stated the kids will be there for years to come. After more discussion on what needs to be done. Brian rescinded his motion and Bill rescinded his second to the motion.

Brian made a motion to advertise for an additional appropriation of \$20,000.00 from Cigarette Tax for the Athletic Complex. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Sharon Fowler stated it would be nice to spend some money to clean up Chinese Gardens. Sharon was told that area is out of town. She also asked why we have ten police cars.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Larry Siegel, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer