# SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

## REGULAR MEETING

November 18, 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, Bil Musser, Paul Stoelting, and 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 Council Minutes** - The minutes from October 21st, regular meeting presented for approval. Cindy Kaiser moved to approve the minutes; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**The Special Meeting Minutes** – The minutes from October 29th, special meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

**The Town Claims** - Claim #'s 1124-1218 for $1,004,936.95 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**Parks Department Award** – David submitted an application to AIM; Syracuse won the state honor for the Schrock Athletic Field. The award was presented to the council. David gave a thank you to Chad and the parks department for all their hard work and everyone else who was involved, also honoring Larry Martindale and Tom Hoover for all their help from the very beginning.

**Resolution 2025-08 Land Donation Agreement for Habitat for Humanity** – Town Attorney prepared an ordinance a gift of property to Habitat for Humanity,301 N. Main Street. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-08; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

**Ordinance 2025-16 Additional Appropriation** – Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-16; Larry Siegel seconded. Al in favor. The motion carried.

**Employee Handbook Changes** – Two issues were discussed, mobile phone usage and standby/on call time. Bill Musser is in favor of giving all employees who use their phone for town business $15.00 a month. Nathan Scherer was on the fence, but he does not know a most cost-effective alternative. Council agreed to have all employees who use their phone for town business $15.00 a month. It will be put in the handbook, effective January 1st.

Town Attorney suggested for the on-call time, that the council does not have to change anything. Council decided not to change anything with the on-call time.

**Ordinance Fees Finalized** – Council tabled till the December meeting.

**Zach Dripps, MACOG ref CAP Grant Funds** – Mr. Dripps gave the council an update and discuss the CAP project. The county received money from the state, each of our small towns are getting up to $500,000 with a 50/50 match for each of the projects. The town has submitted the trail/boardwalk project for the matching grant. All applications must be submitted by June of 2026. The match from the town can be other grants, does not have to be a cash match. Funds must be spent in 2027. One project for each community cannot be multiple projects. David Abbott, State Representative, spoke about supporting the CAP grant application the town has submitted. He stated the boardwalk and trail project are considered a priority by the state. He understands there are budget constraints, the state legislature will be working on the SB 1, especially regarding LIT dollars. If the town can match the CAP grant, he is in full support of the boardwalk. David Abbott talked about his hometown, Rome City, recently installed boardwalks and all the positive aspects and how much it is being used. Larry Siegel thanked Mr. Abbott for coming to the meeting, Larry asked if he would be willing to sponsor a noncontiguous annexation bill again for the town. Mr. Abbott stated he could not answer that directly, there was some push back from the last time it was brought up. There was more discussion on housing, Larry Siegel informed Mr. Abbott that we can develop housing if we could do noncontiguous annexation. Mr. Abbott said he would be willing to work with the town to discuss noncontiguous annexation. There are housing issues all over Indiana. The council discussed with Mr. Abbott the SB1 and future projects, how do we move forward with projects when we do not know how SB1 will affect the town. Bill Musser suggested holding a work session in the first week of December.

**General Fund Projects – continuing discussion** – David would like to continue the conversation not knowing what the future holds with the SB1. Paul Stoelting stated even though we have the money, should we be spending it when we do not know what the future holds. Even though we have time, David would like to keep MACOG informed on what is going on in town with the CAP.

**Commonwealth Engineering Report** – Gale Garber, Operations and Client Liaison, for Commonweath, asked the council if they had any question on their report.

## TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson, everything in his report has been covered already. He asked if the council had any questions. Cindy Kaiser talked about the 250 Anniversary of the United States, the important of getting together with others in the community. The county is working on something at the fairgrounds; the beautification committee was discussing having something the weekend before the 4th of July. Trying to host something on Main Street, closing the road from the stop lights to the community center. Do not have all the details.

Larry Siegel asked if there are items on the agenda could we have the paperwork for those line items even though it was brought up in the past or email to them. David said yes, he can do that.

## POLICE

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

## PARK

Chad Jonsson had an issue at the community center, had to leave the meeting.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, absent.

## FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions on his report. Mickey informed the council this would be his last meeting and thanked the council. He introduced his successor, Deputy Chief Quinn Hunter. The council thanked Mickey for all his years of service.

## CLERK TREASURER

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer, asked the council if they would want a year end meeting, they replied no they would not.

The water rates for outside users were talked about in September and wanted to discuss them when all five board members were present. The Clerk-Treasure discussed how we only charge outside users $9.17 per 1000 gallons. The more water they get the less the charges are, for example if they get 17,500 gallons the rate goes down to $8.25. The town charges a resident $24.54 (22.93 rate + 1.61 tax) 0-1000 gallons used. We should also charge Macy's Condos, Bayview Estates, anyone that is not annexed into the town with the same charges. She suggested raising the rate by 10-15% more than we charge our residents. The council agreed to charge outside users 15% above residential rates. Town Attorney stated he will write up an ordinance for the December meeting.

## TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report.

## DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Brent Randall, executive director Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, refreshing to hear the dialog that the council has forward thinking, he hopes that will influence the gateway signs when you do your work sessions. Brent stated how dark it was this evening and that the entry way signs were not lit up. The entry sign that we refurbished on the north end of town is not lit nor the one by the middle school. Larry Siegel stated it is not like is it a good idea or not, it is about how it gets paid for with the constraints of the future and SB1. Would the Chamber be willing to help support this, do some fundraisers? Brent stated he would take it to the board.

**DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL - OLD BUSINESS**

Larry Siegel stated he thought that the council agreed to pay off the Water and Sewer BANs. David said there were no votes on it, just a discussion. Larry Siegel would like to appropriate the funds to get the BANs paid for this year, get it done as soon as we can. This will be talked about with the town attorney.

**DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL - NEW BUSINESS**

Larry Siegel stated that in the past if anyone was to apply for a grant, they would get permission from the council first. Do we need to make a resolution on this? David said he would talk with Jay about it. Grants that require a financial contribution from the town should be brought to the council. If any department is applying for a grant let the council know they are applying.

Bill Musser moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Paul Stoelting seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: _____
Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

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Nathan Scherer, Council President