

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 20, 2016

Town Council President Larry Siegel called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:01 p.m. Council members also present were Tom Hoover, Bill Musser, and Larry Martindale. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Paul Stoelting was absent.

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 November 15, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Bill moved to approve the minutes; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1459 through 1622 were presented for payment. Larry Martindale moved to approve the claims; Tom seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2016-4, Authorizing Year-End Transfers, was presented. Bill moved to approve the ordinance; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2016-5, Authorizing Use of County Economic Development Income Tax, was presented. Larry Martindale moved to approve the ordinance; Tom seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2016-17, Amend & Replace Ord. 2013-3, Regulate Piers & Riparian Rights to Right-of-Ways, was presented. Jim Layne explained to the council that the amendment is to allow the Police to accept the rental fees and receipted into the Law Enforcement Continuing Education Fund, instead of the fees going to the Park's Non-Reverting Operating Fund. The change was to simplify record keeping when it comes to enforcing the regulations, that the Police were already doing. Tom moved to approve the ordinance; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

2017 APPOINTMENTS

Larry Siegel presented the following 2017 appointments:

Town Attorney (one year term) – Vern Landis

Town Marshall (one year term) – Jim Layne

Park Board (2017 – 2019) – Jeff Nicodemus

Redevelopment Commission (one year term) – Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, Ernie Rogers, Dan Van Lue, and Henry DeJulia

Tree Board (2017 – 2019) – Jerry Riffle and Robin Merchant

Board of Zoning Appeals (2017 – 2020) – Joe Leatherman and Ben Plikerd

Bill moved to approve the above appointments; Tom seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The Motion carried.

Tom made a motion to recommend Randy Cox as the fifth member of the Fire Territory Board (a one year term); Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill moved to appoint Tom Hoover and Larry Martindale as the Town Council's representatives to the Fire Territory Board (one year terms). Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported that the survey that was sent out for the Comprehensive Plan is due by December 23rd. There will also 2 meetings scheduled for January 5th, a morning session and an afternoon session, to discuss the results and other plan items. Henry also reported that he is still working with Elkhart County on the annexation of the Technology Park. Henry announced he will be on vacation from the 23rd of December to the 3rd of January.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked for any questions from the council regarding his monthly report. There were none. Jim reported that east and west bound traffic on the alley between Dolan Drive and Huntington St. is having difficulty seeing traffic coming in north bound from Main Street through the alley between the West Main Tavern and Syracuse Hardware. Jim would like to prepare an ordinance for a four-way stop at that area. The council agreed.

There were no A.D.A. complaints.

Tom Hoover asked if there was an ordinance regarding the housing and keeping of chickens, ducks, and other farm animals within town. Jim confirmed that they are not allowed.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that Breakfast with Santa went very well. He stated that Santa responded to about 100 letters. Chad announced that the Adult Basketball leagues start in January. Pinterest Parties and Movies are also continuing. Chad also reported that the Ice Rink is now open.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant presented the Water and Wastewater Budgets. He stated that the increase in electric is due to the issues with the aeration equipment. The increase in Salaries is due to being short a person this past year for a few months and now having a replacement who is being paid more along with the council approved 3% pay increase. Larry Siegel inquired about the electric use. Rob answered that the new units are using twice the amount of power as one of the old units. Discussion followed regarding the aeration equipment. In regards to the budgets, Rob explained that the increase to the wastewater budget is mainly due to the power increase, and the increase to the water budget is due to maintenance that has been set aside for too long. Bill moved to approve the 2017 Water and Wastewater Budgets; Tom seconded. Four voted for the motion, none against. The motion carried.

FIRE TERRITORY

No report given.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker reminded the council that they need to sign and return the Nepotism and Contracting with Relatives certifications before the 31st of this month.

Paula also asked if there were any questions regarding the Health Insurance renewal. There were none. It was announced that the Clerk's Office will close at noon on December 30th and the Town Hall will be closed all day on January 2nd in observance of the New Year holiday.

TOWN ATTORNEY

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

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

There is nothing to report.

Town Attorney Vern Landis opened the floor to nominations for the 2017 Town Council President. Larry Siegel nominated Tom Hoover for the position of Council President for 2017; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Tom Hoover appointed Bill Musser as Vice President.

OLD BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

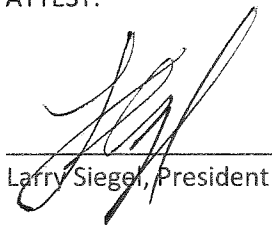
NEW BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

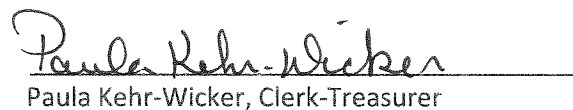
Bill moved to adjourn; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:39 pm.

ATTEST:



Larry Siegel, President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer