SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 21, 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 Attorney Jay Rigdon. 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 February 21, 2023, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 250-394 for $636,976.08 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Nathan Scherer seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Cassandra Fall from Kelly Js has been postponed.

Cindy introduced Steve Showalter; owner of Showalter RV. Mr. Showalter was present with Debra Hughes, Civil Engineer. They presented a short video highlighting the High-end RV Resort. Ms. Hughes showed where the RV Resort will be in Elkhart County near the Elkhart-Kosciusko County line road, on the west side of Huntington Street. Mr. Showalter stated that people will shop locally; studies have shown they will spend around $200 a day in a community for a family of four. This will help Syracuse bring in revenue to local businesses. Mr. Showalter is asking for water and sewer for the RV resort. The problem is, the property is not contiguous to the Town. There is only one property between the town and the new RV Resort, which is an agricultural field. Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, stated the process to annex is much harder now because of State Legislature. Paul Stoelting asked what the time frame is for the RV Resort. Mr. Showalter stated he would like to have everything approved by year end to start Spring of 2024. Ms. Hughes asked if there was a way of getting water and sewer without annexation? William Musser stated that it is possibly, Mr. Showalter would be responsible for the water and sewer hook to our mains. Mr. Showalter said he would pay for the hook up from his RV Resort to the Towns utility mains. The Town has hooked up to other facilities that are outside of town limits. The High-end RV Resort will have around 150 sites for RV's, with 8-10 small cabins which will be maintained by the resort. The Council was happy it was present to them and are hoping to move forward with the project. Estimated value is 4 to 5 million.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy is looking for approval from the Council, for the On Call Agreement to continue for 2023 for $15,000. In years past it was $20,000. Jeremy explained to the newest Council members, Nathan Scherer and Cindy Kaiser, what the definition is for the On Call Agreement. Larry Seigel made the motion not to exceed $15,000; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion was carried.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions in his report.

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 that the Town received their 22nd Tree City USA award and its 17th Growth Award.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10 a.m. / 10:30 a.m./ 11:00 a.m. on Saturday April 1st for different age groups.

Ball Park: Scheduled opening day for games will be April 29th. There will be a parade from the Elementary School to the new Ball Park at 1 p.m., there will be a small ceremony, games are starting at 3 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, stated that the Town Manager, Street Foreman, and himself have put together a 5-year plan. Mark presented a quote from Pulver Asphalt Paving for $300,000 for the 2023 Paving. Mr. Musser approved the $300,000 not to exceed and in budget for the 2023 Paving; Larry Seigel seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion was carried.

Mark stated that a directional driller wiped out approx. six feet of a 10-inch water main on Pickwick Rd. today. The repairs were made, and a water boiling advisory is in place for the next 24 hours. Once the boil order is lifted, we will contact each resident directly, and will inform the media as well. There were around 18 homes and 8-9 businesses affected by this. Mark complemented the Water, Street, and Wastewater guys for their hard work.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, did not have much to report. They did have a baby surrender to fire station one within the last month. The Fire Dept. contacted DCS and now they are in control of the situation.

Mickey is asking for approval to purchase rescue tools for the new truck for $48,515.00. Paul Stoelting approved the $48,515 purchase for the tools; Nathan Scherer seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion was carried.

Mickey informed the Council that they are now trained in safe sitter classes. They can train babysitters in emergency situations. Mickey and two others are certified as instructors. The closest one to here is Ft. Wayne or South Bend. They do one class a year. Takes about 5.5 to 6 hours of training.

CLERK

The Clerk-Treasurer was not present, attending the ILMCT Training.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, had several items to discuss. Jay found a title company that is researching the deed for the land on Dolan Dr. This is the land, that the Town is willing to gift/donate to the local library. The Town has owned this piece of property for a long time, once the deed is located, the Town will be ready to transfer the property over to the library.

Jay has been working on the easement that will go across the Main Channel Marinas property, for the Lakeside water main project. Main Channel Marina's attorney wants to make sure that the easement will not interfere with their work. Jay will have the agreement ready for the April meeting.

Ridgestone Properties talked to the Council about vacating the alley and donating some property to the Town. They have not filed a vacation for the alley yet. David, Town Manager, informed Jay that Ridgestone is working with Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, to come up with a development plan before moving forward.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Kim Blaha, Director of the public library, brought the designs for the new library. Kim also thanked the Council for the donation of the property. Jay stated that the legal description of the land would have to be found before the Town can fully donate the property.

Tom Hoover, library board member, presented himself to the Town Council wanting to make sure there is no issues with the deed and that the Town is still willing to donate the land to the library. Jay stated once the deed is prepared, the Town will donate the land to the library. There was continued discussion on the library doing soil borings and making sure that they can build a library on the Dolan Dr. property. Bill stated if everything lines up, the Town is willing to donate the land to the library.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nathan Scherer intends to form a coalition/partnership with the Syracuse Lake Association, Wawasee Property Owners Association, and the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation to discuss the bridge between Syracuse Lake and Lake Wawasee. The bridge needs repair. There is a tentative meeting on March 28th.

Bill Musser made a motion to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Paul Stoelting seconded. The meeting was adjourned. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Cindy Kaiser

Cindy Kaiser, Council President

Virginia Cazier

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer