

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2014

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

The December 17, 2013 minutes were introduced. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1 through #126 were presented for payment. Bill moved to pay the claims; Paul seconded. It was noted the claims include release of the remaining retainage for H & G. Brian asked about restoration. Brett Konarski advised there is some restoration that is needed. He added the performance bond is good for one year after substantial completion, and the maintenance bond for three years. H & G will do the restoration as soon as the weather allows. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Councilman Larry Siegel joined the meeting.

Ordinance 2014-1, An Additional Appropriation Ordinance, was introduced. The ordinance provides additional appropriations in the Cumulative Storm Sewer Fund. Julie explained the ordinance appropriates \$165,000.00 for the storm sewer improvements, and \$47,750.00 for the balance of the trailer mounted vac. Paul made a motion to approve Ordinance 2014-01; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-02, An Ordinance Establishing a Stop Sign on Palm Drive, was introduced. Tony explained the stop sign on Palm Dr. was discussed last month. Paul moved to adopt the ordinance; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski, of Jones, Petrie, and Rafinski, gave his monthly report on the Industrial Park project. He presented Change Order # 5, a reduction of \$25,561.30 for H & G; the change order is due to quantity adjustments in the field. Paul moved to approve change order #5; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Brett stated he has two quotes for the additional striping in the Industrial Park. A-1 Striping quoted \$5,918.76, and Air Marking quoted \$2,915.40. Larry asked how Cripe would explain that difference. Brett explained Cripe probably had other items built into that line item. Brett noted Air Marking is the same company that Cripe used for the striping in the park. He added that per EDA and Attorney Landis, they feel there are no legal issues. Paul made a motion to approve the Air Marking quote for \$2,915.40 and to submit to EDA for payment; work is to be completed by May 1. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett presented an alternate sign concept for the Industrial Park entrances. The cost would be \$55,000.00 for the signs and to set up the solar power needed. The initial estimate was \$20,000.00 for standard signs. Brian asked about the time frame. Brett advised it needs to be submitted to EDA. Kathy had questions about the sign material and Bill asked about lighting. Larry asked if the lettering will be large enough to be seen from a distance. Brett can work with manufacturer on letter size. Discussion followed about the location of the solar panels. Henry explained he will present other options with his report. Brian asked if the park has an address. It was noted Elkhart County will assign addresses. Larry asked about the Long Dr. and County Line Rd. intersection. Brett stated that is still pending with EDA; we don't have an answer yet.

TOWN MANAGER

Henry reminded the council the Annual Chamber Dinner is on January 28. Henry discussed the vacancy on the Kosciusko County BZA; he asked council members if they felt it was okay to put an ad in the paper for interested residents. The council is okay with an ad.

Henry discussed the signs for the Industrial Park. He pointed out the cost of the standard signs is \$20,000.00, plus about \$14,000.00 or \$15,000.00 for landscaping and lighting. Henry feels the disadvantage is the cost of the lighting; Henry estimates a cost of about \$1,200.00 per year. Larry suggested there could be covenants established to maintain the common areas of the industrial park. Henry stated we have two additional designs for solar powered signs; both are estimated at about \$50,000.00 plus. One is for a sailboat type sign; which is a combination of solar and battery powered; the second is the design Brett presented. Kathy asked about the dimensions of the sailboat design; Henry answered it is 21 feet high. Henry asked the council to consider the options. He would hopefully like a decision next month so it can be submitted for Elkhart County approval.

Henry presented an agreement for engineering for the Brooklyn St storm water project. Long and Associates quoted \$10,500.00. Bill moved to approve the agreement; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. It was noted the quote includes design and inspection.

Henry stated we have had several water breaks due to the bad weather. Jeremy and his crew have done a great job of cleaning the streets and repairing the water lines.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello gave his monthly report. There were 345 calls for service in December and 12 vehicle crashes. He also provided an annual report for 2013; there were over 4000 calls for service in 2013 and 114 accidents. Tony also praised Jeremy's crew.

Tony announced he will be going to the Shrine Circus on Friday with the third graders.

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

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the 2013 tree summary has been submitted to the Arbor Day Foundation and Tree City USA. Basketball leagues have started; there are 10 teams. Upcoming events are the Soup Supper on January 31, and the Snowmobile Races on February 1. The trail committee is considering a state grant to construct a trail on S.R. 13 from Harkless Drive to the Sleepy Owl. He asked council members if it would be okay to have Henry write a letter of support from the town. The county would be the grant applicant; no town or county funds would be required. Council members agreed to send a letter; Brian and Henry will sign it.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, reported he spoke with two engineers to get an idea of what is needed at the wastewater plant. London Witte can use this information for their rate study. Larry asked about the asset management report; Jeremy explained that report showed what is needed to be set aside annually to maintain the plant. The plant is 25 years old and it needs to be upgraded. The engineering and project cost estimates are needed for the rate study. Bill asked if we can set up a plan to make improvements in the future. Jeremy stated we can do a plan based upon industry standards, however, we have to have the rates in place to make those improvements. We need to see if we want to

make piecemeal improvements to the plant, or if a major upgrade would be cheaper. He asked the engineers to report what needs to be replaced and an approximate cost.

Jeremy advised IDEM is requiring an amendment to our sewer use ordinance; IDEM has provided a template for the changes required. IDEM wants more enforcement provisions.

For the pedestrian bridge on Harkless Dr, it is scheduled to be built offsite in February. The coatings and sandblasting will be completed when the weather is warmer.

Jeremy thanked the police department for keeping public works notified about snow conditions.

Jeremy presented a request to hire an additional person for the water department. If the council approves, he would like to start the hiring process. Bill agreed a third person is needed; he made a motion to allow Jeremy to hire a third person. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry praised the public works employees for the great job they have done. He asked about the liquid material that is applied; he feels salt provides more traction. Jeremy advised they plan to start to mix sand and salt. Jerry added the salt barn needs repair; we will need to consider it in the spring.

#### CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline presented a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure that has been completed by council member Kathy Beer. Paul moved to accept the statement; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; Kathy abstained. The motion carried.

Julie presented a list of outstanding checks that are over two years old that she will be voiding.

Encumbrances from 2013 totaling \$526,059.01 were presented. Paul moved to approve the encumbrances; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie announced she has received documents from Invoice Cloud for online viewing and payment of utility bills; she requested council members allow her to proceed and sign the documents. The cost is \$50.00 per month. Paul moved to allow Julie to sign the documents from Invoice Cloud; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

#### OLD BUSINESS

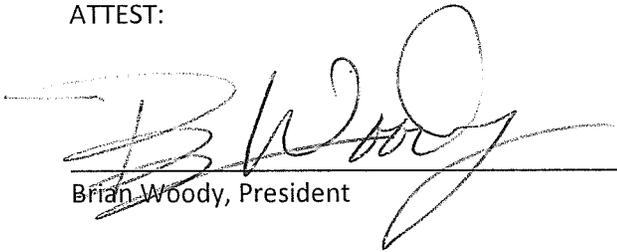
Larry asked if the annexation is complete; Vern advised we have completed our requirement. Larry asked if the Riverfront District is established; Vern advised yes.

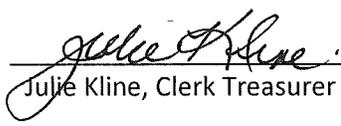
#### NEW BUSINESS

Bill asked Julie to check with Borden's to see if we can get credit for the week there was no garbage pickup.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Brian Woody, President

  
Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer