

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

April 16, 2013

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill asked for comments from the public on agenda items. There were no comments.

The minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Larry moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims # 385 to #494 were presented for payment. Larry moved to pay the claims; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill opened the Public Hearing for the ADA Transition Plan. Tony explained he has been working with MACOG to create the ADA Transition Plan. The plan shows how we are going to make our intersections ADA compliant; it is a twenty year plan. Last year we adopted three ADA resolutions. Tony explained the clerk's office, library, and the website have copies of the plan; he asked for public comment. Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburgh St., asked if we are going to enforce handicapped parking. Tony answered that is not a part of the ADA Transition Plan, but the police department will enforce it. Sharon would also like to see push buttons at stop lights. Tony explained that is a state highway; the traffic lights are controlled by the state. Larry asked if this is part of our comprehensive plan; Tony stated he provided Henry with a copy. Sharon asked when the plan will be effective; she was advised immediately. There were no further comments; the Public Hearing was closed. Larry moved to adopt the ADA Transition Plan; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill Musser read a portion of the Arbor Day Proclamation and declared April 26, 2013 as Arbor Day. Chad added we were again designated as a Tree City USA for 2012; this would be the 12<sup>th</sup> year. We also received our 9<sup>th</sup> growth award.

Completed CF-1's were presented for council approval. Syracuse Properties, LLC presented a CF-1 for their real property abatement, and JP Inc presented a CF-1 for their personal property abatement. Larry moved to find JP Inc and Syracuse Properties, LLC to be in substantial compliance and to authorize the council president to sign the CF-1 forms; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Jones Petrie Rafinski, gave his monthly report on the industrial park construction. They were hoping Cripe Excavating could start working again tomorrow, but it is too wet. A T & T has completed the casing of the fiber optic. H & G has completed most of the main work on the offsite construction; they are working on restoration. H & G has also been hampered by the weather.

Mr. Jones advised we did have a problem with a resident claiming our contractor did damage to the gas lines in her house; JPR determined the contractor is not responsible. The homeowner's plumber also stated it had not been maintained. H & G is waiting for the booster pump equipment. There is a delay at the manufacturer; we hope to have delivery this week.

Mr. Jones explained one of the items in the scope of services is the filing of final plat of the development site. We initially decided to wait on filing the plat, however, since there has been some interest in the property, Mr. Jones would like to begin the process. He will prepare a plat for the May filing deadline, go to the plat committee meeting in June, and the Elkhart County Commissioners in July.

Larry asked if NiSource has begun work; Henry answered they are waiting for the base in the road. Larry asked about an estimated completion date; Mr. Jones answered mid to late June.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported on what has been done in Oakwood. We put in the forced main and the new pumps. We are working on getting information for a description of the roads that are not platted so we can take possession. We are also looking into the cost of installing a curb on Palm Dr so cars won't cross from Palm Dr to Line Dr where the fence was removed. Our long term goal is to install some decorative lights. Another goal is to tie in Lakeside Dr and Line Dr; that would not be done until after Labor Day.

Henry asked if there were any questions or comments on the template for the industrial park website. If the council has no objections, he will proceed.

Henry announced our Cable Franchise Agreement with Mediacom expires next month. Henry checked, and Attorney Landis confirmed; the contract automatically renews if there is no action.

K-21 has awarded the Town of Syracuse a grant for \$30,000.00 for a pedestrian bridge on Harkless Dr. Larry made a motion to accept the grant for the bridge on Harkless Dr; Jeff seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry advised he spoke with Dick Kemper, the Kosciusko County Surveyor. The county will begin work on the McConnell ditch this year in late spring or early summer.

Larry asked Chad to look into the trail plan since they will be cleaning the ditch out.

Larry asked Henry when the Comprehensive Plan will be complete. Henry hopes to have it completed by the June meeting.

### POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello advised there were 349 calls for service in March; there were 9 crashes and 8 arrests. He announced the Memorial Day Parade will be following the same route as last year.

Tony discussed the school threats that were made in other cities. He stated extra officers were brought into the schools yesterday.

Tony introduced discussion on the pier ordinance; he reminded council members he distributed a draft ordinance last month. A final version has been prepared to amend our current ordinance to allow for better enforcement for violators. He advised the park department has been holding people off who want piers since January. Chad noted he accepted applications; no money has been accepted yet. Paul explained the ordinance would allow piers to remain year round on channels and alleys, however, those people would still have to complete a new application and register every year. Paul moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-3; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson made several announcements. Youth Safety Day will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The Farmer's Market will begin on May 11 and continue until mid October. Tony spoke up and stated he met with Tyler on some parking issues for the market; they decided vendors will be allowed to park on Dolan Dr going north from Hickory. This will open up parking for market visitors. Larry asked about the Pearl St parking lot. Chad explained it is too far; vendors would have to leave their booths attended for quite some time while they move their vehicles. The annual car events will be on May 17 and May 18. On Friday evening, May

17, the cruise-in will be on Main St and on around to the Community Center. The car show on Saturday will be at the Community Center. For the Youth Athletic Complex, a work day was held last Saturday; most of the priorities were completed. The dedication will be held on May 4 at 2:00p.m. There will be games, and the buildings will be open.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, asked the council if the list he provided for the 2013 street and sidewalk projects was acceptable. If it is, Jeremy can pursue getting some numbers. Brian asked about Kern Road, which is on the list. Jeremy stated it is in bad shape; we have already used 10 tons of cold patch on it this year. Brian asked how much of Kern Road is our responsibility. Jeremy answered the town limits start at the edge of the woods that is south of the ball field.

Larry asked about repairs to existing sidewalks. Jeremy advised this year's list includes repairs on existing sidewalks. Brian questioned paving Sycamore St; he feels there are more pressing areas in town. Jeremy explained Sycamore would be paved from Chicago St to Casey's. Tony noted there is more foot traffic after school to Casey's. Paving Kern Rd was discussed. Jeremy will get pricing on Kern Rd; he noted he has talked to the county and the feedback from county indicated the northern half is our responsibility. Jeremy will get quotes on paving and bring them to the council.

Jeremy provided a breakdown on his proposed funding for the Harkless pedestrian bridge. He asked the council if the street department could begin the rest of the sidewalk program right away, instead of bringing costs before the council next month. Council members had no problem with his request. Larry asked if Jeremy could look into widening the pedestrian walkway on the Main St bridge.

Jeremy reported M E Simpson has completed the leak detection. Some issues were found and fixed; there are no major issues. He noted leak detection cannot be done on plastic lines. Jeremy was asked how much was found and fixed; Jeremy estimates about 10 million gallons. Jeremy would like to continue aggressively replacing meters.

Jeremy continued with his report. For the wastewater department, the truck should be delivered and completed next week. He has tried to find comparables to the trailer vac he brought up last month; so far he has not been able to find any. He will bring it up at a future meeting. Jeremy was asked how he would pay for the trailer; he advised Cumulative Storm. Discussion followed on the various funds we have. Larry pointed out the homestead properties on the lake have reached the circuit breaker. Jeremy requested permission to purchase 13 trees from Shade Tree Unlimited for a cost of \$1,370.00; they should be delivered in 30 days. Larry moved to approve the purchase; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### CLERK TREASURER

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline discussed the five year loan from Water Depreciation to the Oakwood Infrastructure Improvement Fund that was approved in May of 2012. She would like to repay 1/5 of the loan now, which would be \$18,000.00. She also asked if the council would like her to do this automatically every year. Larry made a motion to approve the payment of \$18,000.00 now and every year until it is paid; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburg St., asked why off duty police cars are not parked at the town hall, why police cars are not on both sides of railroad tracks to stop people from overrunning the crossings,

what background does Mr. DeJulia have to run the town, and finally as a board you are there to put people in place that are open and honest.

Tony answered our police officers are allowed to take their cars home so they are available for call outs in emergencies. We usually have two police officers on duty; one works the district north of tracks and the other works the district south of tracks. Bill answered Henry was hired because he has the skills to do the job; the council selected him as the best candidate for the job.

Sharon brought up the building inspector again. More discussion followed.

Mike MacNeil asked why we buy vehicles and then add another part later, like a plow. Jeremy explained the process.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Brian informed the council that the fire territory wants to pursue PERF. Based on Mickey's recommendation, the cost will be \$36,000.00 per year. They also want to do a buy back for the firemen who have been there a while; there is a onetime cost of \$88,000.00. He noted \$110,000.00 was budgeted for the buy back. Bill asked if this was the '77 plan; Brian answered yes. A lengthy discussion followed on pension plans and the buy back. There is a meeting of the Fire Territory Executive Board tomorrow night. Brian and Jeff will be asked to vote, and they asked for council input. Larry said no; there will not be enough money with the circuit breaker. Paul questioned why they would do this now with the economy. Brian pointed out we are losing police because of no pension; Tony confirmed officers are leaving because we don't have a pension. More discussion followed. Bill stated he was happy with current plan, however, when they are losing firemen to other departments, that is something else. We become a training camp. He added the 20% cost of PERF '77 is way out of line. Paul stated it is not affordable. Brian stated that is how he will vote.

#### NEW BUSINESS

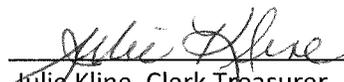
Bill stated there are no speed limit signs on North St, Portland St, and Maple St. Tony explained the speed limit is 30 miles per hour in a residential area if not posted. Tony will check with Chad to see if the speed limits need to be lowered for the new athletic complex.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
William Musser, President

  
Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer