SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 18, 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, Larry Siegel, and Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney. Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer was absent.

Cindy Kaiser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the June 20, 2023, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 803-935 for $455,679.17 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Contract approvals for David Wilkinson, Town Manager, and Mark Aurich, Public Works Director. Paul Stoelting approved the contacts for the Town Manager and Public Works Director; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry Siegel made a motion to amend the agenda for the Rate Study with Robert Renolds, London Witte, till 7:30; Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Cindy Kaiser, Council President, asked the Town Manager to explain Business Licenses. David brought up Ordinance 2004-02 last month, requiring businesses that are in town to apply for a business license from the Town. It has never been enforced. Larry Siegel made a motion to do away with Ordinance 2004-02; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineer, not present. David Wilkinson, Mark Aurich and Jeremy Hardy met with F.A Wilhelm last week and starting date for the Oakwood Lift Station and the Force Main will be the day after Labor Day. The Wastewater is expected to start in October. Paul Stoelting asked if they will be done by the end of the year. Mark Aurich stated, yes they should be done by the end of the year, most of the materials are purchased and on site.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson thanked the Council for his renewed contract. David asked if there were any questions on his report. David informed the Council on the pricing for the 3 projects with F.A. Wilhelm and discussed other capital projects for 2024. David suggestions: Painting the North Water Tower will cost $300,000, suggest using $100,000 from Syracuse TIF & $200,000 from ARPA fund and Water Depreciation. Community Center new roof, suggest using ARPA funds. Kern Road sewer extension suggest ARPA funds. Study on the two municipal parking lots, approx. cost for the Pearl St. parking lot $500,000, we could use Edit funds and Syracuse TIF. Water main replacements need done $300,000 we could use water depreciation and to be determined. The council agreed with what David suggested for each project.

David brought up another Ordinance that has never used is the facade grants. David asked the Council what they would like to do with this Ordinance. Larry Siegel stated that the Ordinance is in place and if anyone wants to use it they can. David said if the Council is going to continue with it, he will start pushing it and advertise it and put a little more funding into it. Currently we have approx. $30,000 in that fund.

POLICE

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

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, informed the Council this past Saturday was the Tour de Lakes, had 350 pre-registered riders and 250 show up the day of.

The old pavilion at Ward Park has been taken down, and the construction of the new pavilion and restrooms should begin next week. Last August or early September the new construction should be done.

Park's Dept worked with the Chamber on the Annual Syracuse garage sales on August 3-5.

The Wawasee Triathlon is the 29th of July, next Saturday.

Robert Reynolds from London Witte, teams on the Sewer and Water Rate Study. Robert discussed the Water Rate Study first then the Sewer Rate Study. Mr. Reynolds gave three scenarios to the Council, 1st Average user of 3000 will go up $13.81 total of $46.45, Option 2nd go up 11.94 total of $44.58, and 3rd will go up $9.99 total of $42.55. Mr. Musser was in favor of scenario #1. Larry Siegel spoke about inflation and not wanting to have more debt. The council all agreed with scenario #1. There is nothing to vote on at this meeting till the Ordinance is written. Larry Siegel stated even with the rates going up the Town is still one of the lowest around.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Nothing to report.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, informed the Council that they moved the 4th of July BBQ from Saturday, July 1st to Tuesday July 4th because of the weather.

Did not have any issues with the fireworks on Syracuse Lake or Wawasee Lake.

Have a Safe Sitter class on Thursday the 20th of July at station 1.

Mickey asked if there were any questions on his budget. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the Fire Territory Budget; Nathan Scherer seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

The Clerk-Treasurer was absent.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, passed out some proposals for outdoor dining, please review. There were some discussions and changes on the proposals.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Bill Musser asked the Town Manager if there was a target date for the parking lot across the street from the library. David said it is currently on the 2025 list, will cost around 1 million dollars.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Siegel asked about the digitizing of old records. David informed the Council about why SBOA does not want files digitized. The council talked more about the subject.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

Paul Stoelting adjourned the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; William Musser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

Cindy Kaiser, Council President