

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2017

Town Council President Tom Hoover called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:20 p.m. Council members also present were Larry Siegel, Bill Musser, Paul Stoelting and Larry Martindale. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Tom Hoover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom asked for public comment on agenda items. Jim Layne requested moving the Swearing in of New Officer to the beginning of the meeting. Paul moved to amend the agenda to allow the Swearing in of New Officer Gary Clark; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Vern Landis swore in the new Police Officer, Gary Clark.

The minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 137 through 285 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Two versions of Ordinance 2017-01, Establishing Rules Regarding Purchasing of Supplies and Services, was presented. Paul moved to approve version 2, allowing the Clerk-Treasurer and the department heads not to exceed \$3,000 limit and the Town Manager not to exceed \$7,000 limit; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-02, Amending Town Code and Designating a One-Way Alley, was presented. Jim explained the necessity in making the alley a one-way. Larry S. questioned if there were other options considered. Jim and Henry stated there were but nothing seemed feasible. Bill Musser asked if there had been any accidents around there. Jim answered there have not been any recently. Paul moved to approve the ordinance; Tom seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Bill abstained. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia presented a letter that would allow Elkhart County to negotiate a Tax Abatement for possible purchase of lots in the Industrial Park. Larry Siegel moved to allow the Council President to sign the letter; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry introduced an engagement letter from London Witte as rate consultants regarding the issues with Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District. Lengthy discussion followed on how billing is being calculated for TCRSD. Paul moved to approve signing of the engagement letter; Larry S. seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported that there is still an opening that needs filled on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He also reported that he, Tom, Larry M, Bill, Chad toured the current elementary school and discussed with the School Corporation possible ideas for its future use. Henry announced that the final copies of the Comprehensive Plan were mailed to Kosciusko County Area Plan Commission members. Henry will have them available at the next meeting.

Henry stated he has had a request for another Riverfront District or to expand the existing one to the Village area. Larry S. moved to allow Henry to go forward in expanding the Riverfront District; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne made a purchase request for a new squad car. Larry moved to approve the purchase of a 2017 Dodge Charger not to exceed \$24,660 with delivery within the week. Also, allowing the Clerk to write the check before receiving the vehicle. Paul seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim also requested the council to allow him to spend up to \$5,000 to outfit the new squad. He explained that the Chevy Impala's equipment would not fit in the new squad. He also informed the council that the Impala would be used as a Police Reserve vehicle and will be selling or scrapping out the Ford Crown Victoria. He estimates it would be worth no more than \$1,000. Paul moved to allow spending no more than \$5,000 to CopsGear.com and have items delivered within 60 days to equip the new squad car. Larry S. seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim asked if there were any questions on his monthly report. There were none.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that the last movie will be on Friday, January 20th, at 6:30pm. The movies will start back up in October. The Indoor Yard Sale will be on March 4th between 9am and 2pm at the Community Center. Chad stated that April and May are going to be very busy months and he will have more details to give next month. Chad also reported that there has been a lot of cleanup going on at Laudeman Park. Larry S. asked about the restroom and the concession stand on the hill at Lakeside Park. Discussion followed regarding ideas for new or rebuilt restrooms.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant reported that the U.V. Channel startup will occur tomorrow. Plant paving was not being done as requested but is resolved now. There are still issues regarding the aeration equipment. It requires cleaning our secondary clarifiers approximately 3 times a week, rather than once a week. Discussion followed on possible resolutions to the problem. Rob also reported that the recent warm weather has caused more collection of brush.

Rob announced that the Community Crossings (matching) Grant is coming up and he has 3 potential projects for it. He has contacted Commonwealth Engineers to set up a meeting to discuss potential cost savings or other options to fund our share of it. Rob stated that Polywood has a new process they have put in that requires a new discharge permit. He will be monitoring the progress on this and making sure Polywood remains in compliance. Rob also reported that the south Water Tower will be cleaned and inspected as soon as March. The water main on Kern Road is open and Rob will request to change sample locations with the state. Fire Protection insurance information form will be completed. Rob is working on revamping the employee evaluations. All damaged street lights are repaired.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott reported that he has gotten approval to send 2 employees to paramedic training every Thursday from April 6th to December 18th. He continues to work on the Insurance Service Office (I.S.O.) survey. Mickey reported that there were 125 calls in January. Bill questioned an advertisement for a fireman. Mickey responded that they have a position that needs filled and that it is not a new position.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker presented a request to for Indiana Spray Foam to add insulation to the walls in the Town Hall. Paul moved to approve having Indiana Spray Foam to spray insulation for no more than \$4,145.00 and to be finished within 60 days. Larry M. seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paula also requested that we hire an outside company to come in and help with renewing our Employee Handbook. The request was tabled until further information could be provided from one of the companies.

Another request was presented to have our website re-designed. Larry asked how many employees were in the company due to issues he's had in the past with passwords and other instances. He also stated that he believes that the cost of hosting a website has gone down and will provide information on a company he believes would be a good candidate. The request was tabled until further information is received.

TOWN ATTORNEY

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

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Julie Kline asked the council if the Town of Syracuse made a decision to not put out copies of proposed ordinances for the audience to view. Paula answered that she did not know that they had been displayed in the past.

OLD BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

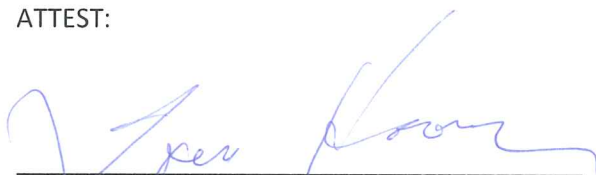
NEW BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.


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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:29 pm.

ATTEST:



Tom Hoover, President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer