SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 17, 2024 @7:00 P.M.

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

Nathan Scherer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of Police Officer Jacob Bolen – Sworn in by Town Attorney, Jay Rigdon.

Public Comments - Discussion from the floor (agenda items only) 2 minutes per speaker 10 minutes total. No comments.

The Council Minutes - The minutes from the August 20, 2024, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

The Town Claims - Claim #'s 1021-1142 for $745,276.16 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Public Hearing 2025 Budget – This is the first hearing of the 2025 Budget. Paul Stoelting waived the reading of the 2025 Budget; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Resolution 2024-03 Turkey Creek Excess Levy Appeal – Joe Cazier, Turkey Creek Trustee, asked for approval from the Council to apply for the excess levy appeal. Paul Stoelting made a motion for the Trustee to apply for the excess levy appeal; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Resolution 2024-02 Shore Capital Tax Abatement Request – Steve Snyder, Local Attorney, spoke on behalf of Shore Capital on a request for tax abatement. Shore Capital has purchased the old Sea Nymph/Polar Craft building on 300 E. Chicago Street. Shore Capital is in the process of rehabilitating the buildings in the amount of over four million dollars of improvements. Shore Capitals end goal is to lease the properties for industrial use for smaller industries. The assessed value of the property is over one million dollars. Currently have 30 employees at this location, anticipating an additional 200 employees once the development is complete. Asking the Council to approve the preliminary resolution to determine it as an economic revitalization area, to approve the SB-1 and schedule it for the hearing on October 15th, the next council meeting. Larry Siegel made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-02; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-06 Pollinator Garden consideration for passage - Continuation – Council asked Jay to modify the ordinance. Paul made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-06; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

MOU, South Shore Ventures LLC for consideration - Nathan Scherer removed himself from the meeting, Paul Stoelting took over the meeting. Paul Stoelting is in favor of continuing discussions with South Shore Ventures, the MOU is not binding to either the Town of Syracuse or South Shore Ventures. Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, added that the MOU is not binding to the Town. The MOU was discussed at length amongst the Council. Cindy Kaiser asked Jeff Dyson to speak on behalf of South Shore Ventures. Jeff explained the MOU is not to determine will we run water, but to ask the Council to have further discussions. Cindy Kaiser made a motion to accept the MOU as written; Paul Stoelting seconded. Bill Musser abstained, and Larry Siegel opposed the motion. The Clerk-Treasurer had to break the tie vote and voted for the MOU. The MOU was approved.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy was not present.

TOWN MANAGER

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

David explained to the Council the difference between a DORA and House Bill 1086.

A resident from the Oakwood area has concerns at the intersection Oakwood Circle Drive and Lake Drive. There is a stop sign for Oakwood Circle Drive to stop but not Lake Drive. Speeding traffic is a huge issue at that intersection. He is asking for stop signs both ways on Lake Drive. Bill Musser made a motion for the two stop signs on Lake Drive; Larry Seigel seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Pearl Street is a one way only, was designed that way because the Post office was located there. Larry Siegel would like Pearl Street to stay the same and it is also a narrow road.

POLICE

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

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent informed the Council on upcoming events. Next Friday is the Homecoming parade. Harvest Festival is on October 5th, weekend after that is the indoor garage sale. October 26th is the Trick or Treat Trails and that night the haunted trail at the WACF. Trick or Treat will be on October 31st from 6-8.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, was not present at the meeting.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mickey received four quotes for the groundwork on the training facility, 8138 E McClintic Rd. Mickey is asking for approval from the Council in the amount of $164,643.00 from the 2024 Turkey Creek Fire Territory Equipment Budget. Bill Musser made a motion to approve the $164,643.00 got the groundwork; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any questions in her report. Nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, just reiterated for next month he will have an up to date weed ordinance and stop sign ordinance for signature.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Aaron Allen, owner of Moo Town Snack Shack at 417 S. Huntington St, petition for limitation on Food Trucks in Syracuse. He has been speaking to other restaurant owners in town, over the last three years there has been an increase in Food Trucks in Syracuse. He is asking for limitations around the dates, stricter fees, where they are located, and for the town to have more of a local business first mentality. The Council talked at length about the food trucks with Mr. Allen.

Blanca Lozano, Crossing Guard, complained about the cars speeding while she is trying to cross the kids from one side of the road to the other. The council informed Ms. Lozano to talk to the Police Chief about her concerns.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Bill Musser brought up the morning council meeting again and would like to start at the beginning of the year. He would like to get a vote from the council. Bill Musser made a motion to meet on the third Tuesday at 10 a.m. starting in January 2025; Paul Stoelting seconded. Nathan Scherer abstained, Cindy Kaiser was in favor, and Larry Siegel opposed. If it does not work out, they can always change it back.

Larry Siegel brought up the High-end RV Resort on Huntington Street near the Elkhart-Kosciusko County line, when we talked to Mr. Showalter, we did not have an annexation agreement at the time. Currently Mr. Showalter has not signed the petition because he is worried that he will have to duplicate the permit paperwork he already has done in Elkhart with Kosciusko. The Town has already agreed to give Mr. Showalter utilities without annexation, Mr. Showalter said he was open to annexation. For the Town to annex the RV Resort, there are other properties around that also need to agree to annexation. Only one has agreed to be annexed, there are two who are a hard no to annexation due to having farm animals. Larry suggested that we need to look at changing the Ordinance with the farm animals. Jay Rigdon said Mr. Showalter can sign the petition anytime and then we can wait to file it, then that starts the process. Paul Stoelting stated whatever we agreed to with Mr. Showalter in the beginning is what we should do. Nathan Scherer asked if we could have the petition be a binding agreement with Mr. Showalter and tell him we will hold it until the permitting is done. Jay said yes, he can sign this petition, we will hold off till all your permitting process

because we understand you want to get your construction done so you do not have to duplicate your permits. Larry asked if the council needed to vote of this. Jay informed him, no because it is his volunteer petition, he doesn't need your permission to do it.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Larry Siegel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Virginia Cazier

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

Nathan Scherer, Council President