SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 19, 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, Clerk-Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon. Absent Larry Siegel, Council member.

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. Michelle Owens, 704 E. Medusa St, stated depending on what is going to be discussed on the compensation, she might have a comment. Nathan Scherer replied, the salary ordinance that is proposed as is will be covered and where it goes from there. Michelle asked if she could have time to discuss the compensation when the Salary Ordinance is brought up. Nathan asked if he could hear what she has to say now. Michelle asked if the Council was going to approve five percent across the board. Nathan replied, it will be voted on with the board. Michelle said she hopes that the board gives the five percent raises to every employee and elected officials. If you vote otherwise, Michelle would like to make a comment. Nathan Scherer stated if time allows.

A gentleman asked if there was going to be a question-and-answer period. Nathan stated there is not.

The Council Minutes - The minutes from November 19, 2024, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Cindy Kaiser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

The Town Claims - Claim #'s 1380-1496 for $1,060,475.44 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

Nathan Scherer made a motion to add to the agenda comments from Andy Cripe, Main Channel Marina talking about the fire that happened just recently, and what their future plans are. No objection to the motion from the board.

Andy Cripe, Main Channel Marina- Andy addressed the fire and how everyone has been so supportive. The fire burnt 70% of the business. Andy thanked Godfrey Marine for letting them use some space at their facility. The old smokey's lot, they are putting 50'x 10' buildings by the end of next year and will be hooking up to the Town water. Across the street behind the gate, they are going to be putting up a pavilion to show their boats. Andy needs to get it zoned by the County. The demolition of the building is supposed to start at the beginning of January and the boats will be pulled out of the rubbish. The Town has been very supportive. Nathan asked Micky, Fire Chief or Mark, PW Director if they had any questions for Andy. They did not have any questions.

Ordinance 2024-07 Salaries and Compensation Introduction – Last month the Council tabled the ordinance. Nathan asked if there were any comments on Ordinance 2024-07. Bill asked if the Ordinance stated the percentage of raise. No, the clerk just adds and calculates the five percent into last year's Salary Ordinance. Paul suggested the minimum $7.25 might consider raising that amount. He doesn't believe anyone can make a living on that. Bill stated he was ok with it. Nathan said that there was some conversation about the elected officials not taking an increase given the audit that was put out and he is on the fence about it. He thinks no one has done wrong, there is no reason not to, but then he feels it is appropriate. Does anyone have any concerns about that. Cindy asked when you are saying elected officials are you including the Clerk? Nathan said yes, she is an elected official. Bill asked if the Salary Ordinance included raises for the elected officials. Yes, it does. The Clerk Treasurer informed them that we have already passed the budget, which means the money is available for the five percent cost of living raise, doesn't mean they have to spend it. The Clerk stated that she is a full-time elected official who works over 40 hours a week, for her personally she doesn't feel it is fair not to give the elected officials a cost of living raise like the rest of the full-time employees. Nathan brought up the certifications that the Clerk Treasurer had earned. The Clerk Treasurer was caucused in October 2020 and has earned 2 certifications, IAMC and CMC. To earn a CMC certification is very hard to do. The Clerk stated turn over for Clerk Treasurers is very high, being a Clerk Treasurer is extremely difficult, and it is a tough job. The Clerk Treasurer was trained by a formal Clerk Treasurer, Julie Kline who was an excellent teacher. If it wasn't for Julie, I don't think I would have stayed. There is a lot to learn in this position. It is a legislative law that Clerk Treasurers must go to school, laws change every year, always something new to learn. The Treasurer stated she has brought the Clerk's office to the twenty-first century, we now accept credit cards to pay utility bills, much more friendly than it used to be. Cindy asked if Julie had these certifications. Both Julie and Paula had one of the certifications. Bill Musser asked how elected officials get longevity. The Clerk Treasurer explained that the Council passed an Ordinance stating Clerk-Treasurer get longevity. Longevity is the length of service in a municipality. Bill stated he thought it was only for full-time employees. Paul stated have we done this before. Yes, it has been done since before Julie Kline was Clerk-Treasurer. Nathan stated what makes sense to him is when certifications are earned, that is when you should be compensated more than a

standard increase yearly. Nathan asked what the Clerk-Treasurer thought about that. The Clerk-Treasurer explained when she became Clerk-Treasurer, her longevity was taken away, which was 23 years of longevity. She had to start over, when she became Clerk-Treasurer she was making the same amount as she was when she was the administrative assistant for the public works director, now with more responsibility, more work, and responsible for employees in her office. She never complained about the pay nor asked for a raise that is why she worked hard on earning her two certifications. The cost-of-living raise was given to the Clerk-Treasurers before me, Julie Kline and Paula Wicker. We have always received a cost-of-living raise except for one year, couldn't remember what year it was. Paul Stoelting spoke up and stated that the Council member, Larry Siegel, who is not here did a study and handed it out to the Clerk-Treasurer and the rest of the board. According to this list he provided we pay our town clerk more than everybody in Fort Wayne and even in South Bend and that there are a whole lot of Clerks making less. Paul stated that this is what the Council is struggling with, in the sheet it also stated that the certificates are adding over $6,000.00 to her pay, The Clerk is still in the highest paid around small towns and cities around here and this is kind of his concern. The Clerk-Treasurer stated you could say that about the Town Manager, the Council gave him a $10,000 raise last year and he makes more than the Major was Warsaw. Paul stated maybe we are overpaying everyone. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that the Town Manager and the Clerk-Treasurer are the faces of Syracuse. We work hard at our jobs, we both come in early every day. People do not know what we do unless you sit down with us and see what we do. Nathan stated from apples-to-apples comparison, clerk for clerk any of those struggles that the Syracuse Clerk has most Clerk have the same. If you look at it from an HR perspective what are the comps and make sure we are being prudent. Nathan continued to state if you are doing an education, you are increasing value to your job. As the numbers get bigger if you do a percentage increase it adds a significant amount yearly. Bill asked if these were paid as bonuses or salary. Paul stated the email from Larry Siegel, Larry stated that the Clerk received a $3.00 an hour raise for her one certification in 2024. The Clerk-Treasurer corrected what Larry put in the email and stated she only received $1.00 an hour for the one certification. Bill stated you cannot get paid $1.00 an hour if you are a salaried employee. The Clerk stated if the Council does not want to give her a raise for my certifications, she didn't want to argue about it in the meeting, she stated that she has been a loyal employee for 27 years, she worked for the public works office for 23 years then ran for Clerk-Treasurer in 2020. Bill explained himself stating he thought when the Clerk-Treasurer received her certification she received a bonus. No, the raise is added to her salary just like all the full-time employees when they get a certification. Bill stated that we have discussed this as far as we can, next year we have to look at where we are at and how this all plays out. Paul stated that it was ok but, in the future, we need to look at raises a couple months in advance, rather than in the last minute to make a decision. There was an interruption by Mr. Owens, 704 E. Medusa Street, Nathan Scherer gave him a minute to speak. Mr. Owens stated that the Council is interrogating the Clerk-Treasurer, and the Clerk-Treasurer has to defend her job. He felt it was not right to do that to her. If anybody should have to defend their job it is the Council. Michelle Owens stated the salaries that were presented in the Ordinance were a 5% cost of living raise that everybody got across the board not excluding the Clerk-Treasurer. If that is accurate, Michelle felt it was not right for the Council to interrogate her. Mrs. Owens felt if you are interrogating the Clerk-Treasurer then you need to interrogate all the full-time employees that are getting the 5% raise. A 5% cost of living is not justified by your duties. If you want to talk about the Clerk-Treasurers compensation she doesn't think that is what was in the number on the Councils paper. Michelle stated that everyone should get the cost of living raise. If the Council members say they do not want to take it, you can say that but don't take it away from the Clerk-Treasurer. Nathan Scherer thanked her for her time. Nathan also stated, just to be clear some of the stuff becomes semantics, especially for some of us who have not been in government our whole life. Whether its cost of living, or just a raise, how you are compensating people the semantics matter to some more than others. The big thing here is what is prudent, are we being prudent, as Paul said we do not have time to get into this tonight. Nathan didn't think they were interrogating the Clerk-Treasurer, it is our duty to ask questions and be informed. Bill Musser made a motion to accept Ordinance 2024-07; Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

Board Appointments – The Town Manager sent out a list of 2025 Board Appointments to the Council to review and approve. There are three that the Council President must approve and the rest the Council has to approve. Nathan Scherer read the ones he needed to state, reappointed Nathan Scherer and Mark Madinger to the Redevelopment Commission and one vacant spot to be filled will be appointed in January. If anyone is interested, please get ahold of the Town Manager. Other appointments are Town Attorney Jay Ridgon, Police Chief Jim Layne, Redevelopment Commission Jeff Goralczyk and David Rosenberry, Board of Zoning Appeals Brandon Wolferman, Fire Territory Nathan Scherer, Cindy Kaiser, and Corky Wong, Tree Board Paul Hoffman & Rex Smalley, Park Board Kristin Abbs. Paul Stoelting made the motion to approve the Board Appointments; Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

Resolution 2024-08 Authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to Make Certain Transfers – The Clerk-Treasurer explained at the end of the year the Clerk-Treasurer moves money around, so appropriations are not in the negative per SBOA. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08; Cindy Kaiser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

ARPA Fund Encumbrance - The Town Manager stated that the Town has approx. $97,000 left in the ARPA fund. That has to be encumbered by December 31, 2024, to a project or we have to return the money back to the government. David gave a list of projects to the Council on which ones they feel should use the $97,000. Bill Musser stated he would like to use $55,000 towards the Clarifier repairs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and get AED in the squad cars for $25,000 and the remaining funds go towards the Parks Department on several projects they are working on. The Town Manager agreed with what Bill Musser stated. The Town originally received around $653,000, to this day we spent $115,480.00 on the Community Center Roof, $29,163.00 in the Water department, and $410,607.00 in the Wastewater department. The Public Works had most of the ARPA funds, so it would be equitable to share the funds with the other departments. The council needs to make recommendations on the remaining funds. Bill Musser made a motion to approve what he recommended $55,000 towards the Clarifier repairs, $25,000 towards AED in the squad cars and the remaining go towards the Parks Department; Paul Stoelting seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

Nathan Scherer, Council President, moved Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney and Virginia Cazier, Clerk Treasurer up before the rest of the Departments. The Town Attorney has some personal matters to attend to this evening. Bill Musser made a motion to move the Town Attorney and Clerk Treasurer up on the agenda; Cindy Kaiser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried. The Clerk-Treasurer will go first then the Town Attorney.

CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the health insurance for the employees to the council last month and Larry Siegel wanted the Town Attorney to check the health insurance that IPEP presented. The Town Attorney did review the 2025 health insurance and found nothing wrong with it. This is the same insurance we had last year and there were no complaints on IPEP Anthem Insurance. In the beginning there were questions and concerns because it is a new insurance but after everything was settled, there were no complaints. The Clerk Treasurer wants to make sure it is approved and all the employes get their health insurance cards on time. Nathan stated just because you do not have your card doesn't mean you are not covered. The clerk-Treasurer stated it would be nice to have your card. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the IPEP Anthem insurance; Cindy Kaiser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, had a follow up to the health insurance. When he was first reviewing the policy, was legally compliant as an insurance policy. It was clarified to Jay Ridgon by Bill Musser, the question was for full-time insurance as opposed to full-time employee of a municipality. Insurance companies can issue policies the way they want, they will issue policies according to the affordable cares act, with the minimum number of hours an employee works. There are communities within the state of Indiana that have Council, for example considered full-time employees for purposes in providing benefits to those employees. That is slightly different than Clerk-Treasurers, generally in small towns, that is why they run is to get coverage. That is something that is common with regular employees, Clerk-Treasurer opposed to a Council member. Jay brought to the Councils attention about a case that is in front of the Supreme Court currently on this very question, a community in Perry County was covering council members as part of their full-time insurance and the county chose not to cover them anymore. Now it is up for appeal in the Supreme Court to weather that is something that could or couldn't be done in terms of removing compensation for elected officials during their term. They are looking at that question right now to the extent that insurance coverage could ever become available for council members throughout the state. Hopefully they will give us some guidance on that as quickly as the Supreme Court moves, possibly in the next couple of months. That is the update on that question.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy stated on the reports submitted for the RV Park on the water and sewer line extensions that once approved, will be reviewed and getting the reports back to them. They will be approved then sent to the State.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson had nothing beyond what is in his report. Nathan Scherer asked about the comments on the RV park, have they have broken ground. Yes, they have broken ground. Bill Musser asked about the lights in the parking lot. The control box was installed, and we made arrangements with Nipsco to supply power to the control box. We were informed that the control box was in the wrong spot. As soon as we can get the box moved, we can get Nipsco to supply power to it.

POLICE

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

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent was absent.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Nathan asked about a manhole. Mark stated that it was a perfect project, Beer and Slabaugh did a quick job, waited 30 days to do some testing, popped the manhole and it had 6 ft of water in it. It had 3 ft of asphalt and 3 ft of water. The subcontractor who paved the road has told Beer and Slabaugh that they knocked the manhole off and put it back, sealed it and finished paving the road. Beer & Slabaugh started taking out the asphalt, now the manhole is open and in use. Mark contacted the subcontractor to inform them what happened.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mickey asked the council to purchase 10 ballistic vests out of the equipment fund. It is budgeted for next year. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the purchase of 10 ballistic vests; Bill Musser seconded. The votes were 3-0. The motion carried.

Bill Musser asked who the resident was who gave us the 5% raise. Michelle Owens was the resident.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Michelle Camacho, The Twisted Tiki Food Truck, spoke about added information to share with the council. Food trucks bring much needed diversity to our community. They have a massive amount of support from Syracuse and surrounding communities. Most of the people at the meeting were supporters of the food truck. They started a petition to allow food trucks in Syracuse around 500 signatures, also have a list of businesses in Syracuse that support food trucks. Last month Michelle provided some suggestions that could be helpful to all businesses in town when it comes to developing a food truck ordinance. After making those suggestions, Larry Siegel asked if I had read the current ordinance that could be found on the town's website. Michelle replied "No because there is no current ordinance that talks about food trucks in Syracuse. There is an ordinance pertaining to local vendors of all kinds requiring a peddlers permit but there is no food truck permit." Michelle left with more suggestions that would be helpful which she has printed off for the council. They should be able to operate their food trucks freely without harassment by other local establishments. When the council establishes an ordinance from local vendors, she encourages the council to keep in mind that an anti-competitive ordinance could be deemed unconstitutional. There was a lawsuit put in place in Fort Pierce, FL, they lost the lawsuit filed by local food trucks after putting an ordinance in place to restrict food trucks to decrease competition to brick and mortar restaurants. Michelle has been in contact with state representative, Joanna King who stated Food trucks are a growing industry and we want to support these entrepreneurs who are working hard to expand their businesses. It is important to create uniform standards for them to follow instead of allowing bureaucratic red tape to create unnecessary hurdles. Michelle reminded the council that Syracuse charges $600.00 per year for mobile vendors, which is far more than surrounding communities. Most are zero dollars, Goshen is a much larger community and only charges $20.00 per year, and Warsaw charges $300 per year. Thank you for your time. Nathan added he has not been aware of anyone discussing anything against the food trucks. Michelles concerns are

from the past council meeting when a local business owner stated that food trucks should be restricted in town and a council member agreed with him. Michelle felt she had to present her point of view and represent the local community before an ordinance would be in place not after. Nathan stated he has received some information from the chamber, who want to be actively involved in this, they feel they can help. Paul stated he has no objections to the food trucks; most towns and cities find food trucks beneficial.

Jennifer Esterline, executive director of the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce, stated 100% of food trucks are a benefit to your economic development. This is a huge opportunity and to put limitation on it would be a huge deficit to the community. This is something we strongly suggest. What she tells a lot of her brick and mortar if you have a problem with a food truck, you just have to do better. If you can start with your Town council and build that relationship with your brick and mortars and your food trucks, the stronger your Town is going to be. Nathan asked if she had any economic data on what a healthy amount of food established businesses are per capita. The Town of Syracuse has around 25 places to get a meal without food trucks. Nathan asked if that was in balance or out of balance. Jennifer stated Syracuse is tourism bases, you have to look at where your economic development is and your revenue. Syracuse has a higher amount of revenue coming in a certain number of months, summer tourism. The town of Syracuse gets a lot more revenue during the summer months. Syracuse does need that much food supply because the population grows in the summer months. Bill Musser talked about other towns having food trucks in one particular area. Jennifer said if you segregate food trucks you will draw more people away from your shopping and food eating districts than if you keep them intermixed. What she suggests is to have some sort of guidelines of where they are and have some good ordinances in place. These food trucks can bring you even more business.

Jama Owens, board member of One Warsaw, every year they put on a festival and set up in front of One Ten. Every year we set up two food trucks and One Ten opens their doors, changes their menus and within four hours sells out of food as does the food trucks.

Darren Burke, Burke's Repo Outlet, let the council know that he uses food trucks to boost his event, and he feels food trucks bring in more business into town.

Matt Goodnight, 702 N. Lake St., stated earlier tonight you approved re-appointments to some boards. Those people who volunteer for those boards are people on the council within the town should emulate. These are people, whether they are people on the zoning board they are doing that to make Syracuse a better place to live, work and place. They don't do it for pay, they don't do it for insurance. Speaking of insurance, I'm very sad to see that Larry Siegel is not here tonight but those of you who have already paid the Town back what was found with the State Board of Accounts, thank you, you are doing the right thing. Bill Musser, you have $95, 000 reason not to do anything yet, and Larry Siegel has double that amount. Paul, I don't know how that happened, going outside for a divorce trying to keep things quiet, I understand but when you sign an application for insurance or you note to pay claims as far as a motion, a second or voting, I view that as a wrong action almost fraudulently. From Matt Goodnights point of view, and we as citizens and taxpayers we need to do a better job of watching our tax money and holding you responsible for what you have done or what you haven't done. Paul, I think you owe an apology to your family, you owe an apology to the other council members, you owe an apology to the taxpayers and quite frankly you should resign. Bill Musser pointed out that Matt Goodnight ran against Paul at the last election. Matt Goodnight stated Yes, and he will be glad to do it again. Bill Musser stated he appreciated what he said and yes, he agreed.

Joe Cazier, 205 E. Benton St., stated he has watched this whole thing with the insurance, and I am not sure why Virginia, Clerk-Treasurer, is being kept out of the executive meetings, she is the Clerk-Treasurer elected by the people. I know Jim Layne is doing a good job but that is supposed to be her job. Nathan Scherer replied stating he is the president of the board and when he has four attorney council me and tell me to do something that is who I am listening to, so right, wrong, or indifferent, I am paying for advice and if that is the advice that I am given that is what we are following. Joe stated who is paying for the advice, be careful on how you say that. Nathan replied, it doesn't matter. Joe Cazier stated, oh it does matter. Nathan replied, when I say I, I am representing the town. Joe stated, there are a few people in this that are sided in this and the whole town is pitching in to fight this. Nathan replied, contrary to what the headline read, there are also people who are not elected officials named and the town is responsible for those people. And that is my job to protect all those people as well as the rest of the council. Joe Cazier replied, I know, and I feel sorry for those people. Joe also pointed to the Clerk-Treasurer and stated including her to protect. Nathan Scherer stated I understand but lines of demarcation have to be known, and all the facts have to be known. Joe stated at some point you are going to have to clearly state why you are keeping the Clerk-Treasurer out of the executive sessions. Nathan stated, in due time. Joe said, you better be careful. Nathan thanked him.

Michelle Owens, 704 E. Medusa St., she had a statement to read that she wrote. She suspects any questions she asked will be met with silents. A concerned citizen in the Town of Syracuse, I would like to make a statement for the SBOA special investigation report issued last month and share my personal perspective on its findings. First, I express my disbelief that this is the first time I am hearing about this, the citizen who pays your salary. The first time I heard this was through social media to compound matters there have been no discussion on this issue in today's

monthly meeting, deeply disappointing that the council has failed to address such a critical matter publicly. Personal interest or needs should never weigh the responsibility of being a good citizen or stewards of our tax dollars. After reading the SBOA report and reviewing the responses from council members and their attorney, Bose, McKinney and Evans it appears a decision was made to establish an ordinance for council members health insurance under the pretense it being a cost savings measure. However, the perception of this ordinance now suggests that it was passed for personal gain of some council members. SBOA states that these health insurance reimbursements were administered outside of the group health insurance or self-insurance plan as required by Indiana statue. Although this is argued by the council and Bose McKinney and Evans, that this practice resulted in cost savings for the town, the fact remains the way it was administered did not comply with statutory requirements. The public does not want to hear excuses, nor does it want the council to deflect blame. Blame cannot and should not be directed towards past SBOA Audits which did not specifically examine the health insurance reimbursements. The council has claimed the insurance reimbursements policy was applied with the Indiana statue, but the evidence shows otherwise. Blame cannot be placed on discussions of the SBOA auditors regarding the ordinance as the ordinance itself does not appear to be the issue rather it is the manner in which the council directed the statue administration. It is also concerning that nearly half the $331,000 repayment request for current council members steams from just the past two years that equates to approximately $80,000 each year, an amount that hardly seems to represent a cost savings for the citizens of the town. $37,000 and $41,000 half that, respectively in the past two years being reimbursed to two council members appear to be the most outrageous offenses. I recall the council justifying water rate increases by stating that other towns charge more so we should be able to charge more in our community, so our water bill doubled. Now we learn that other towns do not provide health insurance reimbursement to their town council members, the council has chosen not to follow their own logic because this inconsistency is troubling and hypocritical. One can only wonder why the council is disputing the SBOA Report findings when these findings are ultimately working to recover money for the town. The SBOA has issued a determination that the Town of Syracuse was noncompliant with insurance reimbursements statue and the ordinance and is now seeking reimbursements from the council members and some employees of the town. It is concerning that the council members who represent the town are now seeking to have the town cover their attorney bill and to defend themselves against the repayment directly issued by their own governing body against the town they work for so which side of the law are we representing here with the council? I am likely not the only citizen of whether future decisions made by the council would truly reflect the best interests of the town and their citizens. Thank you for your time.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nathan Scherer thanked everyone for their statements and read the council's statement "Surprised and extremely disappointed with the State Board of Accounts audit findings that certain reimbursement made to council members for private insurance was inappropriate and needs to be paid back. For decades, the Town of Syracuse has reimbursed paid insurance premiums to employees and council members not on the Town's group health plan. This was done as a cost savings measure and has never been questioned during multiple audits from the SBOA over many years. In fact, as recently as 2023, the SBOA told the town on two separate occasions that it saw no problems with the insurance premium reimbursement practice. Suddenly in November 2024, the town was surprised to learn for the first time that the SBOA alleged the decades old insurance premium reimbursement practice was not only impermissible but that the SBOA was going to pursue repayment from current and former town employees and officials. We maintain that reimbursing health insurance premiums outside the town group health plan is permissible under state law and it's clear the State Board of Accounts agreed with this practice for decades prior to their sudden change of opinion roughly a month ago. At this time, we plan to work with our attorneys and explore all legal options."

Lauren from The Paper asked how that is a cost savings to the town? How is that a cost savings measure to reimburse the council's insurance that way? Nathan Scherer replied, well in the course of decades as you are aware, first of all I don't have all the answer to that, I don't think anyone here does. Lauren stated if you don't have all the answers how do you know if it's a cost savings measurer? Nathan replied that it was based on people's statements that did it at that time. This has been ongoing for years. Lauren stated, I understand that but if you are going to say that it's a cost savings measure, you should have evidence to back that up because I don't see how that can be. Bill Musser stated, it is less expensive to do it than buying health insurance for each of us. Lauren stated most towns in this area do not have health insurance for their town council. Bill Musser stated that it has no bearing on it. There are towns across Indiana that do pay Council insurance for their elected officials. Lauren stated, the only one in this area that does is the City of Warsaw. Again, Bill Musser stated, it has no bearing.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Musser stated, Christmas decorations look great. Thank the committee for that and the Street Department.

Nathan Scherer stated, Over the SBOA report, I'd like to make a motion to consider the statement I read out and that we move forward with pursuing legal strategy to defend the town, our current and past employees, that is my motion. Bill Musser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill Musser moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Paul Stoelting seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

Nathan Scherer, Council President