SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 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, Larry Siegel, and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon. Absent was Clerk-Treasurer Virginia Cazier.

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 February 20, 2024, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Cindy Kaiser seconded. Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 234-359 for $636,363.04 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-05 Introduction of Rabbit Ridge Bond Dennis Otten was present to answer any questions the Council might have. Dennis Otten reiterated the 80/20 agreement with Dr. Allen and the Town of Syracuse.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Chris Harrison, Commonwealth Engineer, informed the Council that both projects, North Tower and Oakwood Force Main are moving forward. Next week the Water AMP and PER will start.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions in his report. The DORA, Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, has passed. Warsaw and Winona Lake have been established. David asked the Council if they would be interested in creating a DORA in the Town of Syracuse. David discussed and explained to the Council how to start up a DORA and how it all works. Larry Siegel suggested talking to the restaurants uptown and seeing if they would be interested in participating. The Council agreed to move forward with the DORA, Bill Musser opposed.

Cindy Kaiser asked about the Library and Dolan Street. Jay Rigdon stated that the library is getting a survey done on the Dolan property.

Pearl Street Municipal Parking will start bidding around May and be completed in September.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Currently in the middle of hiring a new police officer.

Kathy Goodyear, Police Matron, retired this month. Hired a new matron, Chelsea Goodyear.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, announced Syracuse was named Tree City USA for the 23rd time and also received the 18th Growth Award. The Street Department does a lot of work for the Town to receive these awards.

The Easter Egg Hunts are this coming Saturday, March 23rd.

Ward Park Project, started demolishing the restrooms and storage building, hoping to finish by the end of the week.

Community Center Roof is to begin April 1st.

Larry Siegel asked about the status of the lifeguards. Chad sent the announcement to multiple schools. There have been no inquiries. Larry suggested moving up the hourly wage to $20.00. The council agreed to go up to $20.00 an hour for a lifeguard. Bill Musser made a motion to go up to $20.00 an hour; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mark informed the Council they did have their kickoff meeting for the Oakwood Force Main and are anticipating starting at the beginning of April.

The water tower painting and cleaning will start around April 1st.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mickey asked for approval of 4 AEDs for the purchase price of $14,389.67 plus shipping. The Fire Dept.'s current AEDs are 14 years old and need to be replaced. Paul Stoelting made a motion not to exceed $15,000.00 for the AED's; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk-Treasurer was not present.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report. Jay did inform the Council that he is working on the animal waste ordinance and will present it at next month's meeting.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Musser asked the Council what they thought about moving the Council meeting from 7 o'clock to 6 o'clock. It would be difficult for Attorney Jay Ridgon to get to Syracuse any earlier. Would a different day work better was discussed. Jay was going to give the Council his schedule to see what day works best.

Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Bill Musser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Virginia Cozier

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

President

Nathan Scherer, Council President