

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 2013

Town Council President Bill Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Kathy Beer, 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 public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the November 19, 2013 meeting were presented. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; Larry abstained. The motion carried.

Claims were presented. Bill advised the claims docket includes two claims from Cripe Excavating for release of the remaining retainage for the EDA and EDI projects. Brett Konarski, of JPR, added Cripe has completed their original contract. He advised JPR recommends payment of the retainage. Brian moved to release the retainage for Cripe Excavating and approve claims #1441 through #1563; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Brett added if there are any issues that come up, Cripe has performance and maintenance bonds.

Bill announced the Public Hearing for the Polywood and PW Realty tax abatement requests. He opened the floor to comments. Attorney Steve Snyder, representing the petitioners, advised Polywood will be making significant improvements. There will be 52 additional employees with additional salaries of \$1,378,400.00. Improvements will be completed over the next two years; the abatements will not extend beyond ten years. Two buildings will be combined into one. There are now 153 employees; they will all be retained. He asked the council to approve the confirmatory resolution and to approve the waiver that the project can not begin before the SB-1 is filed. Bill asked if there were any other comments; there were none. Bill closed the Public Hearing. Larry moved to adopt Confirmatory Resolution 2013-03; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2013-04 Authorizing the Clerk treasurer to Make Necessary Transfers, was introduced. Larry moved to adopt Resolution 2013-04; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski gave his monthly report on the industrial park. He advised additional striping will be needed in the industrial park and on the passing blisters. He noted Cripe's charge for striping in the bid packet was \$3.05 per foot; Brett noted he has seen prices as low as \$.50 per foot. Brett asked the council to approve JPR's recommendation to seek other quotes. Council members agreed with the recommendation. Brett added Elkhart County acceptance of the roads will not be until after April 1.

Blake Doriot, Elkhart County Surveyor, appeared to discuss the proposed bridge over U. S. 6 at C.R. 29. Mr. Doriot advised Elkhart County has been trying to work with the state on alternatives; the current plan will not allow access from C.R. 29 to U.S. 6 and vice versa. He noted the intersection is poorly aligned. He added INDOT will build the bridge with 80% federal money. The Elkhart County Surveyor's Office has submitted an option to realign the intersection; Elkhart County Highway has also sent some options, such as passing blisters, or a stop light. Also, if the bridge is built, an option was sent for a two way ramp. So far, INDOT has turned a "deaf ear". The plan is now to notify INDOT that Elkhart County officials are not pleased; cross access is necessary. He read a letter that Elkhart County will be sending with the signatures of most Elkhart County officials. Mr. Doriot advised we need political pressure; he asked for the Town of Syracuse to support the Elkhart County position. Larry asked if we should recommend an alternative. Discussion followed. Paul asked if we should join what is in the

Elkhart County letter. Bill thanked Mr. Doriot; Bill stated the council will discuss the issue and decide how we would like to proceed. Henry stated he spoke with Mr. Burgess about the impact of moving the traffic to U.S. 6 and S.R. 13; Mr. Burgess said we need to look into that. Kathy stated she feels it would have more impact if we send our own letter; we could possibly ask Kosciusko County to send a letter too. Council members continued their discussion. Kathy will draft a letter and e-mail it to the council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia presented Resolution 2013-05, A Capital Improvement Plan for Economic Development Income Tax. The resolution has a plan on how we are going to spend EDIT revenue; the plan is required. Henry stated he tried to be all inclusive on any type of project we may want to do. Brian moved to adopt Resolution 2013-05; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry advised he continues to work on signage for the Industrial Park.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 356 calls for service in November; there were 7 vehicle crashes. He commended the street department for their work after our most recent snow storm; there were no issues.

Tony requested permission to buy a used golf cart. He provided several examples of when the police can use a golf cart. In the past, he has borrowed a cart when one was available. He did find a used cart; two dealers advised it is worth \$5,500.00 to \$6,000.00. The asking price is \$4,000.00, and the purchase could be paid from remaining funds in the police new equipment account. Kathy stated she thinks it is a good idea. Paul moved to approve the purchase of the golf cart for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against the motion carried.

Tony announced that starting January 1, he will be President of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police for a one year term.

Tony asked if there were any ADA complaints; there were none.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, reported there were approximately 650 breakfasts served at Breakfast with Santa. The park department is working on letters to Santa. He is working on the Tree City USA application.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, distributed maps of the Oakwood entrance off Palm Drive. The maps contained three options for stop signs in the area of Palm Dr, Lakeside Dr., Line St. and Lake Dr. Since there is a new entrance to Oakwood, Jeremy would like the council to decide how they would like the signage. Option 1 is a three way stop; option 2 is a stop sign on Palm Dr going east, and option 3 is to keep the stop sign on Lake Dr. Discussion followed; council members like option 2. Attorney Landis will prepare an ordinance.

The 2014 Wastewater budget was presented; total budget amount is \$706,350.00. Jeremy pointed out the total budget is less since we do not have a bond payment. Brian made a motion to

approve the 2014 Wastewater budget for \$706,350.00; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The 2014 Water budget was presented. The total budget is \$1,082,933.00, an increase of 6%. Jeremy explained the increase is due to the addition of a third person. Discussion followed on the reason a third person is needed. Larry asked if Jeremy will come before the council before he hires an additional person; Jeremy answered yes. Paul moved to adopt the 2014 Water budget for \$1,082,933.00; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Jeremy presented two quotes he received on a trailer mounted vac. Geiger Trenchless quoted \$83,750.00, and Vermeer quoted \$84,650.00. He reminded council members the purchase would be paid from street and cumulative storm sewer funds. Jeremy would like to purchase the equipment from Geiger Trenchless; it has the lowest price and more features than the other quote. Discussion followed about monthly payments that were shown on one of the quotes; Bill pointed out the monthly payments would increase the cost by about \$10,000.00. Jeremy stated the unit is in stock; the boom would have to be ordered. There was discussion if a down payment was required to hold the unit until next year. Brian made a motion to approve the purchase from Geiger Trenchless for \$83,750.00; Jeremy is authorized to make a down payment of up to \$30,000.00 if required. The trailer mounted vac is to be delivered by the end of February. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced we have received our 2014 Budget Order. She advised the tax rate dropped to .9040; the tax rate for 2013 is .9203.

Julie presented quotes for our 2014 insurance renewal for Property, Equipment, and Liability insurance. The first quote was from our current carrier, EMC/Downey Insurance, with the same deductibles and coverage we have now; that quote was for \$61,063.00. The second quote from Indiana Municipal was for \$54,313.00, however, those policies would have much higher deductibles and we would have to change our work comp carrier. The property deductible, for example, would increase to \$5,000.00 from the current amount of \$1,000.00. Henry expressed his concern about raising the deductible for property insurance to \$5,000.00. Kathy made a motion to renew the policies with our current carrier with the same deductibles; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie presented a quote of \$1,794.00 to update our code book. Paul moved to approve the update through Municipal Code for an amount not to exceed \$1,794.00; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie discussed the presentation from Invoice Cloud that was distributed last month. She asked the council members if they had any objections to her proceeding to look into this. Council members had no objection.

Julie presented quotes to replace the town hall flooring. Goshen Floor Mart quoted \$3,637.87, and BC Tile quoted \$4,449.22. After discussion, Kathy moved to approve the quote from Goshen Floor Mart for an amount not to exceed \$3,637.87; work is to be completed in 60 days. Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; Brian voted against. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Bill Musser announced quite a few people from Wawasee Heights were present to discuss a sign issue. Bill asked if the group would appoint a spokesman to speak on their behalf. Jonathan Mishler, of W Pickwick Dr, spoke to the council. He said updates are needed at the north and south entrances to Wawasee Heights. He stated 3 ½ of the entrances are owned by the town and the other ½ is owned by

the Wawasee Heights Baptist Church. Repairs are needed to the signs, lighting, and masonry. Mr. Mishler brought estimates. Bill questioned if the signs are actually owned by the town, or just located on town property. Bill stated it is his understanding the signs were built by the developer on town property. Kathy asked if there is a homeowner's association; Mr. Mishler stated no. Town Attorney Vern Landis advised in his opinion the town should not do that type of repair; it would be a bad precedence. Bill noted we would be obligated for others if we did this. Kathy feels the neighborhood needs to get together. Henry asked about costs; Mr. Mishler advised it would be about \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 for all four. Larry agrees a homeowner's association is needed. Bill thanked them for coming, but it is not our obligation.

2014 APPOINTMENTS

Larry made a motion to appoint Tony Ciriello as Police Chief for 2014; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry moved to appoint Vern Landis as Town Attorney in 2014; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry moved to appoint Jeff Nicodemus to a new term on the Park Board ending December 31, 2016, and to appoint Mary Hursh to the Park Board for the term vacated by Henry Kohl ending on December 31, 2014; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian moved to appoint Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, Dan VanLue, and Ernie Rogers to the Syracuse Redevelopment Commission for 2014; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paul moved to appoint Brian Woody and Bill Musser to the Fire Territory Board for 2014; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry moved to appoint Jerry Riffle and Jeremy Sponseller to the Tree Board for terms ending on December 31, 2017. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill announced we have a library appointment to make; he recommended we appoint Heidi Heinisch to a new four year term. Paul moved to approve the appointment; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill announced the next agenda item was the appointment of the Town Council President; he turned the meeting over to Town Attorney Vern Landis. Attorney Landis opened the floor to nominations for Council President. Paul nominated Brian Woody for Council President; Bill seconded. Vern asked if there were any other nominations; there were none. He declared the nominations were closed. Four voted for the motion; none against. Brian abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill advised the bid for remounting the Fire Territory Equipment Truck by Lifestar Rescue is \$249,802.26. A 2014 chassis is not available. Lifestar Rescue will upgrade us to a 2015 chassis at no additional cost if we order by December 31, a savings of \$2,457.00. Bill advised bids were solicited from three companies; only one responded. Brian moved to approve the remount of that vehicle to be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund for an amount not to exceed \$249,802.26. Work is to be completed within six months after we drop the truck off. Bill seconded. Kathy asked what the fire department will do with the equipment that is in this truck while it is getting fixed. Brian stated they will spread it out among the other trucks. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

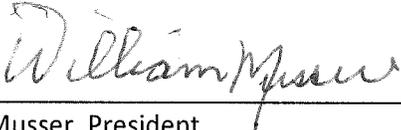
NEW BUSINESS

None.

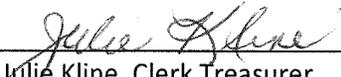
Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

ATTEST:



William Musser, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer