SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2023 @7:00 P.M.

Town Council President Cindy Kaiser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were Paul Stoelting, William Musser, Nathan Scherer, Clerk Treasurer Virginia Cazier, and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon, Larry Siegel was absent.

Cindy Kaiser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the July 18, 2023, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Nathan Scherer seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 936-1045 for $771,429.51 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; William Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Town Manager introduced Ordinance 2023-05 Water Rates and 2023-06 Wastewater Rates to the Council. Robert Rynolds, London Witte, make two separate Ordinance for water and wastewater rates and charges. There was an option B suggestion from council member, Larry Siegel, raising the utility deposit from $200 to $250. The council would have to agree to move forward with the rate increase for both water and wastewater with or without the utility deposit increase. Once all agreed on the increased rates, there will be a public hearing. Paul Stoelting moved to introduce Ordinance 2023-05 and 2023-06 without the utility deposit increase; William Musser seconded. All voted for the introduction; none against. The introduction was passed.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineer, talked about the Oakwood lift station and Water loop projects that will be starting soon after Labor Day. F.A. Wilheim will be bringing equipment, materials and supplies to the work sites. Most of September will be prework. The first part of October they will be mobilizing the Wastewater treatment plant. Meeting with F.A. Wilheim on August 31st to finalize the projects.

Project at Main and Railroad has been on hold because of the CSX flagger. A flagger was scheduled for June but was not able to obtain a flagger at that time. We do have a flagger for August 26th and 27th. After the 25th the restoration will begin, last minute clean up, seeding & grading the area. They would like an 18-day extension. William Musser moved to approve the extension; Nathan Scherer seconded the motion. All voted for the motion. None against.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions on his report. MACOG did do some testing on the site where the new library will be built on Dolan Dr. MACOG did have a grant for the testing.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, we have been asked to host the Wawasee Middle school 7th grade softball games at the ballfield. The timeline for peewee football has been moved up, the first game for football will be on the 27th.

The foundation at Ward Park was poured, the plumbing and flooring are done for the new pavilion and bathrooms.

There are three quotes for the new roof at the community center in your packets. Have $115,000 coming out of the ARPA funds to cover the roof. Chad would like Council's to approve an amount in September, in order for the Town to be on a schedule for a contractor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. He received notification that the last of the streetlights had been shipped for the tech park. Hoping by the end of September there are streetlights at the tech park.

Pulver Asphalt is scheduled for the end of September. Pulver finished the concrete work on the Northeast side of town.

There is a water leak by the north tower, will be fixed by next Tuesday.

Encumbered funds from last year is helping with concrete needs for another thousand feet of sidewalks in town.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions on his report. Asked the council to wave the security deposit on the new admin building which was already approved prior to Council's meeting. Council President asked when the building would be ready to move in. Mickey stated the building will have to be painted inside, waiting on the phone and internet as well.

The second safe sitter class was done last month.

Heart saver class will be August 30th, runs about 2 hours long.

Budgets were approved by the Fire Territory last night.

CLERK

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any questions on her report. Informed the Council that in September will be a public hearing on the budget, and in October will be the adoption of the budget.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, received a letter from an attorney representing the library, the library deed had a revertal meaning that if the property was not being used for a library it would revert back to the town. The attorney asked if it could be a 5-year revertal, they may anticipate construction issues or financial issues. William Musser made a motion for the 5-year revertal and for Town Attorney to prepare the paperwork; Nathan Scherer seconded the motion. All voted for the motion. None against.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

William Musser adjourned the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Nathan Scherer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

Cindy Kaiser, Council President