

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 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. Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburgh St, asked which ordinances were being repealed by Ordinance 2013-01. Julie explained the ordinance is to adopt the code book, which is being republished. No ordinances are being repealed. The new code will not include ordinances that have been previously repealed.

The minutes of the January 15th meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes, Jeff seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims # 119 through #257 were presented for payment. Brian made a motion to approve the claims; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill opened the Public Hearing on the petition from Treco, LLC and James and Karen Tranter to vacate an alley. Attorney Stephen Snyder, representing the petitioners, spoke about the request. He explained the petition is to vacate an eight foot alley that has never been opened; the alley is on the north edge of the post office. The Tranter's propose to add an additional storage building to the south of the current building; the new building would come right to the edge of the alley. Attorney Snyder noted concerns have been expressed about drainage; he advised the BZA ultimately approves the drainage plan through their technical review. The area is zoned residential. Attorney Snyder described how they plan to handle drainage; he added the building will replace a significant portion of the asphalt parking lot. Attorney Snyder went over the requirements to vacate property and stated this request meets all the requirements. He asked the council to vacate the alley; he added if the BZA requires a drainage plan, it will be provided.

Paul and Brian asked Attorney Snyder to explain a map that was provided. Discussion took place about the history of the area and the S. R. 13 right of way. Brian asked if we vacate, is it possible to require that we would be granted an easement if it is needed in the future. Attorney Snyder suggested the council should not vacate the alley if they think there will be a need for it. Larry discussed the comprehensive plan and development in the area; he stated he is not in favor of vacating the alley since so much is going on in the area. He added easements have been very difficult to obtain. Attorney Snyder stated he can't see the town having any potential use for an alley on top of a hill. Larry brought up the storm water issues by the Post Office. Attorney Snyder stated the water will run north with this project and will solve some of the drainage problems.

Larry asked Ken Jones, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinsky for his input. Mr. Jones suggested looking at the site plan. Tom Miller, Area Director for Severn Trent, agreed. Mr. Jones suggested continuing for 30 days. Attorney Snyder pointed out our ordinance, the county drainage ordinance we have adopted, requires a drainage plan to be submitted to the county. If the town council wants this information ahead of time, we need to change our ordinance. Henry described what happens with the county technical review; he feels it would work well to have Mr. Evans, the county engineer, take a look at it. Paul asked Tom if it might be needed for utilities in the future; Tom answered no infrastructure is located there at this time. Larry would like the comprehensive plan for that area stepped up so we know what is needed for development.

Paul made a motion to continue the Public Hearing until the March 19 meeting; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2013-01, Adopting the "Syracuse Code of Ordinances" published by Municipal Code Corporation, was presented to the council. Paul made a motion to adopt ordinance 2013-01; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinsky, reported on the Industrial Park. He presented a change order that will extend the H & G contract to June 1, 2013. He noted there was a delay in starting the construction due to EDA, and this a reasonable request to extend the contract until June 1. Brian made a motion to approve Change Order #2 for H & G Utilities and authorize the council president to sign; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones discussed the \$6,000.00 payment to A T & T. The \$6,000.0 was for preliminary engineering; at the time discussions took place with A T & T, we were led to believe that would be the total cost. A T & T has now sent us an additional bill for \$11,388.00. Mr. Jones added we are crossing over their fiber option cable; A T & T will be putting a covering over that cable. Mr. Jones advised we spoke with John Owen, of EDA; Mr. Owen indicated it is a grant eligible expense. Paul questioned if \$11,388.00 was the final cost; Henry advised it could be higher if rocks have to be moved. Larry noted the work on the road can't begin until this is done. Brian asked if we have a time frame. Mr. Jones stated A T & T will not begin the work until this amount is paid.

Brian made a motion to authorize payment of \$11,388.00 to A T & T; Julie is authorized to write a check. Council President Bill Musser is authorized to execute the agreement. In addition, A T & T will be asked if they can complete the work by March 15. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones discussed the project. He explained that Brett Konarski has been assigned to the project as the construction engineer. Mr. Jones has a back up inspector; he asked the council to consider a substitution for Brett. They would like to replace Brett with Vern Mace for day to day inspection. Brett will still be here two times a week; he noted it would save the town about \$10.00 per hour in fees. Bill asked if Mr. Mace would be here the same amount of time as Brett has been; Mr. Jones advised yes. Council members had no objections.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia advised he has received two agreements from NIPSCO to provide utilities to the Industrial Park. The cost for gas is \$18,072.00, and the cost for electric is \$46,879.56. The council needs to approve the agreements, authorize Henry to sign them, and pay the amount required. Henry added he is trying to get approval to pay for the cost from HUD funds. If HUD does not approve it, we can pay from EDIT or Rainy Day Funds. Henry noted we can get some of the money back if a business locates in the Industrial Park within six years. Henry advised the original estimate was for \$110,000.00 and this is less than \$70,000.00. Two NIPSCO representatives were present at the meeting. They were Angie Nelson, Public Affairs Manager, and Chris Pieri, Major Accounts Manager. Larry asked them if NIPSCO can have the work completed by March 15; Chris Pieri said that would be tough. Nothing will be scheduled until the signed contracts and construction deposits have been received.

Brian made a motion to approve NIPSCO work order #55419-11 for electric service to the Industrial Park in the amount of \$46,879.56 and work order # 45425-11 for gas service in the amount of \$18,072.00. Henry is authorized to sign the documents, and Julie is authorized to write the checks immediately. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported on several items. Digital Hill is working on the website for the Industrial Park. All of the old buildings at the Industrial Park site have been torn down. For Oakwood, we are looking into building a new access road; a fire hydrant will need to be relocated. He reminded everyone there is only one entrance to Oakwood at this time. Henry advised he is working on the comprehensive plan. Henry was informed by the state that they will resurface S.R. 13 from County Line Road to the south of town; it will take place between August 5 and October 18.

Councilman Brian Woody left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 267 calls for service in January; there were 5 crashes and 9 criminal arrests.

Tony advised the copier lease for the police department is up. He asked the council to approve a new lease. The previous cost was \$309.00 per month; cost of the new copier lease will be \$217.87. The new copier will connect wirelessly to the police cars with the new system. Larry asked how soon the police department will have the new system; Tony advised they plan to go live in mid-March. Larry made a motion to approve the new copier lease; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Tony added a firewall had to be installed for the new computer system. Bill asked about the car that needed a new engine; Tony stated it is done.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported on upcoming events. The Indoor Yard Sale will be held on March 2. The Easter Egg Hunts have been scheduled; the night hunt will be held on March 22, and the hunt for young kids will be on March 23.

For the Youth Athletic Complex, work on the restrooms continues and partitions have been ordered. April 13 is a scheduled work day for the general public; the dedication will take place in May. Bill asked about fundraising for lights. Chad explained we have an individual who has given us funds for lights; we are matching funds as we go. We are looking at a cost of \$120,000.00 for two fields; we need about \$60,000.00.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Miller, Severn Trent Area Director, advised the public works employees are working on annual maintenance. Larry stated some residents have yard waste out; Tom stated they plan to get it.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported the new copier was delivered last week.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler asked about an Unsafe Building Fund. Julie advised we do have an Unsafe Building Fund. Sharon asked about a specific property. She asked again about Hal and code

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enforcement. Sharon asked if the tape recorder was broken since some things she said last month were not in the minutes. Julie advised the minutes are a summary, and they have never been word for word.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

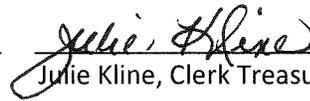
None.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:



William Musser, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer