

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

July 21, 2015

Paul Stoelting, President, 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, Larry Siegel, and Brian Woody. Also present were Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items. There were no comments.

The minutes of the June 16, 2015 meeting were presented. Larry moved to approve the minutes; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #765 to #904 were presented for payment. Brian made a motion to approve the claims; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2015-03, An Additional Appropriation Ordinance, was presented. The ordinance appropriates an additional \$40,000.00 for street paving. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-03; Larry seconded. Five voted for the ordinance; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported he and Clint are still working on costs for the new salt barn; he hopes to have the information next month. Henry met with school and county officials today to discuss needs, such as roads and sidewalks, for the new Syracuse Elementary School that will be constructed. The street department has begun sidewalk repairs.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported the police department had 427 calls for service in June. There were 17 car crashes and five criminal arrests.

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

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported on several events. The first Mudtastic Classic event had 96 participants. WACF has invited the park department to come back next year. The Tour des Lakes Bike Ride had 217 riders. Work on the new pavilion at Lakeside Park started yesterday. The annual Community Wide Garage Sales will take place on July 30, 31, and August 1, and the Kiwanis Triathlon will be on August 8.

PUBLIC WORKS

Clint Houseworth, Severn Trent Regional Director, advised Crosby Construction has started work on the wastewater project. Equipment has been ordered. A meeting with the engineers is scheduled for next week; the current construction schedule will be discussed.

For the Water Department, Clint reported 621 meters have been replaced with the new radio read meters as of June 30. He hopes to finish with the replacement in the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016.

Clint presented a list of the proposed streets to be paved this year. We have \$165,000.00 available for paving; he requested permission to advertise for bids. Clint proposes to award the paving bid at the August 18 meeting. The bid specs will require paving to be completed by October 23. In addition, parking lots at the fire department will be paved; the Fire Territory will pay for that paving. Council members authorized Clint to proceed.

Clint introduced Robin Merchant, the new Public Works Director for Syracuse.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline presented the annual TIF report and list of parcels to the council.

Julie presented an Engagement Letter from London Witte to have them prepare and file the Annual Continuing Disclosure Report required by the Securities and Exchange Commission. She asked council members to approve the agreement. After discussion, Brian made a motion to engage London Witte at a cost of \$1,500.00 for the next calendar year. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Julie confirmed the council wants the agreement approved annually; council members stated yes.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill announced the council needs to approve the Fire Territory Equipment Replacement Fund budget for 2016. Since the budget was not distributed to the council, Bill would like to hold off discussion until next month.

Fire Chief Mickey Scott asked about the purchase request for fitness equipment. Brian stated the Fire Department needs fitness equipment; the cost is \$36,546.27. They have not been able to receive a grant for this equipment. The purchase will be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund budget. Larry pointed out when Station #1 was remodeled, he questioned the exercise room that was shown in the plans. He stated he was assured the firemen would raise money themselves to provide the equipment. Bill added that was also pointed out at the Fire Territory Board meeting. Larry would like to stay with the original agreement that was stated at construction and have the fire department raise the funds.

Brian made a motion to approve the purchase of fitness equipment for \$36,546.27. Jonathan Hall, firefighter and certified fitness trainer, advised the equipment is the same equipment that the community center has. He stated work comp and insurance claims are down when this equipment is provided. Kathy questioned how many pieces of equipment. Mr. Hall answered the price includes four

cardiac machines, a smith machine, a bench press, and some dumbbells. Discussion followed about who is paying for it, what is required, the benefits of providing equipment, and why the community center can't be used.

Paul asked for a second to Brian's motion. No second was made. The motion died due to lack of a second.

2016 BUDGETS

Henry introduced discussion on the 2016 budgets. He anticipates the final numbers for the budget will come in \$128,000.00 to \$135,000.00 under maximum levy.

Paul stated he looked the budgets over and he feels everyone did an outstanding job. He would like to make sure we are planning for the future. He pointed out infrastructure is very expensive; he would like to see a three to five year plan for improving infrastructure. Discussion followed on what happened with water and sewer rates, and the rate increases required for improvements.

Department heads were asked for their input. Clint stated the Street operating budget is strong; paving was increased due to the wheel tax revenue. Tony advised the only thing that was not included in the police budget was a \$15,000.00 cost to replace the bulletproof vests; they must be replaced every five years. Tony feels the police department may be able to move money within the existing budget to fund the vests. Henry stated the new equipment line item in his budget was increased to possibly purchase a new vehicle for his use; the present vehicle is an old police car. He added funds may be needed for roads and sidewalks for the new school.

Larry moved to approve the 2016 budgets as presented. Bill seconded. Brian stated his yearly comment that we spend more money on parks than on fire. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

ATTEST:


Paul Stoelting, Council President


Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer