

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

April 21, 2009

Cassie Cowan, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, and Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cassie asked for comments from the public on agenda items. There were no comments.

The minutes of the March 17th meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Larry seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. Brian abstained since he was absent. The motion carried.

Claims #364 through #497, as well as SRF claim #79, were presented for payment. Paul made a motion to approve claims #364 through #497 and SRF claim #79. Larry questioned the SRF claim for Wightman Petrie. Paul noted a copy of the invoice is in the packet. Julie explained Henry talked to Ken Jones; Mr. Jones agreed to waive the \$2,000.00 invoice that was not approved last month. This SRF claim is a new invoice for \$1,810.00; Ken Jones agreed to waive \$900.00 of this invoice. Brian seconded. Brian asked for clarification on a couple of claims. He asked if the \$21,173.51 for claim #462 included the \$14,066.75. He was advised this is in addition to the \$14,066.75 that was paid last month. He asked Jeremy about the progress payment for DJ Construction; Jeremy advised it is for structural engineering, design, steel, and lumber. Three voted for the motion; Larry abstained. The motion carried.

Ordinance #09-02 to transfer money from the Rainy Day Fund was presented. Brian moved to approve the ordinance; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Town Forester Jerry Riffle advised the Arbor Day Celebration will be this Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The third graders from Syracuse Elementary will be participating in the Arbor Day events. Cassie read the Arbor Day proclamation.

Tammy Cotton, Executive Director of the Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, updated the council on the banner project. The Image Group will be doing the banners. The banners were designed by Kathy Boyts; the banners will be 18" X 36". Tammy provided a sample of the colors and font on the banners. The current plan will be to start with 27 banners using town and chamber funds; banners will alternate on the decorative light posts. Larry asked how much has been raised; Tammy stated the cost of the initial 27 banners will be a little over \$2,000.00. Brian asked if there will be any beautification money left; Henry advised no. A short discussion followed on color and font size; council members want to make sure the font size is large enough so that it can be read from a vehicle.

Ken Jones, of Wightman Petrie, discussed his memo dated April 17. He stated the memo was composed to address concerns about the level of complexity on the project for the industrial park. Ken advised the memo is just highlights; he can provide additional details if needed. He noted none of the offsite costs are tied to any of those approvals. The item that has taken so much time is the agreement with the Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission. He noted earlier discussions targeted the AmeriCamp project. The initial declaratory resolution for TIF and the previous draft of the interlocal agreement were tied to the financial model for the AmeriCamp project. Between the adoption of the declaratory and confirmatory resolution, the AmeriCamp project fell

apart. After AmeriCamp, another discussion with the Redevelopment Commission commenced in early 2007. Brian stated the problem he has is that it seems like we have done everything but bend over backward; he asked what are we doing wrong. Larry also noted Elkhart County has the highest unemployment.

Ken Jones advised we are now into final zoning; all the procedures we are going through now are by ordinance. He agreed it can be frustrating, but advised we have to go through the procedures. One complication is that in 2006, the Syracuse Comprehensive Plan was not reviewed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the Elkhart County Commissioners. Larry noted if we were a private developer, we wouldn't even have a comprehensive plan. Ken Jones explained this review is due to the state law covering comprehensive plans; we also have to present it to the Kosciusko Area Plan Commission. Discussion followed; council members expressed their frustration and questioned if Elkhart County is even interested. Ken Jones explained the TIF boundaries; the area north of U.S. 6 is not in the TIF. He noted we are only second municipality in Elkhart County to pursue a comprehensive land use plan. Larry questioned why there is a conflict for the land west and north of U.S. 6. Ken advised there was some opposition from Jackson Township property owners. Ken presented a new land use comprehensive plan for the land north of U.S. 6 to designate it as agricultural and residential. Brian stated he can agree to that. Henry recommended we amend our plan tonight to designate the area north of U.S. 6 as agricultural and residential. Ken Jones discussed the DPUD; he noted Elkhart County wants the DPUD to make sure that specific controls are applied to the project. Paul asked what will happen when we have a developer, and the developer wants changes. Ken advised that will happen. The planner's goals are to stay involved. Ken continued and explained we are trying to limit our exposure; the interior designs are not presently included. We would like to maintain some flexibility for this project. Ken Jones is not recommending any roadway dedications until we have an end user; when that happens, we will have to fix the location of road and lots. He noted there are those in Elkhart County who support our project and want to see it move forward. Ken added the project is on schedule based on what Wightman Petrie provided in February; it will be ready for construction on schedule. Larry expressed his frustration at the amount of time it has taken; he pointed out the United States President recently visited Elkhart County because of his concern for the unemployment. Ken provided a drawing of the proposed land use change and pointed out the specific area to be designated as agricultural and residential. Brian moved to adopt and agree to the area in the drawing provided by Wightman Petrie dated April 21, 2009. Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Larry explained we are trying to do something; Elkhart County affects the Kosciusko County unemployment.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported he recently met with the economic development director for Elkhart County. There is not a lot of money, but she did agree to provide a link to our website. He also met with State Senator Marlin Stutzman and took him on a tour of our industrial park; Senator Stutzman is looking into helping us any way he can.

Henry noted there is a claim for our KDI contribution for \$250.00. We budgeted up to \$1,500.00 for KDI; we could use the remainder of the money for additional banners, or we can contribute to the Elkhart County EDC. It was noted Henry already promised \$750.00 toward the cost of the banners. Brian moved to pay an additional \$1,250.00

toward the banner project; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry announced the dam committee is meeting tomorrow to receive the consultant's report. Brian requested to be informed about costs. Henry also announced our \$19,000.00 grant request for the sidewalk/trail project from the Kosciusko County Convention and Visitors Bureau was approved.

Henry reported the beautification project is proceeding. We will be installing 15-16 new decorative lights and NIPSCO will provide 10 trees.

Henry presented a list of infrastructure projects; he asked the council to approve the list. He noted there are several projects listed for 2009 that he would like to complete this year. The various projects on the list were discussed; Henry will bring it back to the council if the cost is more than estimated. The bid opening for the street paving project in Forest Park is scheduled for this Thursday, April 23; Henry suggested we may want to have a Special Meeting next week to award the bid.

Larry made a motion to approve and pursue the infrastructure plan Henry presented; Paul seconded. Brian questioned if the 1 ½ inch overlay listed for a couple of streets will do us any good. Jeremy advised it will upgrade the street. After more discussion, four voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Henry asked the council if they would like a Special Meeting to award the paving bids. The council will meet this Friday, April 24, at Cool Beans, 109 N Huntington St, at 8:30 a.m.

The trash dumpster at Forest Park was discussed. There was concern about the dumpster being located at the entrance, however, no other option is available.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello discussed the monthly activity report for March. There were 364 calls for service and 10 criminal arrests. He noted the number of drug charges may go down. We are now working with the Indiana State Police Suppression Team; we may have fewer arrests by our department due to the team.

Tony announced the Police Department will be holding a bike auction at the Syracuse Community Center this Saturday, April 27, at 9:00 a.m.

Tony presented a request from a business owner. Heads Up Styling Salon has moved to the old Owens building. Jill Pearson, of Heads Up Styling Salon, asked if the first four parking spots on Pearl St could be made two hour parking, similar to what is on Main St and S.R. 13. Tony will check with the other business owners in the area to see if they have a problem with the two hour parking. If the council agrees, he will have an ordinance prepared for the May meeting to make the north side of Pearl St. two hour parking. There was a brief discussion. The council had no problem with the request.

Tony advised the annual Kiwanis Car Show will be held on May 16. Long Dr. from Washington St. to Northshore Dr. will be closed for this event.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, announced Arbor Day events will be held this Friday, April 24. The event will be held at Syracuse Elementary School and will have tree planting, a worm farm, and tree games. A classroom presentation will be made on April 23.

Chad provided an update on activities of the trail committee. A bridge is being installed at Mud Lake. The goal is to allow residents to travel from the high school to Wawasee Boat Company. Chad was asked how the public will cross from that segment

of the trail to the other segment across the road. Chad advised there will be a flashing light at Elnora Dr. to allow trail users to cross the road.

The Farmer's and Artisan Market will start on Saturday, May 16 at Crosson Mill Park. There are 30 openings; 6 booths have already been rented. Starting in June and July, there will be a small space for backyard farmers to sell their produce; the charge will be \$5.00. Items for sale must be homegrown or homemade. There will be special events and a demonstration on one Saturday of each month. A seasonal price of \$200.00 will be available to vendors. The hours of the market will be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Superintendent, reported they have repeatedly tried to repair the polymer machine at the wastewater treatment plant, and it can not be fixed. He obtained a couple of quotes on replacing the equipment; the low quote was from Living Waters for \$7,776.00 plus freight. Paul moved to approve the purchase of a polymer machine from Living Waters; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy discussed the demolition of the old water department buildings. Jeremy advised he requested quotes to remove the buildings; he also requested separate quotes for removing the old water tower. For the demolition of the water tower, only one quote was received. Jeremy added he does have one more interested party that may want to use the water tower; he asked the council to approve just tearing down the buildings for now. Council members discussed installing satellite equipment on the new tower rather than on the old. It was noted if the old water tower is used to mount equipment, maintenance, such as painting, would still have to be done on a regular basis. Henry noted an empty water tower is not as stable as a tower filled with water. Paul moved to accept the quote from Iseler Demolition Inc to dismantle the old water tower for \$12,800.00; the demolition is to be completed in 60 days. Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The quotes to remove the old water buildings were discussed. Bob's Excavating submitted the lowest quote for \$24,920.00. The quote from Bob's Excavating also included an amount if we would like to remove the old fire station at the same time; that cost is \$6,500.00. Discussion followed on how to pay for the demolition of the old fire station since the building does not belong to the water department. Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline recommended using Cigarette Tax funds. Brian made a motion to accept the quote from Bob's Excavating for a total amount of \$31,420.00; \$6,500.00 is to be paid the Cigarette Tax. The work is to start before May 31 and is to be completed within 60 days after that. Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Two quotes were presented for sidewalks. Jeremy noted the quotes were very close, however, Thompson Concrete agreed to help remove the old sidewalk on Portland St for no additional charge. The installation of the new sidewalk on Portland St can be done in-house; that would leave the sidewalks on Brooklyn and Hickory to be installed by a contractor. Thompson Concrete's bid for those two sidewalks is \$22,917.60. Paul moved to approve the quote from Thompson Concrete for \$22,917.60; the work is to be completed within sixty days. Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK TREASURER

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline advised there is now an agreement in place between the Lake Area Community Band and the Park Department for concerts this summer. In exchange for these concerts, we have sent an annual contribution of \$2,000.00 to the

band. Paul made a motion to send a contribution of \$2,000.00 to the Lake Area Community Band; Julie is authorized to send a check in the morning. Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie noted there are several 2009 storm sewer projects on the list of projects approved by the council earlier in the meeting. Nothing was appropriated in 2009. In addition, nothing was appropriated in 2009 for expenditures from CCI-Cigarette Tax. She requested council approval to advertise for an additional appropriation from the Cumulative Storm Sewer Fund for \$50,000.00 and CCI-Cigarette Tax for \$6,500.00. Paul so moved; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to discuss.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian asked Julie if the unemployment claims are about what we have expected. Julie advised she is not sure how the extended benefits will affect the amount we have to pay.

Brian introduced discussion on moving the balance of the Cumulative Fire Fund to the Fire Territory. Larry disagreed; he stated they have their own money. Brian noted when we established the fund we told the residents we were going to use the money for fire. Mike Reed suggested we obtain more information. Cassie stated it would be ethical to transfer it to the Fire Territory. Larry strongly disagreed; the Fire Territory has a huge budget. He feels if we transfer the funds, Syracuse will pay more than their prorated share. Cassie stated fire protection is a group effort. The township had a Cumulative Fire Fund, and they did transfer the balance. Cassie tabled discussion on the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry seconded. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Cassandra Cowan, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer