SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 15, 2025 @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 Cindy Kaiser, Paul Stoelting, Bil Musser, 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.

The Special Meeting Minutes – The minutes from May 28th, Special meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Cindy Kaiser seconded. Larry Siegel opposed. The motion carried.

The Council Minutes - The minutes from June 17th, regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Cindy Kaiser seconded. Bill Musser abstained. The motion carried.

The Town Claims - Claim #'s 0648-0762 for $520,433.80 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Commonwealth Engineering Report – Absent

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. We do have a new vehicle, and it is being outfitted now.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, it has been a very busy summer. The mud run and the 4th of July went well. The market is doing well. The next four weeks, we have several activities coming up, one being the tour de lakes, garage sales, and the Friday before school starts, we are doing a family fun night.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions on his report. The compliance period is over. The new water foreman, Josh Koontz, has his first inspection and it went very well.

We received twelve bids for the water tower. Dixon Engineering is our engineering firm for the water tower project, and the low bid came in at $129,000.00. We budgeted $197,000.00, Mark is asking council for their approval of $129,000.00. Paul Stoelting made the motion to accept the bid of $129,000.00 from Dixon Engineering; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mickey asked the council to approve the 2026 Fire Territory budget that were already approved by the Fire Board and Township yesterday. Paul made the motion to approve the Fire Territory budget; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

CLERK TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer asked if there were any questions on her report. After reviewing the proposed budget, the council chose not to give the elected officials a 3% raise next year. The Clerk asked why she was not getting a raise and Bill Musser stated he did not want to increase the budget. Nathan Scherer did not feel there should be a motion on it today. Larry Seigel insisted on making a motion not to put it in the salary ordinance, not give elected officials a raise in 2026; Bil Musser seconded. 4-0, Paul Stoelting abstained. Jay Rigdon stated, though the motion does not have a legal impact.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions in his report. There was discussion on hiring a full-time building inspector/code enforcer. He will be hired at $50,000 a year plus benefits. The pay will be split between the Town Manager and Police Department. Larry Seigel made the motion to hire a full-time building inspector/code enforcer; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

The Pearl Street parking lot is done but we have ran into some issues with larger vehicles and trucks not being able to turn on the north side by the alley. We have had multiple conversations with the builder and engineer; they worked out a new plan to take out some of the curbs and open the driveways so that vehicles can navigate a little better. Received one bid back from Beer and Slabaugh for $64,525.00 to change the openings to the parking lot. The original bid for the project was $450,141.23, plus some add-ons paid for by the RDC, we are still within budget. We will still be within budget. David has spoken to the engineering firm to take on some responsibility and he is currently just waiting for a response. Would like it to be complete before winter. Paul made the motion to approve the $64,525.00 for Beer and Slabaugh; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Discussions on Ordinance 01-22 adopted on 08-21-2021 establishing strict sign ordinance. Ordinance 03-01 was adopted 02-18-2003, which added penalties, then ordinance 03-09 was adopted on 07-15-2003 appealing to both ordinances. Currently we do not have an ordinance on signage. We do have a lot of signs along our streets. The town does not have jurisdiction on the state right of way on S.R. 13 on signages. Nathan Scherer stated he would like to have a work session on reviewing and changing some ordinances.

Main Street parking lot needing to be redone. Engineers estimate it at 1.1 million with inflation it is 1.5 million, trying to figure out a way to pay for it. We could pay cash for it, or a general obligation bond against the TIF or the general fund. At the beginning of the year in our general fund we have 7.1 million, by the end of the year, we will have closer to nine million. The general fund increases faster than we are spending. There are four different projects that the money can be used for, the boardwalk down to the village that is about 1.6 million, the Main Street parking lot is about 1.5 million. These are all in the comprehensive plan that we have been trying to work through, wanting to clean up the village and make the village look nice. Another project was to get rid of the overhead power lines that would cost around $10 to $20 million, what we can do is replace the stop lights with the strand wires and hanging wires. We can replace them with cantilever styles like we have uptown, it will remove all the wire clutter. A couple of years ago they quoted us $640,000.00. We could also use the funds for new gateway signage on both ends of town, the cost would be around $120,000.00 for both ends of town.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Bill Musser brought us KEDCO not being discussed last month. Larry Seigel will be meeting with Brad Jackson, and we can discuss it in the August council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Cindy Kaiser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

Nathan Scherer, Council President