

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2015

Town Council President Paul Stoelting called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Kathy Beer, Bill Musser, Larry Siegel, and Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present.

Paul opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items. Sharon Fowler asked if the property taxes will be higher if the Industrial Park is annexed; Paul stated they will not.

The minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting were introduced. Larry moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; Kathy and Brian abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #1431 to #1553 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Kosciusko County Plan Commission Director Dan Richard presented a report and recommendation for a rezoning request for property at 207 W Main St. The property owner, Vincent Beasley, is requesting the property be rezoned from residential to commercial. Mr. Richard described the location and reported the Plan Commission voted unanimously to approve the rezoning request. Larry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-09 to rezone the property from residential to commercial; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2015-04, Authorizing the Clerk Treasurer to Make Necessary Transfers, was presented. Larry moved to adopt Resolution 2015-04; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The resolution was adopted.

Transfer Ordinance 2015-08 was introduced; the ordinance transfers appropriations in the police and park departments. Larry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-08; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2015-05, A Resolution Regarding the Syracuse Technology Park, was presented to the council. The resolution states the Town of Syracuse would annex the Technology Park if allowed by the State of Indiana. Larry moved to approve Resolution 2015-05; Bill seconded. Five voted for the resolution; none against. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia requested council permission to enter into an agreement with the Bose Public Affairs Group. The agreement is for \$20,000.00. Larry moved to approve the agreement; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported work continues on the new street lights on S.R. 13; all of the bases are in. Our final leaf collection has been completed; residents who still have leaves can bag them and bring them to Public Works. The lift station in Oakwood is complete except for a manhole cover that has to be put on.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne reported there were 416 calls for service in November. There were four accidents and six criminal arrests. Work continues on the local ordinance violations. There were 90 locations that had violations; 49 notices were sent.

Jim presented a purchase request. He would like to purchase a 2016 Dodge Charger from Sorg Dodge at a cost of \$22,713.00. The new vehicle would replace a 2006 Dodge Charger; the price for the new car includes a \$3,200.00 trade in for the old vehicle. Paul asked if there would be additional costs. Jim stated they plan to reuse the light bar and radio; they may need some minor items. It will take six to eight weeks for the new vehicle to be delivered; we should have it by the end of February. Brian moved to approve the purchase of a 2016 Dodge Charger from Sorg Dodge at a cost of \$22,713.00. The vehicle is to be delivered by the end of February, and the Clerk Treasurer is authorized to issue a check upon delivery. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim asked if there were any ADA complaints; there were none.

PARK

Chad reported on recent Park events. There were 550 breakfasts served at Breakfast with Santa; the Park Department will also be responding to 135 letters to Santa. Last Friday, a free Family Movie Night was started. The next movie is scheduled for January 8. Due to the current lack of ice, the snowmobile races have been moved to February 13. The Park Department continues to work on the master plan; he invited input from council members.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Rob Merchant reported the contractor for the wastewater improvement project has poured the walls for the sludge holding tank. The wastewater department was able to reduce the amount of sludge that had to be hauled; a local farmer took some of the sludge. The new sludge press is scheduled to arrive by the end of December. The new Oakwood lift station is nearly complete; we are waiting on an aluminum lid. JP Developers cleaned out the secondary oxidation ditch.

Rob presented a purchase request to upgrade the lab equipment. He would like to purchase a Hach DR3900 for \$4,020.78; this would replace two pieces of our current lab equipment with one. Annual cost savings is estimated to be \$1,846.08. Larry moved to approve the purchase from Hach for \$4,020.78; the equipment is to be delivered in 30 days. Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

For the Water Department, the chlorine system is working well; the water department repaired three leaks.

Rob gave the report for the street department. Leaf pick up is done. Rob requested permission to purchase an OSHA required storage cabinet from USA Blue Book for \$2,828.56. Larry moved to approve the purchase from USA Blue Book; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob announced he met with the engineer for the new elementary school. There is a gap between two dead ends on our water system; he would like to tie that gap together and make a loop. The school has agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost. Since Phend and Brown is on site now, that would be a cost savings. Larry asked how it would be paid for; Rob answered it would be paid from Water Depreciation funds. Kathy asked what the advantage is to the school. Rob explained right now there is only one feed line into the school; if there is any kind of break, they would be without water. He added water quality is not always good on a dead end line. If we do it later, it would be at full cost. He asked the council to consider doing this once we get the final numbers. Phend & Brown estimates our share of the cost would be \$108,800.00. It was the consensus of the council to pursue this project.

Rob presented several Street Department encumbrance requests. The requests were:

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| Wawasee Tree Service - removal of 10 trees | \$7,300.00 |
| John Deere Equipment - tractor | \$16,575.75 |
| Neal's Truck Parts - Allison transmission | \$4,200.00 |
| Beer & Slabaugh - grinding of brush | \$5,500.00 |

Brian made a motion to approve the requested encumbrances; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; Kathy abstained. The motion carried.

Rob presented the 2016 Water & Wastewater budgets. He stated the water department has a 0% increase. The wastewater budget is slightly higher since we will have to pay for hauling sludge in the the first few months of the year. Brian asked how long we expect to haul sludge. Rob answered he hopes the new sludge press will be operational by mid-April. The contract completion date and penalties were discussed. Julie added the wastewater budget is also higher due to the Bond & Interest payments required; our prior bond was paid off in 2013. Brian moved to approve the water and wastewater budgets for 2016; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced we received the 1782 notice from the DLGF for our 2016 budget; all budgets were approved. The 2016 budgets are under the maximum levy by \$138,133.00.

Julie asked incoming Clerk Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker to present a purchase request. Paula advised she would like to replace 2 of the 3 computers in the clerk's office; both computers are 7 years old. She asked the council to allow the purchase of 2 new computers for \$2,200.00 from Mastermind Computers. The computers would be delivered in 30 days. Larry moved to approve the purchase; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The purchase was approved.

Julie asked for clarification on spending limits without council approval. She noted there are many purchases, including tires, salt, utilities, emergency repairs, and chemicals, where it is understood council approval is not required. Larry suggested capital items. Paul feels it should be raised to \$1,500.00; Bill agreed. After discussion, council members agreed the purchase of items that can be depreciated and cost \$1,500.00 or more should have council approval.

Paul thanked Julie for her years of service as Clerk Treasurer.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Jessica Griffith, of Thwaits Court, asked the council to install a street light in the cul de sac where she lives; the cul de sac is at Wildwood Dr. and Thwaits Ct. She noted there are 8 houses there, and the school bus is picking up the children in the dark. The council was supportive of her request and instructed Henry to look into it.

Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburg St, asked when the sewer rates increased. She was advised this past spring there was a small increase; a larger increase was in 2014. Brian explained we had not raised the rates since 1992 and increases were necessary for our sewer plant. Sharon also repeated a previous request for town provided parking for large commercial trucks. Paul stated he is not in favor of it. Chief Layne said there are some businesses that allow parking for large trucks.

2016 APPOINTMENTS

Larry moved to appoint Vern Landis as Town Attorney for 2016; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian moved to approve the remaining appointments as listed in Henry's handout. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. The appointments listed were:

Park Board Appointment Shirley Connolly January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

Tree Board Appointments Gary Green and Paul Hoffman January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

Syracuse Redevelopment Commission Appointments Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, Ernie Rogers, Dan Van Lue, and Henry DeJulia January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Fire Territory Board Bill Musser and Brian Woody January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

The BZA Appointment is an executive appointment. Paul appointed Larry Martindale to the BZA for a term from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019.

It was noted the township appointed Steve Snyder as the fifth member of the Fire Territory Executive Board. Larry made a motion not to approve the appointment; Brian seconded. Three voted for the motion not to approve the appointment; Bill and Kathy abstained.

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline swore in the new officials for 2016. They were council members Tom Hoover, Brian Woody, and Bill Musser, and Clerk Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker.

Town Attorney Vern Landis opened the floor to nominations for the 2016 Town Council President. Paul nominated Larry Siegel for the position of Council President for 2016; Brian seconded. Vern asked if there were any other nominations; there were none. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian reported the exercise equipment for the Fire Territory was paid from operating funds. Bill reported the 2012 ambulance was hit by a deer.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry spoke about updating our comprehensive plan; many of the items in the old plan have been completed. He would like Henry to obtain quotes to redo our Comprehensive Plan.

Paul thanked Kathy Beer for her service on the Syracuse Town Council.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Paul Stoelting, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer