

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 21, 2017

Town Council President Tom Hoover called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 6:58 p.m. Council members also present were Bill Musser, Paul Stoelting and Larry Martindale. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Larry Siegel was absent.

Tom Hoover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 286 through 422 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-03, Establishing a Town Budget Account – Fund #301-RDC Capital Fund, was presented. Paul moved to approve the ordinance; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2017-01, Adopting the 2017 Comprehensive Plan, was presented. Joe Fragomeni, a representative from American Structurepoint Inc. was present for any questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan. Henry stated that this plan was recommended by the Area Plan Commission. Bill moved to approve the ordinance; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia asked for a motion to approve Randy Cox as Larry Martindale's replacement on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Paul moved to approve Randy Cox as the Town's Representative for the BZA; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported that the Interlocal Agreement between the Town and Elkhart County regarding the annexation for the Technology Park has been submitted. The process could take approximately 60 days to reach approval.

Henry presented letters that need to be sent out to various entities notifying them that there is no excess assessed value that may be allocated to the overlapping taxing units. He is asking the council to certify these letters by a motion. Paul moved to accept the certification from the Redevelopment Commission; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry announced that Robin Merchant was voted as Manager of the Year by the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions on his report. There were none. He reported that the Police Department has received the new squad car and is scheduled to be outfitted.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that April 7th is the Annual Flashlight Egg Hunt starting at 9pm. On April 8th is the regular Egg Hunt at 10:30am. There is also the 3rd Annual Geocache Egg Hunt that will start on April 8th and end on April 17th. May 6th there will be a "Touch A Truck" program, allowing children to look at, touch, and play on big trucks, tractors, or equipment. The "Pitch, Hit, and Run" contest will be on April 29th. There will be two Princess Parties on April 22nd, one between 10am and 12pm, the other between 1pm and 3pm.

Chad stated he is still working on getting quotes on the restrooms at Lakeside Park.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant asked if there were any questions on his report. An air compressor for the new U.V. equipment has been repaired. Three quotes were requested for a new sludge conveyor. Mason Engineering is the only quote received at \$12,967.00 with work completed within 30 days. Payment is to be made from the Wastewater Construction Fund. Bill moved to approve the purchase and installation of a new sludge conveyor from Mason Engineering, Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob discussed the ongoing Fats, Oil, and Grease monitoring throughout the town. He stated that after receiving the results from various businesses, he believes we will need to change the Town's ordinance to allow for repercussions of those businesses that are not in compliance.

Helmuth Quality Coatings, LLC has submitted a request to receive a discharge permit from Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Rob states he has not seen anything of concern.

Rob reported that the Sewer Vacuum truck is down permanently and has come across 2 used units from a supplier in Michigan. Each unit is quoted to be \$100,000 dollars. There is a 3-year lease option for \$35,750.83 a year, allowing us to purchase the unit on the 3rd year for a dollar. Rob stated we can run a trial use of a unit for 30 days at no cost. He recommends we do this.

JP Developers would like to purchase the old Sludge Spreader and the old Vac Truck for \$15,000. Vern stated he would like to look into the legal requirements for receiving bids on a capital item sale before going through with this.

Rob reported that we have received our Inspection Summary Letter from IDEM. We received a non-compliance notice for five items; Backflow Prevention System, Well Maintenance, High Service Pump Maintenance, Water Loss, and Water Tower Maintenance. It was stated that we did not have a Backflow Prevention Ordinance, in which we had discovered one that was passed in 1988. A copy of this ordinance was forwarded to IDEM. We still do not have a list of all the preventions in town, so we are still in non-compliance of this item. Rob states we have been inspecting and maintaining our wells. A recommendation from Ortman Drilling that we pull the wells that are not in production. We are non-compliant due to not pulling those wells. The High Service Pumps were tested for the first time ever last year; therefore, there is no baseline to go by. Rob will note that in the response to IDEM. Tower maintenance will be corrected this year.

Rob received two quotes for cleaning the outside of the South Tower. He recommends having National Wash Authority perform the work at \$5,300 since they are highly recommended and will also pre-wash and post wash using anti-mildew inhibitor. Bill moved to approve National Wash Authority to clean the outside of the South Tower. Paul seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob also reported that they are investigating 31 zero-consumption accounts. This will help in our Water Loss non-compliance. The test meter at the water plant was moved to a better location.

The Street Department is requesting bids on a new dump truck. Rob is working on getting preliminary numbers on a storm water project for Harkless drive. This could be part of a Community Crossings Grant that may be attainable down the road.

Rob presented a proposal from Pacemaker to build extensions on the existing storage building in order to house seasonal equipment and storage for other town departments. Pacemaker built the original storage building. The quote is for a lean-to on each side of the original building at 18' x 60' and 11' tall at \$19,600. Paul moved to approve Pacemaker to build both ends of the storage building for a cost not to exceed \$19,600, and

allow the Clerk to pay a 15% deposit with the order, 50% upon start of construction, and the remaining 35% upon completion. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. It should take approximately 5 months to start the project and possible completion in 6 months.

Larry Martindale asked about the status of the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District. Rob answered that he has spoken to their Public Works Manager at the conference and he stated that he can talk to Rob, but he cannot talk about the issues and disputes of the contract.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott asked the council if they had any questions about his report. There were none. Mickey then reported that they have spent a little over 270 hours of training last month in various aspects including Fire, EMS, Rescue, etc. They did conduct an outside siren warning on March 3rd at 11am and found a failure in the circuit board. There are two full time employees that will be starting the Paramedic program. The testing is a national test, not a state test. There were two full time openings that have been filled. They are currently receiving quotes on a new Vacuum Tanker. A meeting was conducted with the architect and the Fire Territory for the Fire Station improvements. The 2004 Chevy Suburban command vehicle that was replaced with a 2017 Tahoe has been sold for \$3,000. The annual Air and Ground ladder testing was done today. The testing is required for insurance purposes. The Insurance Service Office field representative will be here on April 4th. It could take between 6 to 8 months for the results.

Paula asked if we need to approve the Change Order #6 from R.E. Crosby for the Wastewater Project. Rob discussed the necessary items that need to be done that were not part of the original contract. Further discussion was made regarding remaining funds left in the Construction Fund and future items that will need to be purchased. Paul moved to approve Change Order #6 for \$34,783.00 with a May 23rd date of completion. Bill seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Rob also mentioned that discussion will need to be done regarding the current aeration issues.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker presented three quotes to the council to renew and update the Employee Handbook. Paula recommends using New Focus HR due to the service they claim to provide is more than the other quotes along with the yearly service. Bill moved to approve New Focus HR to prepare our Employee handbook for \$3,800 and the \$125 annual fee. Paul seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Another request was presented to have our website re-designed. Paula recommended going with Revize Government Websites for \$3,825 for the first year, and \$2,300 annually. Paul moved to approve having Revize design and host our website to be completed by the end of 2017; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, reported that Jim Layne provided him with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Police Department. He has reviewed them and recommends that the council approve them. Bill moved to approve the S.O.P.'s using the Lexipro program. Paul seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Jack Birch represented some downtown business and residents regarding an issue with another downtown business. The Bar-B-Q restaurant, depending on the weather, has substantial smoke emanating from the property. Mr. Birch states that the design used for the product does not allow the smoke to escape. It just hangs in the area and permeates all of the old buildings surrounding it. John Stout claims that the smoke is sticking to his antiques. Mr. Stout and Mr. & Mrs. Turner claim that it is sticking to the fabric in their homes. The complainants are asking that the Town regulate the smoke by not allowing it to take place downtown, requiring commercial hoods or a chimney system. Mr. Birch states that he has received complaints from people having the greasy haze and smell of the smoke inside their vehicle. Bill asked if Mr. Birch has talked to the owner of the Bar-B-Q restaurant. Mr. Birch stated he has not personally, but his clients have. Paul asked if there are any other communities with ordinances for this issue. Mr. Birch states that he doesn't know of any close to us, he has found them in places like Kansas City. Tom stated that he personally visited 13 businesses uptown and none of them had complaints. Paul states it is worth investigating. He suggested having Henry scheduling a meeting with all parties involved to come up with a fair resolution.

Steve Turner spoke, representing the Huntington Street Bar & Grill. He expressed his concerns about the summer tourism season. He states the air conditioning will suck in the smoke. He wonders if the Bar-B-Q business will increase the number of smokers in the summer.

John Stout spoke, representing his Antique Store. He states that he has smoke in his vehicles and laundry. He claims that the Bar-B-Q worked with him, but then they added another smoker.

OLD BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

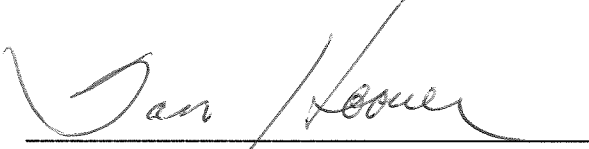
NEW BUSINESS

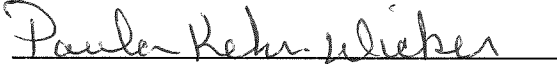
There is nothing to report.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:12 pm.

ATTEST:


Tom Hoover, President


Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer