

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

May 19, 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 Kathy Beer, 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.

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

The minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting were presented. Brian moved to approve the minutes; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #526 to #636 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The claims were approved.

Attorney Steve Snyder, representing Polywood and P.W. Realty, spoke about the current expansion plans and the abatement requests. The company plans to make about \$23,000,000.00 in real estate and equipment improvements over the next five years; 250 new employees will be hired. The Confirmatory Resolution that will be presented tonight approves the SB-1's, approves a waiver of the requirement that nothing will begin until the SB-1's are presented, and declares the property that P.W. Realty just purchased as an economic revitalization area.

Paul announced the Public Hearing and opened the floor to public comment. George Robertson, President of the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation, spoke about celebrating entrepreneurs in Kosciusko County, such as the owners of Polywood. He supports the request for tax abatement. There were no further comments; Paul closed the Public Hearing.

Larry made a motion to adopt Confirmatory Resolution 2015-03; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie presented Ordinance 2015-02, an Additional Appropriation Ordinance for the South Benton T.I.F. Larry moved to adopt the ordinance; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia advised the video proposals are still being looked at. He will bring a more detailed analysis to the June meeting.

Henry spoke about a request from Patrick Industries to construct a 15,000 square foot warehouse over an existing sewer line. There was an easement prepared that will allow us to go in and repair the sewer line if we need to. Vern explained "Exhibit B" needs to be added to the easement paperwork the council already has; it shows the streets and alleys that were previously vacated. The exhibit also shows the alley that was vacated where we have an easement for a sewer line. The document was prepared so any future owner of the property is aware of the easement and the sewer line. Henry stated if there is an issue, we can line slip, directional drill, or relocate the sewer line. Right now, there is a parking lot over our sewer line. Bill commented relocation would be expensive; Henry stated there is about 325 feet of sewer line.

Clint was asked for his input. Clint explained right now the existing sewer is okay; we may need access in the future. It is reasonable to consider relocating the sewer line in the future if there is a problem.

After further discussion, Brian made a motion to allow a permanent easement to our sewer line that runs through the parking lot, and to authorize Paul Stoelting to sign the easement document. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry shared photos from the Lieutenant Governor's visit.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello announced there were 369 calls for service in April. There were five accidents, eight criminal arrests, and two warrants served.

Tony explained a couple of years ago he was given permission to apply for a grant for new radios. The grant was finally approved this year. Tony would like to purchase four portable radios for \$3878.40; he would like council approval so Julie can write a check when they come in. He added Julie has some information from the State Board of Accounts about appropriating the reimbursement when it is received.

Brian made a motion to authorize the purchase of four radios for \$3878.40 and authorize Julie to write a check for an amount not to exceed \$3,878.40. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie explained if the council approves, she can post an additional appropriation to the line item used to purchase the radios when the grant money is received. Larry moved to authorize the clerk to post an additional appropriation when the grant money is received; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tony announced the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Tony asked if there were any ADA complaints. Sharon Fowler complained the ADA parking spaces were at the end of the building. Tony advised we have what is required by law.

Kathy asked about the route for the detour when S.R. 13 is closed for the railroad crossing repairs. Tony said the detour will go over to S.R. 15, then to U.S. 30, and back to S.R. 13.

Paul asked about tall grass. Tony advised letters will be sent tomorrow; property owners have ten days from receipt of the letter to mow before we will take care of it. Tony added when there is a foreclosure, we can't force the bank to mow properties, however, we can mow and put a lien on the property.

Larry asked about houses in town that are condemned. Tony stated we have town ordinances that cover that; Hal deals with buildings. Larry would like to see us get more aggressive with these properties. Larry asked who is in charge of this; it was noted Hal reports to Henry. Larry asked if we have funds for this; Julie advised we have an Unsafe Building Fund with a fund balance of \$10,000.00. Henry advised we have one house that was condemned by the Health Department. We have other homes that are un-occupiable, but they are not condemned. The easiest way to condemn a property is to have the health department come in. Larry would like us to step up our efforts. Bill agreed; he would like a list from Hal of properties and houses that need to be looked at and what action or contact has been taken or made.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the car show on Friday was good; on Saturday, there were fewer cars due to the rain. Life guards will be on duty at the beach starting May 23. Chad announced the pavilion will be replaced this summer; work will start in mid-July and will take about six weeks. There will also be a Mudtastic Classic at the WACF on June 27.

PUBLIC WORKS

Clint Houseworth, Severn Trent Regional Director, reported there are lots of irons in the fire, but nothing to report yet. Brian asked when work will begin on the wastewater improvements; it appears they are 3-4 wks behind. Clint advised the engineer was asked to contact the contractor. Clint added the contractor has to order many items and may be waiting for equipment to come in before they mobilize.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline had nothing further to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler asked how much we have for unsafe buildings; she was advised we have \$10,000.00. Sharon also asked if we are going to replace the police cars with high mileage; Brian answered eventually, but not this year. Tony reported car 7 was just sold. Paul added police car purchases will be discussed during the budget meeting. Larry asked about the public works truck; Clint answered the bids were opened yesterday for the public works truck that is for sale.

Larry Coplen, member of the Kosciusko Plan Commission, asked about the request to vacate property for Patrick Industries that was discussed earlier in the meeting. The Plan Commission vacated it subject to council approval. He feels the council kicked the can down the road and complicated an issue. Larry Siegel stated we are concerned and a lot of research was done. The sewer line is our responsibility right now. Discussion followed about potential repairs and who would pay for them. Paul asked Clint to respond. Clint noted the sewer line was already on the property when it was purchased by Patrick Industries. This dates back to the 1940's, and town staff tried to take that into consideration. Larry Siegel asked about the Plan Commission action. Larry Coplen explained it was vacated subject to the approval of the Town that the utilities were taken care of. More discussion followed; Henry noted the easement agreement that was approved tonight was for sewer only; water is another issue and will need to be looked into more.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Brian presented a purchase request from the Fire Territory. They would like to purchase three computers and software to use in the ambulances; the total cost is \$14,558.37 and would be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund. Brian added the computers and new software will be required by the state in the fall. Larry moved to approve the purchase; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

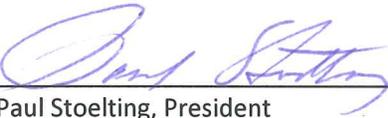
Larry clarified the town would like the old part of station #1 to be painted to match the rest of the building.

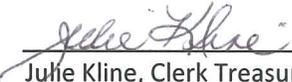
Henry announced the bridge contractor will be opening the Front St bridge temporarily over the Memorial weekend.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Paul Stoelting, President


Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer