

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2010

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian asked for comments from the public on agenda items. Sharon Fowler asked about the agenda item on tax abatements. Brian explained the abatements were already given for Precision Automotive, AIA Countertops, Jasper Plastics, and Syracuse Properties. Cassie added the abatements have to be approved every year.

The minutes of the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Cassie seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #369 through #494 were presented for payment. Cassie moved to approve the claims; Paul seconded. Brian noted that one of the claims for \$9,700.00 was to rebuild a pump. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Council President Brian Woody read the Arbor Day Proclamation declaring April 30, 2010 as Arbor Day in the Town of Syracuse.

Ordinance 10-01, An Ordinance Providing for One Way Traffic and No Parking in the Forest Park Addition, was introduced. Police Chief Tony Ciriello explained when Forest Park was annexed and the roads were improved, we knew that the roads would not be very wide. The staff determined it should be a one way street. The residents were sent notices twice, and we met with them once; only one resident was concerned. The ordinance also includes a requirement that there will be no parking since there is no room on the road. Larry moved to adopt Ordinance 10-01; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Henry added the Post Office has no problem with renaming all the roads there with one name; that would be a future ordinance.

### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia discussed the specifications for the garbage contract. He explained there are two scenarios; one with tags and the second with a 96 gallon toter. All bids have a five, six, or seven year option. There is alternate weekly recycling with either an 18 gallon or 96 gallon toter. Larry asked about the weekly recycling option; Henry advised he feels that would be too expensive. Larry commented people get confused with the alternate weekly recycling. Henry advised we expect recycling to increase with the 96 gallon toter. Brian noted the last time we bid, the cost for weekly recycling was exactly double the price of the alternate weekly recycling. The bids will be advertised on April 28 and May 5; the bid opening is May 13.

Henry asked the council for their input. After discussion, it was decided bids would also be taken for weekly recycling and a ten year contract. Paul asked about large item pickup; Henry advised it is included. Henry was also asked to obtain a list from Borden's on what they are currently accepting for recycling.

Henry advised we have received CF-1 forms for tax abatement from Syracuse Buildings, Jasper Plastics, AIA Countertops, and Precision Automotive. The council must determine if the companies are in compliance. Henry recommended we indicate they are in compliance given current economic conditions. Cassie moved to accept the CF-1 forms for Syracuse Properties, JP Inc., AIA Countertops, and Precision Automotive and determine they are in substantial compliance given current economic conditions. Brian is authorized to sign the forms. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported the new website is up and running. The Open House at the new Water Plant will be on May 11, 12, and 13 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The public is invited. We are working on planting trees and putting banners up. We are also getting quotes for new street lights.

## POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello advised there were 339 calls for service in March; there were 9 criminal arrests, seven of those arrests were felonies. Now that the weather is warming up, the police department is looking for properties that need to be cleaned up.

Tony reported on several events. Main St. will be closed on Friday night, May 14 for the Friday Night Cruise In. Main St. will be closed from SR 13 to Harrison St, possibly to Lake St if there is a crowd. The Chamber is also planning on having a business expo at the same time. On May 15, the car show will be held at the Community Center; Long Dr. will be closed for that event from Lake St to Northshore Dr. Tom Corbat, of the American Legion, contacted the Police Department about the Memorial Day parade that will be held on May 31. The lineup is at 12:00 p.m.; the parade starts at 1:30 p.m.

Tony advised he was contacted by Dr. Steve Clark, Chairman of the Find Us Name Us Committee of the Department of Justice; there will be a conference in July in St. Louis. Tony was asked to be the law enforcement representative at the conference. Larry asked if we have much of that around here; Tony stated mostly runaways.

Tony advised this year we budgeted for a new patrol car. He noted he previously talked about going to more fuel efficient vehicles; the Chevy Impala is a good in town car. The cost is about \$3,000.00 less. The fuel economy is also better, about 8 mpg more in the city and 10 mpg more on the highway. The state bid for the Ford Crown Vic is about \$23,300.00. Lakeside Chevrolet has located a 2010 Chevy Impala with a 3.6 liter motor for \$20,353.00. If that one is gone, the salesman is confident he can locate another one for no more than \$20,553.00. The current light

bars are too big and were purchased used. Tony found a light bar for \$934.00 at Waymire. All the other equipment will fit in the new car. He asked the council for permission to purchase 2010 Chevy Impala to replace Car 11, which is unsafe. Car 10 would become the reserve car. Paul moved to allow Tony to purchase a 2010 Chevy Impala four door sedan at a cost not to exceed \$20,553.00 to be delivered in 14 days. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Tony asked if Julie can write a check upon delivery; the council approved that request.

Tony explained a second car was totaled when it was hit by a deer; it is a 2006 Crown Victoria. Insurance will pay \$10,570.00; the police department will get a salvage title. Tony would like to make the Impala he has now into a patrol car for Officer Griffith, and then buy a used car for his use from the insurance money. The Car Company in Warsaw will work with Tony to find a car; he is presently trying out a Ford Taurus. Tony requested council permission to buy a car with the funds from the insurance company. Brian moved to allow Tony to purchase a lightly used vehicle not to exceed \$10,570.00; Julie is authorized to make payment upon delivery. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

#### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson announced the Arbor Day Celebration will be at the elementary school on April 30 at 1:00 p.m. The Town received a Tree City USA Award and a Growth Award for 2009. The Farmer's and Artisan Market at Crosson Mill Park will start on May 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Syracuse Fun and Fitness Fest will be on June 5 at the Syracuse Elementary School. The Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary organizations are working with the Park Department on this event. Chad is also working with the Dekko Foundation on grants for this event. There will be races, an obstacle course, basketball, and tennis events. Larry asked how many Easter eggs were in the park for the Easter Egg Hunt. Chad advised he didn't know. Larry asked about the low water level. Chad advised we are about an inch down, but rain is expected this weekend. Bill asked about the Rock Solid program. Chad stated it is going well.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller discussed the purchase of a backhoe. He advised at some point they will want to replace the new backhoe; he looked into resale value for the machines. Caterpillar has the greatest resale value. The Caterpillar also has several other features, including an automatic idle down. He recommended the purchase of the Caterpillar backhoe for \$73,809.00, including trade in. Cassie moved to accept the quote from Caterpillar with delivery in four months. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy distributed a list of streets and sidewalks to be repaired and replaced in 2010. He asked for input from the council. If the council is satisfied with the list, Jeremy can proceed with getting quotes from contractors and also with starting the work we can complete in house. Larry suggested Jeremy can work with Henry and Tony on determining the sidewalks that are needed for safety. Larry commented he would like to have the sidewalks in place by the end of May so they can be used in the summer season. Brian suggested Jeremy talk to Dr. Edington and Mr. Garner about what is needed for the school children. Brian agreed with Larry we need the sidewalks as soon as possible. Mike Reed suggested Jeremy work with Henry and Tony to finalize the list and obtain quotes and get started as soon as possible; everything is to be finalized at the next meeting. Larry added he would like the sidewalks completed by the end of June. Cassie moved to proceed as Mike Reed suggested; work is to be completed by the end of June and is not to exceed \$54,000.00; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

#### CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline advised an error was discovered in our code book. There was an ordinance adopted in 1958 to establish Main St. as the baseline for street numbering; no one was aware of this ordinance. We renumbered in 1991 and used the railroad tracks as the baseline. A new ordinance needs to be adopted to correct the baseline. Julie will work with Mike Reed to correct this.

Julie discussed our cell phone policy. Our benefits ordinance presently allows police officers who use their personal cell phones for town business to be reimbursed at a rate of \$15.00 per month. She advised we have a similar situation in other departments where employees use their cell phones for town business. She noted her own office contacts the water employees frequently throughout the day. During discussion yesterday at the department meeting, department heads agreed to ask the council to extend this benefit to all employees, not just police. The council agreed to revise the ordinance.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY

The Town Attorney had nothing further to report.

#### DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler stated a couple of years ago the town eliminated our animal control and ordinance officer. She asked where that money went. Julie advised that is why we are able to stay under max levy. Sharon explained she feels the police are busy and we need to get our ordinance officer back. She suggested Hal could work on ordinance violations as well as housing.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry asked what is going to happen to the two police cars we are replacing. Tony advised they will be used for parts for the current fleet.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian advised we are running into major issues in the sewer department; the plant is 22 years old. Because of the age of the plant and the issues we are having, we may need to look into a sewer rate increase. Tom Miller, Severn Trent Area Director, advised Severn Trent will do a Systems Energy Management Plan. A group of engineers headed up by Tom Gordon, Technical Services Director, will be creating the plan. They will conduct a review of the treatment facility, process controls, ways to reduce our carbon footprint, and energy consumption. A proposal would be prepared with a plan of ideas, recommendations, and near and future capital investments. A finalized report will be completed in 2-3 months. Severn Trent is conducting this at no additional cost. Larry asked if we are still at 50% capacity. Tom advised yes. Sharon Fowler commented a rate increase would be detrimental in view of the economy. Mike Reed advised this is only a study; it is not for sure yet. There will be a public hearing if a rate increase is proposed.

Sharon also suggested we should look into having council members at large.

Bill Musser asked about the cable franchise. Julie advised it is a fifteen year franchise.

Paul moved to adjourn; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Brian Woody, President

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Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer