

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

October 15, 2013

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill asked if there were any comments from the public on agenda items; there were none.

The minutes of the September 17, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1160 through #1296 were presented for payment. Brian made a motion to approve the claims; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Bill opened the Public Hearing on the annexation request from Timothy and Bobbie Campbell. Henry explained the property is located at 5307 E 1400 north. Henry stated he will put together a fiscal plan for the annexation and Attorney Landis will write an annexation ordinance if the council agrees. The annexation will become effective 90 days after publication of the ordinance adoption. Bill asked for public comment on the annexation request; there were no comments. Bill closed the Public Hearing. Paul made a motion to move forward with the annexation request; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 13-07 to adopt the budget for 2014, and Ordinance 13-08, the Salary and Compensation Ordinance for 2014, were introduced for approval. Bill noted the Public Hearing was held last month. Paul moved to adopt Ordinance 13-07 and Ordinance 13-08; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The ordinances were adopted.

Ken Jones, of Jones, Petrie, and Rafinsky, gave the monthly update on the status of the Industrial Park. Mr. Jones advised he is still waiting for approval on adding the work on the Long Dr culvert to the project; he is unable to reach EDA due to the federal shutdown.

Ken Jones presented Change Order #6 in the amount of \$64,449.35 for the contract with Cripe Excavating, and a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Cripe Excavating contract. Paul moved to approve Change Order #6 and the Certificate of Substantial Completion. The Council President is authorized to sign the documents. Kathy seconded. Ken Jones advised there is a punch list attached of items to be completed; we are still holding the retainage. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones suggested a ribbon cutting ceremony and press release when the construction is complete at the Industrial Park.

Chris Cotton, insurance agent for PMG Agency, spoke to the council about the health insurance renewal. He discussed the health insurance market, and noted there are additional requirements that take effect January 1, 2014 due to the Affordable Care Act that our current plan does not meet. At this time, we do not have a premium amount for a January 1 renewal. Our current health insurance carrier, PHP, has offered us the option of renewing early on December 1, 2013. Mr. Cotton added we are kicking the can to next December. If we renew on December 1, our premium increase would be 11.26%, and our plan will not change. He recommended we go with that option. It was noted during discussion there is a remote chance that the January 1 renewal premium could be lower. Chris explained the high deductible health plans in 2014 will include co-insurance and co-pay requirements, in addition to the high deductible. After discussion, Brian made a motion to allow Julie and Henry to choose the lowest

renewal rate without substantial changes to the plan; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill explained he invited Fire Chief Mickey Scott to present an equipment purchase that is being considered; the purchase is on the replacement schedule for this year. Chief Scott explained they have a 1992 equipment truck that is experiencing problems. The truck is used on 90 to 100 calls per year; Mickey detailed the uses of the truck. Mickey discussed the problems with the current truck, including electrical and air conditioning. He estimates a new truck will cost about \$350,000.00; the fire department would like to refurbish and remount the current truck from the \$250,000.00 that was budgeted. Larry asked about the cost; Mickey stated about \$210,000.00 to \$220,000.00. Kathy asked how long they would be without a truck; Mickey answered about six months. Paul asked how long the remounted truck would last; Mickey advised about 20 years. The truck improvements would be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund. Council members thanked Mickey for the information.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia advised the paving and striping in the North Industrial Park is complete; he added he asked JPR to contact Elkhart County and the State of Indiana to make sure what was done is enough. The industrial park website is now live; the website address is www.syracuse6and13.com. He distributed two design proposals for signage at the industrial park.

Henry discussed an Indiana Economic Development Corporation Infrastructure Grant for storm water upgrades in the area of Polywood. We would also like to do some paving, ditch clearing, and grading if funds permit. The grant application deadline is in two weeks. The town would be the applicant for the project; the town share of the project with the grant would be 50%. We would need to do an additional appropriation from the Cumulative Storm Sewer Fund in January of 2014. Brian asked about total cost. Henry said the cost would be about \$150,000.00; \$75,000.00 would be our share. Brian moved to authorize Bill Musser to sign the grant application for infrastructure improvements in the Polywood corridor; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry presented a letter from Oakwood Resort LLC about the dedication of roadways in Oakwood Park. The Town of Syracuse will be closing a part of Line St and part of Lakeview Road to vehicle traffic. Oakwood Resort, LLC has agreed to dedicate the roads in Oakwood to the Town of Syracuse, with the condition that the closed portions of Line St and Lakeview Road could be reopened if needed for future development. Council members had no objection to the contents of the letter.

Don & Sons Excavating should hopefully be working on the Harkless Bridge this week.

Henry announced the ten decorative lights the school paid for have been installed. The agreement was for the high school to pay for the lights and installation, and the town would take over ownership and maintenance for the lights once everything was complete. The school would like to formally donate the lights to the town. Paul moved to accept the donation of the decorative lights; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry advised a small business workshop was held at the Community Center a week ago.

Henry reminded the council we have a vacancy on the Kosciusko County BZA.

Henry stated paving on the town streets is to begin this week; Oakwood paving will be done the week of the 21st.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 295 calls for service in September, with 12 vehicle crashes and 24 criminal arrests. 16 of the criminal arrests were felonies.

Tony announced Trick or Treat will be on Thursday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the Harvest Festival and the last Farmer's Market were held on October 12. They are considering moving the Harvest Festival to Lakeside Park next year; Chad added the market is averaging about 25 vendors each week. Football season also wrapped up on October 12. Chad announced they had their first outside organization tournament at the Athletic Complex; there was a girls softball tournament on Sunday. The Lakeland Youth Center will hold their carnival on October 19 at the Community Center. The Haunted Thrill at Crossen Mill will be held from October 24 through October 26.

Chad announced poles and lights for the athletic complex have been ordered; a \$20,000.00 grant was received from the K-21 Foundation. Bill asked about the tournament for the outside group; Chad advised a rental fee was paid per field per day.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeremy Sponseller reported the weight bearing structures (concrete platforms) for the Harkless Bridge are in place.

Jeremy presented several purchase requests. He would like to order 11 trees for the fall tree planting; the low quote was Shade Tree Unlimited at \$1,387.00. Brian made a motion to approve the tree purchase; Paul seconded. Brian asked about delivery; Jeremy answered in a couple of weeks. Larry brought up a tree request from a resident. Jeremy advised there are guidelines; it depends on the space available. Paul asked what should be done about people who plant trees that don't meet the space requirements. Jeremy answered the Tree Board would address this. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy announced they would like to retire the asphalt roller that is over 25 years old. The street department is doing more work in house; they would like to purchase a heavier roller. The cost for a used roller is \$14,000.00. They can purchase a new roller from Southeastern Equipment for \$14,857.00. Paul asked what they will do with the old roller; Jeremy stated it will be sold. Paul moved to approve the purchase for an amount not to exceed \$14,857.00 from Southeastern Equipment; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The purchase was approved.

Jeremy discussed the water booster station. The telemetry does work; Jeremy talked with the engineer and the manufacturer about installing a pole to raise the antenna and increase the signal strength. EDA has been asked to include it in the grant; we are waiting on the shutdown to end for an answer. Jeremy feels it is important even if it can't be included in the grant; he asked council permission to go ahead and spend up to \$2,100.00 to purchase and install the pole. He spoke about the benefits of adding the pole. Brian moved to approve the purchase; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Jeremy requested permission to have London Witte do a rate study for wastewater; he advised we have funds encumbered that are leftover from the Oakwood annexation to pay for the study. Brian

made a motion to allow London Witte to proceed with a rate study for an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy announced the water department will be flushing hydrants next week.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced the clerk's office will be closed on October 24 and November 6 so the employees can attend training.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler asked about Ordinance 13-07; she doesn't see the building inspector listed. She asked why we have so many police cars. Tony answered every officer has his own car. Long term studies have shown take home cars last longer.

Sharon stated she thinks this building (town hall) could be renovated to meet the fire department needs.

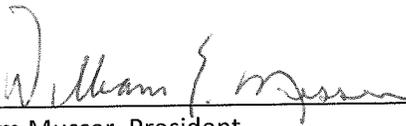
OLD & NEW BUSINESS

None

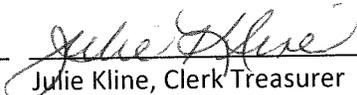
Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

ATTEST:



William Musser, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer