

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 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, Larry Siegel, 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.

Paul moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2014 meeting; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; Kathy abstained. The motion carried.

Claims # 464 to #587 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Annexation Ordinance 2014-06 was introduced. Paul moved to adopt the ordinance; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

Brian opened the Public Hearing on Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2014-07. The ordinance appropriates \$100,000.00 in the EDIT Fund. There was no public comment; the hearing was closed. Paul moved to adopt Ordinance 2014-07; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-08 creating the Wastewater Construction Fund was presented. Julie explained this fund will be used to deposit the BAN revenue and pay the expenses for the wastewater project. Paul moved to approve the ordinance; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-09, Amending the Town Code on Noise Violations, was introduced. Police Chief Tony Ciriello advised the current ordinance is vague. This amendment establishes a quiet time during the week from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 12:00 midnight to 9:00 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and national holidays. It would enable the police to better enforce the ordinance. Paul moved to adopt Ordinance 2014-09; Kathy seconded. Paul stated he assumes the police will work with people and issue a warning first. Tony added he talked to businesses that have outdoor music; all have been made aware of these times. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Engineer Larry Long reported on the results of the bids for the Brooklyn Street storm drainage improvement project. He advised the bids were opened last Wednesday, May 14; two bids were received. He distributed bid tabulation to council members. Niblock Excavating bid \$110,846.00, and Phend & Brown bid \$156,761.00. Mr. Long added the engineer's estimate was \$113,645.00. Brian asked how much the grant is for. Henry stated the grant is for \$100,000.00; the estimated cost of the entire project is \$165,000.00. The total project cost includes the work done by Niblock, engineering costs, and cleaning the ditch. The costs to clear the ditch will be \$16,400.00; that includes removing trees, debris, and grading the ditch.

Various items in the bids were discussed. Mr. Long recommended the council award the bid to Niblock Excavating, Inc. If the bid is approved, a couple documents need to be signed. The first is the notice of award. Mr. Long advised we would be looking at starting the work about June 1; the contractor would have 75 days to substantial completion, with final completion by August 30. Larry moved to award the bid to Niblock Excavating, Inc.; the Town Council President is authorized to sign the notice of award. In addition, the Town Manager is authorized to sign the contract and the notice to proceed after the Town Attorney approves the documents. Council members will also sign Bid Form 96.

Bill seconded. It was noted the contract includes language for substantial and final completion as discussed earlier. Mr. Long added he will make sure he has the proper documents from the contractor, such as the performance bond. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy presented a quote from Don's Excavating for work on the ditch. The quote was \$16,400.00 and work is to be completed by June 30. Larry made a motion to approve the quote; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski, of JPR, gave his monthly report to the council. Airmarking has completed the striping in the park; final approval is needed from Elkhart County and INDOT. Kline Excavating will be having a preconstruction meeting with MACOG; this is necessary since the Long Dr. project must comply with Davis Bacon wage requirements. Brett stated he is still discussing including the sign in the project with EDA; he is optimistic it will be approved. Larry encouraged Brett to have Long Dr completed soon.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported the Redevelopment Commission met to discuss marketing the Industrial Park. He requested council approval to spend \$20,000.00 of the Elkhart (South Benton) TIF. The money would be used for billboards, real estate websites, signs at the park, and realtor incentives. Paul moved to authorize the expense; Larry seconded. Bill questioned why we don't use the local chamber; Henry agreed to provide the information. Bill asked about paying for advertising on the realtor's site; he also asked Henry about the billboard contract. Henry explained the billboard contract would be for one year. Larry advised there will be conditions on the purchasers. Bill would like to be kept up to date on what goes on. Kathy questioned if we will have a realtor. Henry advised we will not; the plan is to incentivize any realtor that brings a project that meets the criteria, which are jobs and investment. The realtor will work with Henry, and it will be presented to the Redevelopment Commission. The Redevelopment Commission will make a recommendation on pricing to the council; they will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss this. Kathy asked if there was a list of covenants and restrictions; Henry explained Elkhart County has already done that. Kathy and Brian questioned the effectiveness of billboards. It was noted the annual cost is about \$5,000.00 for a billboard ad.

Paul explained there is not a specific plan for all of the \$20,000.00; but they wanted to have approval to spend the money on various types of marketing. Bill would like more information in the future. It was noted a motion and a second is on the floor. After more discussion, Paul amended his motion to approve spending up to \$20,000.00 for the items stated in the Town Manager's marketing plan for the Industrial Park; Larry seconded the amended motion. Four voted for the motion; Kathy voted against. The motion carried.

Henry presented a purchase request. He would like to purchase and install up to 20 decorative lights. There are six to eight lights planned for Oakwood, and the remaining lights would be installed on S.R. 13 from the triangle by the post office and north to County Line Rd. The Oakwood lights would be paid for from the line item for Oakwood Improvements in the Town Manager's budget; the lights on S.R. 13 would be paid from Capital Improvements in the Town Manager's budget. Larry noted the lights are for safety and security. Larry moved to fund seven lights in Oakwood, and up to \$30,000.00 for lights on S.R. 13 going north. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry discussed possible projects that are being considered. Information was provided last month for a project to improve Front St that will improve the water, storm water, and possibly sewer. Another project is the installation of a new water line and pavement on Medusa St. Henry advised we are looking at doing one of the projects next year. Larry asked if we can also look at the sewer on

Medusa St. Larry asked if Front St includes water and sewer. Jeremy stated we know the water and storm sewer need to be improved on Front St. He plans to camera the sewer. Jeremy added we may want to consider looking at the water line under the Front St bridge; a couple of years ago the water in the channel dropped low enough so that boats were hitting the water line. We could look into doing a new water line that is bored under the channel. Larry commented that is a good idea.

Henry reminded council members there will be a vacancy on the county BZA; that is a town council appointment. Council members suggested advertising for the position.

#### POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 354 calls for service in April, five property damage accidents, and two personal injury accidents. In addition, there were six criminal arrests; all were misdemeanors. There is a significant increase in the number of cars in town.

Tony announced the Memorial Day Parade is at 1:30 on May 26.

Tony introduced the new officer, Jason Longmire. Jason will be attending the Law Enforcement Academy starting July 28 through November 7.

#### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the Syracuse Municipal Building Corporation held their annual meeting right before the council meeting. The lifeguards will be on duty for the season starting this Saturday for the Memorial weekend. The market continues every Saturday.

Bill asked if the pavilion was going to be repaired. Chad answered it is on a list of potential projects that will be presented to the Park Board.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, reported the skid loader has been delivered and is working well. The industrial park will require mowing; the street department will try to mow it this week to see if we can do it with our current equipment.

Jeremy noted he distributed a list of streets to be paved and a sidewalk list; he asked the council if they approved the lists he provided. Jeremy advised a resident suggested we install sidewalks in unimproved areas to the lake. Larry would like to see the current sidewalks repaired. Jeremy explained we have increased the width of the sidewalks we install; it is hard to improve a small area since it doesn't allow us to increase the size of the sidewalk as a whole. Discussion followed on sidewalks; Larry and Paul pointed out there are several areas where sidewalks stop and then start up again. Paul agreed with Larry; we need to fix what we have before we install new.

Discussion returned to paving. Jeremy explained we are looking at paving streets in Oakwood using the Oakwood Improvement funds in Henry's budget; the normal paving throughout town would be paid from the street budget. Bill asked where we would be paving in Oakwood. Jeremy described the direction of paving in Oakwood; he stated we do not plan to pave to the left of the main entrance. Jeremy described where barricades will be installed in Oakwood. Kathy asked about the streets that were designated as one way; Jeremy explained signs have not been put up yet. It was the consensus of the council to go ahead and get bids for paving.

Brian asked about the clarifiers at the wastewater plant; Jeremy stated one is working today.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported three local banks provided quotes on the Bond Anticipation Note. The quotes were opened yesterday; Farmer's State Bank was the lowest at 1.5% fixed. This is an excellent rate per our financial advisor. Julie advised a newsletter was included in the utility bills; there was information on the sprinkling rate and the sewer rate increase, as well as an announcement that online payments are now available. Brian asked about the next step on the BANS. Julie advised the next step is the closing on the BAN; once closing is held, we can start drawing down on the BAN. She noted we only have to draw down what we need.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Brian Spaulding, Field Representative for Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, introduced himself. Mr. Spaulding is here at the Town Hall on the last Wednesday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to meet with constituents.

Sharon Fowler commented about spending for things that are not necessary; she suggested buying new chairs for the council. She mentioned the railroad tracks, police cars, and code enforcement.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian asked where we are with the PER; Jeremy advised he is meeting with Triad tomorrow.

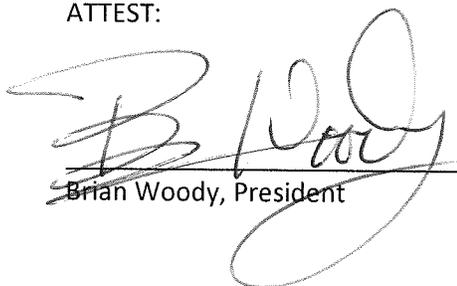
NEW BUSINESS

None

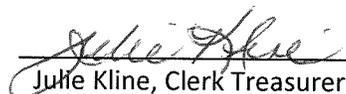
Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

ATTEST:



Brian Woody, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer