

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

October 20, 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 discussion from the floor on agenda items. There were no comments.

The minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting were introduced. Larry moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; Brian abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #1151 to #1298 were presented for payment. Larry moved to approve the claims; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The claims were approved.

Ordinance 2015-06, An Ordinance for the 2016 budget, was introduced. Julie read the amounts for the 2016 budgets and levies. Brian moved to approve Ordinance 2015-06, Paul seconded. There was no discussion; the motion carried.

Ordinance 2015-04, An Additional Appropriation for the Unsafe Building Fund, was presented. The ordinance appropriates \$10,000.00 for professional services. Larry moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-04; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2015-05, an Amendment to Ordinance 2014-16, Salaries and Compensation for 2015, was introduced. The ordinance designates the 2015 salary for the new Town Marshal. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-05; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. The contract with James Layne to serve as Town Marshal was discussed. Brian moved to approve the contract; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia discussed an issue with the roads in the Industrial & Technology Park. Elkhart County requires bonds before they will accept the roads. Henry reported he obtained various bonds today for streets, drainage, and signage. The bonds will be presented to the Elkhart County Commissioners at their November meeting for approval.

Henry provided quotes for electric service for the new street lights. He recommended we accept the low quote of \$17,000.00 from Darr Electric. Larry asked about a completion date; Henry advised 45 days. Larry moved to approve the quote from Darr Electric; work is to be completed in 45 days. Kathy seconded. It was clarified the new street lights will be installed from County Line Road to the north water tower. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported over 1000 feet of sidewalk have been completed this summer. The road paving is also completed, as well as the striping. Henry also reported we need a concrete curb in Oakwood.

When we paved last year, we created a water problem. There will be an additional cost for this out of the Oakwood Fund.

#### POLICE

Interim Town Marshal Jim Layne reported there were 403 calls for service in September. There were 11 accidents, 5 adult arrests, and 11 juvenile arrests.

Jim advised our ballistic vests are outdated; a new state law requires the vests must be replaced per manufacturers recommendations. Jim received quotes from two companies for new vests. The lowest quote was from Brateman's for \$790.00 per vest; fourteen vests are needed. Larger sizes may be slightly more; Jim requested council approval for an amount not to exceed \$11,500.00 to purchase the vests. The Brateman's quote includes a name tag and badge embroidered on the vest; the vests will be received in 30 days once they are ordered. The vests can be paid from the existing police budget, a transfer may be required. Larry moved to approve the purchase from Brateman's not to exceed \$11,500.00; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim introduced Kyle Denton, new officer for the Syracuse Police Department. Jim added Kyle has served as a reserve officer for the past two years. Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline swore Kyle in.

There were no ADA complaints. It was noted James will be the ADA Coordinator.

#### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the Harvest Fest held on October 10 was well attended. The Park Board is updating the Parks Master Plan; he asked the council for input if they have any ideas.

Upcoming events include the Haunted Thrill at Crossen Park on October 23, 24, 30 and 31. The Youth Carnival will be held on October 30, and Holiday Magic will be on November 21.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Rob Merchant updated the council on the wastewater department. A manhole repair was completed; there was also a sluice gate repair on an oxidation ditch. The Wastewater Plant improvement project is progressing slowly; there are dewatering issues. There was an IDEM inspection today; a couple of items were noted, mostly due to the construction.

For the Technology Park, they are working on I & I issues. Beer and Slabaugh was hired to do spot repairs. EJP will be performing pressure tests.

For the Water Department, the meter change out to the radio read meters continues.

The Street Department leaf and brush collection continues. Paving and striping are complete; Rob noted we added striping for Pickwick and Harkless to the list of streets to be striped.

Rob presented a purchase request for a program that is new to Syracuse. He requested council permission to spend about \$15,000.00 to do some crack sealing on some of the streets in Syracuse. He advised it lengthens the life of the road and allows us to stretch our paving dollars so we don't run out

of paving money. There is only one company in the area available to do this. They charge \$1.30 per pound, and the cost includes labor, and traffic control. Streets that could be crack sealed include Main St. to Harrison St, Harrison St, Pickwick Dr, and Harkless Dr. Pavement Solutions of Middletown, Indiana is the company that does this work. Brian moved to approve the quote from Pavement Solutions for \$14,592.50; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Fire Territory Chief Mickey Scott appeared before the council to report on the Fire Department. He advised both parking lots were paved; the work also included two catch basins and a new sidewalk. The cost was \$66,778.20. Larry noted Mickey did not get council approval to pay the expense from the Equipment Replacement Fund; we need to pay attention to the steps and process. Brian moved to approve spending \$66,778.20 from the Equipment Replacement Fund for the work that was completed by Phend and Brown; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mickey discussed the purchase of a new ambulance. A 2002 Braun ambulance is scheduled for replacement in 2016. Mickey distributed information about a new ambulance he would like to purchase. Mickey provided information on the condition and history of the 2002 ambulance. Larry asked about runs to other townships; Mickey answered about 11% of the runs are for other townships. Mickey advised \$165,000.00 was budgeted for a new ambulance and \$40,000.00 for a new cot. The bid we received was for \$177,207.00 if we supply the chassis. Requests for quotes were sent to four companies; Penn Care and Fire Services responded and provided quotes.

He asked for council approval to order the ambulance and cot for \$177,207.00; delivery will be by July 26 if the contract is signed today. Mickey assured the council the 2002 ambulance would be traded in or auctioned off; there will not be four ambulances.

Larry discussed other departments whose ambulances have 225,000 to 250,000 miles on them before they are replaced; ours only has 125,000 miles on it. Mickey responded other departments do transports; we do not. Mickey advised ours is starting to rust out.

Brian questioned the purchase of the chassis. Mickey advised the \$39,900.00 cost was paid by the township. Discussion followed on options to be considered for the chassis and ambulance. Larry discussed other departments purchasing ambulances for less. Mickey noted age as well as mileage is a factor. Larry noted whatever the council approves impacts town and township residents.

After more discussion, Brian moved to approve the \$177,207.00 purchase; the ambulance is to be delivered by July 26. The purchase will be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund. Bill seconded. Brian stated part of the problem we have been having is that we (town and township) have never come to a consensus on the amount we are levying for the Equipment Replacement Fund. The schedule of equipment replacement shows we need \$329,000.00 per year, yet we are levying \$440,000.00. Brian noted the issue this council has is why we are taxing \$110,000.00 more than is needed. Mickey was also advised the fund can be re-established if we have to. Brian also noted the Fire Territory has \$2 million in the bank now. Larry stated we need work together on these things. Brian added the town wants to be at the table; he feels it is a fantastic deal for town taxpayers. Kathy said she is not opposed to the truck, but it should not come down to emergency meetings. Paul questioned want not need. For a purchase of this type, the town should be well informed in advance. Four voted for the motion on the table; Larry abstained. The motion carried.

Bill asked Mickey to come to town council meetings.

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

Carl Coley, a resident of North St, asked the council several questions. He asked about pets in the parks and was advised to talk to Chad. He brought up Neighborhood Watch, piers, and launching boats; Mr. Coley was directed to the proper department. His request for a street light was referred to the Safety Committee.

Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburgh St, spoke about police reports and code enforcement, and trees between houses.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill stated he knows of two cars parked in yards with no plates; he has received a lot of complaints.

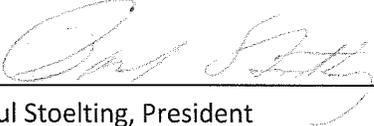
Paul discussed the comp time pay request received from the prior town marshal for one week's comp time pay. He stated there is nothing in our ordinances authorizing this type of pay.

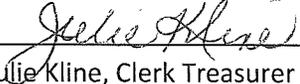
Brian moved to approve the request for one week's comp time pay. There was no second to his motion; the motion failed due to lack of a second.

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

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

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Stoelting, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer