SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 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, Larry Siegel, Clerk-Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon. Absent council member Paul Stoelting.

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 Town Claims - Claim #'s 0891-0987 for $691,651.85 presented for approval. Cindy Kaiser moved to approve the claims; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Council made a motion to amend the agenda to pay claims first before the minutes. Larry Siegel made the motion to pay claims 0891-0987; Cindy Kaiser seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

The Council Minutes - The minutes from August 19th, regular meeting presented for approval. Cindy Kaiser moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2025-12 Additional Appropriation General 1101 to 311 Town Manager Professional Services – Larry Siegel made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-12; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2025-13 Rezoning Request-Matt Sandy-202 E. Pickwick Drive, it is zoned commercial would like it to be zoned residential. It is being used as a house. Larry Siegel made a motion to rezone to residential; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2025-14 Town Codes Amended – Larry Siegel approved the amended Town Codes; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Resolution 2025-07 Return of Health Insurance Funds - Larry Seigel made a motion to move this to the end of the meeting. Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

1st Public Hearing, 2026 Budget – Public hearing was open, Clerk Treasurer read the budget to the council. The town manager spoke about the excess in the general fund. We have an appropriation under the town manager's budget listed as infrastructure projects. We currently have $1,500,000.00. In the general fund we have approximately $8 million, we spend approximately $3 million a year. It may change with SB1. We bring in more revenue than we are spending. We were planning on using SRF funds for the additional 2.4 million on the Huntington Street Project. SRF has changed when we would be able to get the funding for this, now they are saying we will not get the funding till next summer, maybe next fall. We could either fund the project ourselves or postpone the project. We must tell OCRA what are matching funds will be by next Friday. Either we are paying cash for the entire amount or using SRF for the entire amount. Decision must be made tonight. SRF rate is 3.13 % and our Lake City Bank rate is around 4.63%. The water department has one bond and one BAN outstanding. BAN has $1,060,000 and Waterworks 2016 has approximately $186,000 remaining scheduled to be paid off in February. The BAN is scheduled to be paid off December 2027. The council can schedule to pay them off with the excess general fund. The decision for tonight is how are we going to pay the 2.4 million for the Huntington Street Project and are we going to allot any other cash for these other capital projects or pay off a couple of the smaller water loans. Larry Seigel would want to get out of debt with that excess of millions of dollars in general fund. The town manager added that the boardwalk is already half funded, we do not want to turn away those grants. The council needs to decide how much to put in the infrastructure appropriation for the 2026 budget. Larry made a motion to dedicate the SRF loan as a match to the OCRA grant. Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried. How much to transfer from general fund to infrastructure? If we do all the capital projects that is three million. Let put six million into the infrastructure appropriation from general fund. Would like to change the name to capital projects/debt reduction. Larry Siegel made a motion to allocate six million from the general fund to capital projects/debt reduction. Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried. The public hearing on the 2026 is closed. Cindy Kaiser made a motion to close the public hearing; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Commonwealth Engineering Report – The water project is close to being done with the design. The right of entry agreements has been mailed out to residents, and the second mailing will be sent out soon. There has been a change, it is possible for it to go right to the house.

Phend and Brown will be working on the CCMG project this month and then we will be done before fall ends.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions in his report. The south water tower project is scheduled to being the beginning of next week. They will be redoing the logo. The council approved the contract back in June for $237,000. The contract came in at $129,000 and $40,000 on engineering. There was a change order that came in to do some repairs to the north water tower, the overflow stack is in need or repair, they will put an aircraft warning light on the south tower. That is an additional $15, 880 to the project, but it is still within the amount that you approved of for $230,000.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, August is slow but in September and October is busy for us. Last month we were looking on getting doors to replace them at the community center. The front doors and the bathroom doors, those have been replaced at the community center are operational.

The pickleball court project at Schrock's Park, the asphalt has been laid. The installation of the fence will start tomorrow.

Next weekend there is a large softball tournament.

This Friday the student council homecoming parade will start at 4:30 leave QES building running up Chicago Street to high school.

Harvest Festival is October 4th 10 to 2 Lakeside Park.

Indoor Garage Sale following weekend, the 11th 9-2.

Trick or Treat Trail at Lakeside Park from 1:00-3:00.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, absent.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions on his report. Training station is coming along great.

Would like to get a CTE program stated with the high school, getting people in firefighting and EMC, because that is where your next wave of firefighters are going to come from.

Heard of Mickey Scott's impending retirement. Thanked Mickey for all his hard work and years of service.

CLERK TREASURER

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer, talked about our water rates to outside users. We currently charge residents $24.54 per one thousand gallons. Outside users we only charge $9.17 per one thousand gallons and the more water they get the less the amount is per one thousand gallons. Spoke to Mr. Reynolds who did our water rate ordinance in 2023, he stated we could amend the ordinance and raise the outside user rate 10-20%. Will send out an email with correct numbers to discuss at the next months meeting. Council was in favor of the increase to outside users.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report.

Resolution 2025-07 Return of Health Insurance Funds - Larry Seigel asked if we could split that up the Resolution so Nathan and Cindy can vote on each resolution, and we have a quorum. Yes, it can be split, removing one of the names, leaving it like it is, doing the same for the other resolution removing the other name. Jay will prepare the resolutions. Question was asked if the checks can be written tomorrow. Yes, they can, just need to make a motion. Resolution removing Nathan Scherer. Larry Siegel made a motion to approve; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The motion

carried. Resolution removing Cindy Kaiser. Larry Siegel made a motion to approve; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

Bill Musser moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Larry Siegel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

~~Nathan Scherer~~, Council President
Cindy Kaiser, V.P.