

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 2016

Town Council President Larry Siegel called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members also present were Tom Hoover, Paul Stoelting, Bill Musser, and Larry Martindale. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Larry Siegel opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1332 through 1458 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Tom seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2016-13, Additional Appropriation for General Fund Police Dept., was presented. Paul moved to approve the ordinance; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2016-14, Salaries & Compensation for 2017, was presented. Bill moved to approve the ordinance; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2016-15, Amending Ordinance 2016-09, Relating to the Issuance of Waterworks Refunding Revenue Bonds, was presented. Tom moved to approve the ordinance; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2016-16, Establishing a Town Budget Account for Fund #605, 2016 Bonds Cost of Issuance, was presented. Tom moved to approve the ordinance; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2016-03, Establishing the Syracuse "Village" Riverfront Development District, was presented. Tom moved to approve the ordinance; Paul seconded. Tom asked what exactly this would do for the Town. Henry answered that we have a business that wants to get a liquor license and other properties that aren't built yet that could have the opportunity to be a restaurant or something of that nature. Bill wanted to know what water or "river" this would be pertaining to. Henry answered it would be adjacent to Turkey Creek. Bill then asked what would be the next step after the Town approves this. Henry stated that the business would go to the state and apply for licensing there. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Chris Cotton reported on an update on the Town's health insurance renewal. Chris asked if there were any questions in regards to information given previously. He is still waiting on two other offers on an alternate approach that we are finding with groups this size in the hopes of saving money. He feels that Physician's Health Plan, our current provider, will be the best option. Chris just wants to be sure that we get the best rate we can without causing more hassle. Discussion followed on Affordable Care Act requirements regarding Self-Funded plans. Larry Martindale asked about how the insurance market would be affected if the newly elected administration in Washington D.C. starts messing with the A.C.A. Chris said the small group market wasn't affected by the A.C.A. very much, except when people had to purchase their own health insurance. The partially self-funded plans have been around for 25 plus years, they just found new interest because of the Affordable Care Act. We might find that if we go with a self-funded plan next year, we might have to get out of it the following year because there would be a better option.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported that the parking lot for the Town Hall is completed and are currently installing 9 decorative lights. The ones on the east side of Pearl Street are working. We are hoping to complete the west side of Pearl Street this week.

Henry asked for input on a new Town logo for the comprehensive plan. The council seemed to be in agreement with it. Henry stated we could possibly use this same logo for future marketing items.

### POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked for any questions from the council regarding his monthly report. There were none. Jim reported that they have placed the 2 new speed signs. They work great and we can use the data that is received from them in many ways. On State Road 13 / Huntington Street, there were approximately 1,500 vehicles in one day going north bound.

Jim presented the 2017 Terminal Services Agreement with the Kosciusko County and requested to pay \$5,000 to them per the agreement. It is for mobile data and report assistance. Paul moved to approve the agreement including the \$5,000 payment; Tom seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

There were no A.D.A. complaints.

### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that the Haunted Thrill at Crosson Mill averaged around 71 people per night. The Choir Department at the Wawasee High School helped out.

Upcoming events include a Breakfast with Santa on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8pm to 11pm at the Community Center. Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, will be the Holiday Magic program. It will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Lakeland Youth Center, and then from 4pm to 7pm at the Crosson Mill Park.

The snowflakes have been put up throughout town and the Christmas tree has been decorated at the Crosson Mill Park.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant reported on the timeline for the aeration equipment issues to be resolved. A water leak has been repaired.

Rob informed that the Leaf Vac is not working and is beyond repair. It was purchased used in 1995. The company that produced it has been out of business since 1987. New units are around \$55,000. A used one that they are looking at is around \$15,000. Paul moved to approve the purchase of a used Leaf Vac from Brown Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 including a 90 day warranty; Tom seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob also requested to trade in a Hustler mower that has over 2,100 hours on it with a new Kubota. We will receive \$2,500 in trade making the new Kubota cost down to \$9,400. Paul moved to approve the purchase of the new Kubota mower from Goshen Farm and Lawn; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Another request was made to purchase a sludge conveyer from Keystone Conveyer for an amount not to exceed \$30,500 to be paid out of the Wastewater Construction Fund. It would be delivered within 120 days. Paul moved to approve the purchase; Tom seconded. Five vote for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob received a quote from NIPSCO of \$2,400 to move a utility pole. Larry Siegel asked if it was in our right of way. Rob stated it was in a utility right-of-way but on our property. It was then asked if the pole is in the way

of anything. Rob answered that it has been hit a few times during salt operations. He also stated that he is willing to start charging NIPSCO for road repairs due to street cuts that NIPSCO has done but did not repair them when finished. The council suggested that Rob try to negotiate with NIPSCO to lower the cost. They believe that if it is in our right-of-way, it shouldn't cost us anything for them to move it.

Rob was sent a request from Mobilitie, LLC to install a tower at a vacant lot near AIA Countertops. The tower would be used for fiber optics and other communication services. It would be in our utility right-of-way. The council has declined the proposal.

#### FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott reported that there was a fire at a local business. He stated they have been doing pre-plans with other businesses in town. It allows them to find their utilities and emergency evacuation exits.

Mickey requested that the Council give a moment of silence to honor the death of volunteer firefighter Joe Hughes. He has served 54 years in the community. Silence was given.

#### CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker asked council members if they would like to hold a year end meeting, or if they would like to adopt a resolution like they have done in previous years to allow the Clerk to pay bills and make transfers. Council members would like a resolution presented in December.

Paula also asked for input on how the Council would like to complete the Internal Control certification. She wanted to know if they would like to watch the required video at the Town Hall or if they want to watch it on their own time and complete the form. They prefer doing it on their own time.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report at this time.

#### DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

There is nothing to report.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

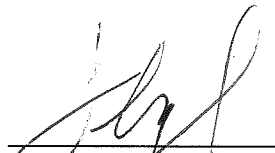
#### NEW BUSINESS

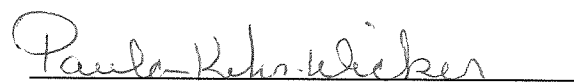
Tom asked to talk about the Fire Territory Board. He stated that Larry Martindale agreed to serve on the board if needed.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:40 pm.

ATTEST:

  
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Larry Siegel, President

  
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Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer