# SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

## REGULAR MEETING

August 20, 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.

**Public Comments** - Discussion from the floor (agenda items only) 2 minutes per speaker 10 minutes total. Cory Mast, 102 N. Hiawatha Drive, spoke about the right of way paving request from Dough Schrock. This has been discussed before and rejected, the homeowners around the area are still against the paving of the right-of-way. There was further discussion on the matter by local contractor, Larry Copen, defending Schrock's point of view.

**The Council Minutes** - The minutes from the July 16, 2024, regular meeting presented for approval. Cindy Kaiser moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**The Town Claims** - Claim #'s 866-1020 for $1,005,677.98 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**Kristin Rude, KABS –** Kristin Rude is the KABS Manager and wanted to inform the Council on what KABS do and how it can benefit the Town of Syracuse. KABS was established in 1981, based in Warsaw, IN and is an on-demand response service. Office hours are 9am-5pm, Services are 6 am-6 pm. Syracuse is one of the hardest places to reach because of mileage, there needs to be more demand in this area to be put on a route. Would like to provide future needs for the community, there are ten vehicles running per day, all handicapped accessible. They also provide rides for Medicaid recipients. The minimum age is 8 years old and older.

**Police Take Home Vehicle Policy Consideration of Passage** – The updated version of the policy with the changes from the Council was made and sent out to the Council for review before the meeting. The Town Attorney has reviewed the new policy and had no issues as long as the insurance company covers the liability, which they do. Paul Stoelting made a motion for the new Take Home Vehicle Policy; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**Ordinance 2024-06 Pollinator Garden Introduction** – Paul made a motion to table Ordinance 2024-06, there needs to be more research on defining areas in town that are not covered in this ordinance; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**Doug Schrock Right of Way Paving Request** – Mr. Schrock is willing to pave the right-of-way at his own expense and will follow the compliance with the county highway. His only request from the town is to put a sign that states Dead End or No Turn Around. It will still be the town right-of-way. The Council did not see an issue with Doug Schrock paving the right-of-way. Mr. Schrock will maintain the right-of-way for the rest of his life, the Town will not take on any maintenance responsibilities. Paul Stoelting made the motion to give license to Mr. Schrock to pave the right-of-way according to county highway specification and maintain it; Cindy Kaiser seconded. Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

### ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy was not present. Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, informed the Council that they have been working on the asset management plan, the management section should be completed this week. Mark requested a signature from the Council President for the awarded bid that went to Niblock Paving, will have Niblock sign it as well and have the 2024 paving scheduled. Mark has been working on the Community Crossing Matching Grant for the 2025 paving.

### 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. Jim had to do some trafficking around the Elementary school last week, but everything is doing better this week.

No ADA complaint.

## PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent stated in October there will be more events happening, currently things are slower in the months of August and September. Saturday will be the first peewee football game at the athletic complex. The water park playground is complete, it is highly used. A lot of good compliments on it.

Currently doing maintenance projects, lost most of the summer staff.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mark asked the Council to purchase an excavator for the Street Department. The current excavator we have will be sold to the John Deere Dealer from Sourcewell for $95,000.00. We bought the excavator for approximately $85,000.00. This will give us around $10,000.00 in trade in value with a difference of $51,638.93. Mark is requesting the funds come out of appropriation number 440 out of the Street Dept. budget. Paul Stoelting made the motion to purchase the excavator not to exceed $51,638.93 with a trade in; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mark is requesting $29,436.00 from appropriation number 736.2 to rebuild the belt press in the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Larry Siegel approved the $29,436.00 for the rebuilding of the belt press; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The slide gates need to be replaced at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; the funds would come out of the 2025 budget, appropriation number 736.2 in the amount of $29,220.00, since they are 38 weeks out. Larry Siegel made the motion to approve the purchase; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The last request is for a new mixer in the oxidation ditch from BL Anderson for $50, 004.00 from approp. number 736.2. Paul Stoelting made the motion to approve the purchase; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

## FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Need approval from the Council to order the training tower at station two, it takes around 10 to 12 months to get here. They need 25% down which is approx. $106,755.00, it will come out of the 2024 equipment replacement fund. Cindy Kaiser made a motion to put down 25% for the training tower; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The 2025 Budget proposal of $2,741,055.00 needs to be approved by the Council. Paul Stoelting approved the 2025 Fire Territory Budget; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The 2025 Equipment Budget proposal of $885,000 needs to be approved by the Council. Cindy Kaiser approved the 2025 Equipment Budget; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mickey wanted to thank the anonymous donor for $28,750.00 last month. The funds will be used to purchase fifteen new 3M Scott Sight System SCBA masks with thermal imaging cameras built into the masks. The expected delivery date is 4 to 6 months.

## CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any questions in her report. Reminded the Council that next month is the first public hearing of the 2025 Budget and October will be the second public hearing and adoption of the 2025 Budget.

## TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney has a couple miscellaneous ordinance violations from the Building Inspector/Code Enforcer.

## DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

## DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

## OLD BUSINESS

Bill Musser asked if anyone thought about the discussion from last month on moving the meeting from evening to morning. Nothing was determined.

## NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Bill Musser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: _____
Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

_____
Nathan Scherer, Council President