

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING

January 20, 2015

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

Paul opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Attorney swore in Councilman Larry Siegel, of District 1, and Councilman Paul Stoelting, of District 2, to new four year terms.

Paul asked for comments on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting were introduced. Brian moved to approve the minutes: Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1 - 128 were presented for payment. Brian made a motion to approve the claims; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The claims were approved.

Council member Kathy Beer joined the meeting.

Public Works Director Jeremy Sponseller presented his bid recommendation for the Wastewater Improvement Project. He advised the bids came in higher than expected. He asked the council to make a tentative award to the apparent low bidder R.E. Crosby, Inc for the amount that is supported by the bond. Jeremy added if R.E. Crosby is not willing to negotiate, we would move to the next bidder. Larry clarified it must be negotiated to the funds that are available; he was advised yes. Bill asked if there is an allowance for contingencies. Jeremy stated contingencies are not included; that is one of the reasons we need to negotiate. Larry moved to award the bid to R.E. Crosby Inc. for \$2,922,600.00 with the requirement that the contractor must negotiate with the Town of Syracuse to the amount of funds allocated in the bond. Brian seconded. Discussion followed on the base bid and alternates. Jeremy explained the alternate items in bold were chosen for the project. Paul questioned the building items, such as a roof, in the base bid. He asked Jeremy to think about completing those items with budgeted funds, rather than include them in the bond. After more discussion, five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry introduced Resolution 2015-01, Transfer of Real Estate from the Town of Syracuse to the Syracuse Redevelopment Commission. Larry made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-1. Brian stated he finds it difficult to agree to transfer property to someone other than our board. Henry explained state law still requires final action to come before the council. Vern advised this is the most expeditious way to market and sell the Technology Park real estate; the council will still have final say. Brian seconded. Brian asked questions about the incentive program, and the selling price of the lots. Henry explained EDA requires us to sell the lots at market value; that is why we need the incentive program. Incentives would be based upon jobs and other criteria. It was noted some of the documents were just distributed tonight. Council members asked for the vote to be tabled until later in the meeting so they could have time to read the documents. Henry explained we will create a development corporation that will negotiate the incentives; the Redevelopment Commission is not allowed to negotiate incentives. Vern will prepare the incorporation documents.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

#### TOWN MANAGER

Henry presented financial documents on the Oakwood TIF and Syracuse TIF. He explained this information has to be presented and approved by the Town Council and Redevelopment Commission. Brian

moved to accept the financial reports of the Oakwood TIF and Syracuse TIF. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported we received \$4,500.00 from the Harkless Foundation for beautification. Regulatory signs still need to be put up in Oakwood Park. Larry asked about the roadblocks on Line St., and if the area can be used for parking. Tony answered we did not eliminate parking on Line St. Larry expressed concern about indiscriminate parking, and he noted the Flotilla Road Race will come down that street.

#### POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 302 calls for service in December. There were 12 accidents and 7 criminal arrests. Tony also presented the 2014 Yearly Report. There was a 12% increase in calls for service over the previous year.

Tony noted officers will be helping with Winterfest on January 30 and 31, as well as the Shrine Circus on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Tony discussed replacing car #7. He received quotes from Sorg Dodge for a Dodge Charger and from Kerlin Ford for an Explorer; the price difference between the cars is within \$100.00. He would like to purchase a Dodge Charger with all wheel drive from Sorg Dodge. The vehicle price is \$27,356.00; delivery is in six to eight weeks. Larry asked what the police department will do with the old vehicle. Tony stated the vehicle will be sold; it is worth less than \$1,000.00. Most of the equipment that is on car #7 will fit this car. Items, such as the siren and radio, can be transferred from car #7 to the new car. Larry moved to approve the purchase; delivery is to be in eight weeks. Julie is authorized to write a check on delivery. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson gave his report. Chad noted he has included a tree report for 2014 activities, as well as a report of what has been done since the inception of the Tree Board. The Skate Rink opened at the ball park; it has been getting usage. Winterfest will be held on January 30 and 31. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the Kiwanis Club will hold their Soup Supper at the Community Center. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be snowmobile races, a 5K run at ballpark, activities at Oakwood, and ice skating at the ball field. Chad added Oakwood is now on the Chamber events committee.

Larry asked about the trees that were damaged from the 2014 tornado. There are many broken branches that need to be removed. Chad advised the Tree Board has a bid package out currently to take care of this.

#### CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline provided the council with a list of checks over two years old that will be voided; total amount of the checks is \$23.54.

The 2014 list of encumbrances totaling \$232,422.99 was presented for council approval. Larry moved to approve the encumbrances; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

#### DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler suggested we purchase new Christmas decorations and town hall furniture, as well as provide parking for large trucks.

Council members continued discussion on Resolution 2015-1. Brian questioned if Exhibit B can be amended; he was advised it can be amended. Paul explained Henry put together a guide for incentives; the redevelopment commission added to them. There is some flexibility. Bill asked who would be members of the Syracuse Development Corporation. Henry advised there will be three members from the Redevelopment Commission and two members from the community. Paul asked for a vote. Four voted for the motion; Kathy abstained. The resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

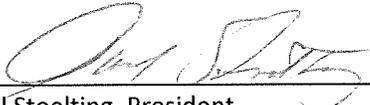
NEW BUSINESS

Brian stated if we fall short on funds for the sewer project, he is in favor of using EDIT funds to cover the cost. Paul would like us to get the best bang for our buck; he agrees with using EDIT if needed for necessities. Brian noted Middlebury is spending \$9 million to rehab a wastewater plant of a similar size.

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Paul Stoelting, President

  
Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer