SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

February 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 (virtual), Clerk Treasurer Virginia Cazier, and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon. Absent was Larry Siegel.

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.

The minutes from the December 19, 2023, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; William Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 89-233 for $1,517,177.82 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Appointment of Council Vice President Bill Musser appointed Paul Stoelting to be Vice President.

Bose Public Affairs Group contract consideration for approval Bill Musser moved to approve the contract with Bose Public Affairs Group; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-01 Salary and Compensation Ordinance amended Bill Musser moved to approve Ordinance 2024-01; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-02 Establishment of Department of Economic Development Nathan Scherer appointed David Wilkinson, Town Manager, to be President of the EDC. Paul Stoelting moved to nominate Virginia Cazier, Clerk Treasurer, as a member of the EDC; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-03 Authorizing the Use of Surplus BAN Proceeds for a Waterworks Project Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-03; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-04 Authorizing the Use of Surplus BAN Proceeds for the Sewage Works Project Bill Musser made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-04; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

LWG Letter of Engagement ref Rabbit Ridge Bond for consideration for approval Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the Letter of Engagement; Cindy Kaiser seconded. Bill Musser abstained. The motion carried.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineer, Task Order 2024-01 which was approved last month but for record keeping for SBOA there needs to be a motion made. Paul Stoelting approved Task Order 2024-01; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Just completed a lead service line inventory. Jeremy talked about the plans to replace those lead service lines towards the new RV Park being developed and N. Huntington Street. Jeremy spoke at length about the IFA-SRF-PER grant that can help with replacing the lead service lines.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions in his report. LWG should be sending out a bond draft for Rabbit Ridge, scheduled to come out this month.

David has been working on the façade grant, currently the facade grant is a loan. They can borrow up to $15,000. It is a 25/75-dollar match. It is restricted to the uptown area only. David is asking if the Council would consider the façade grant to be a grant instead of a loan and expand it out to all of Syracuse. Changing the amount from 25/75 to 50/50. Bill Musser made a motion to adopt the façade grant, 50/50 match up to $5000 per project and will cover the whole town not just uptown; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

There are no sidewalks south of the tracks in the village. David is asking the Council to consider building a boardwalk on top of the ditches along S.R. 13, to give pedestrians a safe place to walk. David spoke with INDOT they were fine with it, would like the Council's opinion on the project, it would go from Chicago Street to Palm Drive. David would discuss this project with the trails committee as well.

The Code Enforcer brought up some concerns to David. The first one was the animal waste in town. Currently we do not have an ordinance to deal with animal waste. The second one is we do not have any population control with animals in town. How many can a resident own? The Town Attorney will put an Ordinance together for the Council.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, absent.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, This coming weekend is the Princess Party, the following week is the Garage Sale, then the Easter Egg Hunt.

Big project of the year is working on Ward Park, playground, and pavilion. The pavilion is pretty much finished.

The Community Center Roof project, still looking at the beginning of April.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mark had one change to his report, fund request for the Street Department, he would like to put it on hold. He has not received the information in time for the requested funding.

Mark did have a funding request for wastewater, would like to upgrade the system, not just the pumps for phosphorus removal. The total cost would be $22,438.00 from Gasvoda and Assoc. It will take 4-6 weeks to receive. Would like to take it out of account 720.5. Paul Stoelting made the motion to purchase the system for $22,438.00; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mickey informed the Council there will be an ISO review on March 28th. Most insurance companies follow the ISO report.

Mickey asked for approval to purchase turnout gear from Hoosier Fire Equipment, Inc. for $29,547.00. Estimated time of arrival 4 to 6 months. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the purchase; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

The annual Pork Chop and Chicken Barbecue will be on Saturday, July 6th at Station 1.

Mickey asked the Council for approval purchase of a Demo Braun Chief XL on Ford F-550 4x4 Diesel chassis at a cost of $365,238.00. Scheduled to come offline in December and would be able to purchase in January. Paul asked if we currently have a third ambulance and Mickey stated yes, we do, and it will be sold once we receive the newest ambulance. Bill Musser made a motion to approve the purchase of the Demo Braun Chief XL on Ford F-550 4x4 Diesel chassis; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any questions in her report. Reported to the Council that the Clerk office has been receiving a lot of calls about the rate increase.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nathan Scherer brought up the Unform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement that the Clerk will file in her office. The statement pertains to Nathan Scherer's potential conflict of interest with the Town of Syracuse and South Shore, extending utilities.

Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Bill Musser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

David Wilkinson, Town Manager

President

Nathan Scherer, Council President