

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING

April 19, 2011

Paul Stoelting, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Jeff Morgan, Bill Musser, Larry Siegel, 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.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

Paul introduced approval of the minutes of the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bill moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims # 349 through #479 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 11-02, a Rezoning Petition, was introduced. Dan Richard, of the Area Plan Commission, presented a report and recommendation from the APC. He distributed a map to the council illustrating the area to be rezoned from public use to commercial. There is a small wedge that is 5/100 of an acre and is zoned public use; the bulk of the property is zoned commercial. Mr. Allen would like all of the property zoned commercial. Mr. Richard explained the Area Plan Commission has made a unanimous recommendation to rezone that area commercial. Mr. Edd Allen, the petitioner, was also present. Henry asked Mr. Allen to explain what he plans to do. Mr. Allen answered he would like to place a small modular office unit there. Henry asked if he plans just one; Mr. Allen stated yes. He added there may be an additional unit added later if it works out. Dan Richard advised with the frontage and square footage requirements, it is doubtful that would work out. Mr. Richard continued and advised there is a hearing on Thursday on a request for a variance; at the hearing, the BZA will review plans for the property. The only thing the Area Plan Commission considered was whether the area should be zoned commercial. Mr. Richard advised the BZA can apply conditions; it can place a condition that it will not be split, for example. Henry expressed concern the town driveway to the dam not be used. Mr. Richard advised there are criteria that have to be met for a variance. Henry stated if it is approved, he would like a condition that a barrier be installed between Mr. Allen's property and the towns. Mr. Allen described the building he would like to place there. Discussion followed. Brian told Mr. Allen the town recently approached him for another situation and he refused to cooperate; Brian is not at liberty to grant the request at this time. Town Attorney Mike Reed went over the six criteria used by the APC when they made the recommendation. Larry stated there may be issues with at least two of the criteria.

Brian made a motion to deny the rezoning request. The motion died due to lack of the second. Paul asked if there were any further motions or discussion. The council made no further motions.

Town Manager Henry DeJulia presented completed CF-1 forms for tax abatement; Henry recommended the council approve the documents. Forms were completed for Jasper Plastics, AIA Countertops, Syracuse Properties, LLC, and Technical Services. Henry provided a condensed report with employment numbers. Brian made a motion to determine the businesses are all in substantial

compliance given the current economic conditions; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paul read the Arbor Day Proclamation proclaiming April 29, 2011 as Arbor Day.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### TOWN MANAGER

Henry presented a resume for a general services engineer he would like to hire. Paul confirmed the engineer would work as needed on an hourly basis; Henry stated yes. Larry moved to approve Henry's request; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; Brian voted against. The motion carried.

Henry updated the council on the easements we will need for the EDI/HUD grant. We will need three easements instead of the five we thought we would need; we have one so far.

Henry announced the Public Hearing for the Oakwood annexation is scheduled for June 14 at 7:00 p.m. The Fiscal Plan is available for review in the clerk's office.

Henry presented a request from KEDCo for their yearly contribution; they are requesting \$1,000.00. Larry moved to approve the request; Bill seconded. Bill added he met the director George Robertson and he was very impressed. Four voted for the motion; Brian voted against. Motion carried.

### POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello went over the calls and arrests for the month of March. He reported the Dodge Durango that was ordered has been built and will be shipped to the dealer the end of this week or the first of next week.

Tony reported on several upcoming events. The Church of God will be having a car show on April 30; they have requested Washington St be closed from Huntington St to Harrison St. They will also use the upper section of the parking lot. On May 20, there will be a Cruise In uptown on Main St from Huntington St east. On May 21, the Kiwanis Car Show will be held at the Community Center. Summerfest will be held this year on July 7, 8, and 9. On Saturday July 9, Main St will be closed west of Huntington St to Dolan Dr.

Tony and Julie confirmed that the clerk's office can cut a check to the car dealer when the Durango is delivered. The council advised it is still ok.

The Regular Meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m. for an Executive Session and resumed at 7:52 p.m.

### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the Egg Hunts held two weekends ago went well. On Friday night, there were 35 middle school kids, and on Saturday morning, there were 225 elementary kids. The Municipal Building Corporation will hold their annual meeting before the next council meeting.

Chad reported Arbor Day will be held at the elementary school April 29. The Farmer's Market will open for the season on May 21.

Chad reported a couple of members of the Vega Field committee were present if the council has any questions. Chad distributed a map of the plans for the field. The K-21 Foundation awarded a grant to the Park Foundation for \$80,000.00; it is a dollar for dollar matching grant. Any other grants or donations we receive will be counted toward the match. We have one year to raise the matching funds. Chad advised that he, Chris Cotton, and Jack Birch met with Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller on site to discuss the plans and answer any questions Jeremy might have.

Paul asked if the plan is supposed to be approved by Town Council. Chad answered he feels the Park Board would approve improvements to Vega Field; any improvements to public works land would be approved by the Town Council. Chad suggested there could possibly be a five or six year agreement for use of public works land, since it will be needed for expansion in the future. Larry asked if the football field will be built right away. Chad stated it could be built quickly. Plans are for portable bleachers and storage, a concession stand on wheels, portable restrooms, etc. Nothing would be permanently constructed except the fence. Brian asked if there was ever a plan for reducing the baseball fields to three and keeping the football field where it is now. Chad advised youth baseball needs four fields. Larry questioned if the parking lots would be paved; Chad stated they will probably be gravel to start. Chris Cotton advised the drawing shows a parking lot; they are now talking about a walkway to the football field with a bridge and no parking on the public works side. Brian reported he talked to owner to the west; he would consider swapping parking areas. For future growth for water and wastewater, Brian would like to see one football field, no practice field, and no paved parking on the north side of the creek. Brian would like to commit to PeeWee football that we are not going to throw them out in a couple of years. Paul questioned if the plans are to use the field this fall; Chad answered the fall of 2012 would be the earliest for football. Paul would like to have input from Jeremy. Larry noted wastewater may need the land in the future, but he hates to see the property go unused in the meantime. Brian asked Chris what PeeWee football needs. Chris would like an agreement to explore; he added PeeWee football does not have a home now. Henry asked if PeeWee football has considered the town property on Dolan Dr. Chris answered parking would be an issue more than anything. Chris added two or three years is better than what they have now. Bill suggested turning the football field in a different direction and eliminating the practice field; that would take less space. Jeremy noted the road back to that area is not wide enough for two cars. If there is no parking on the north side, it would be easy to fence in the football area, rather than fence in the public works areas to keep people out. Brian stated the council would like to see parking eliminated on the north side, turn the football field, eliminate the practice field, and build a bridge across the creek. Brian will continue to work with the owner on the south side of the creek on the parking issue. Larry added it must be understood it is temporary. Jack Birch stated they are at the point of going forward with funding; they were concerned with how it would be received by the council.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller discussed street paving for 2011. He asked the council if they approved his plans to topcoat the access roads in the village. It would get rid of the dirt parking, mud holes, ruts, etc. They would also add a white stripe along the parking areas. Larry asked where this would be done. Jeremy answered it would be from Bowser St to Chicago St on the east side

of SR 13; on the west side of SR 13, it would be from the old Arthurs north to Chicago St. Jeremy explained preliminary costs look higher than the budgeted amount; he feels we can reduce the cost by doing some of the work in house. Henry added along with the new lights we will add, this will complete just about everything that needs to be done in the village. Tony advised the added stripe will reduce the risk of accidents. The council was ok with the plan.

The sidewalks for 2011 depend on the cost of the Harkless bridge. The county engineer is checking on the shape of the existing pilings; if the pilings are ok, it won't take all of the sidewalk money.

Jeremy reported the Trail Committee is working on the bridge across Skinner Ditch. The Trail Committee will be installing a sidewalk from the access road at SR 13 west to Sycamore. The sidewalk will be right next to the roadway; Jeremy feels the sidewalk would be safer if a curb is installed. Jeremy would like to contribute \$3,984.00 of sidewalk money to elevate it. Brian moved to pay an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 to raise the sidewalk; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy made several announcements. The water department will be flushing hydrants over the next month. The bucket truck is almost done; we hope to have it by Tuesday of next week. He has been working with NIPSCO on the street lights for Forest Park. He needs to submit a letter to NIPSCO; their recommendation is for 100 watt lights.

Larry asked about a grinder for smoothing out sidewalks. Jeremy stated he hasn't found one yet.

#### CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced that our work comp premium was reduced by 14% due to our safety record in 2009 and 2010.

Julie presented a request from David Ganz. He owns property on Front St; the property has a garage on it and he would like garbage containers since it is zoned residential. Julie stated she told Mr. Ganz he was not eligible since there is not a residential dwelling on the property. Mr. Ganz questioned this and asked Julie to check with the council. The council and Town Attorney Mike Reed agreed it would not be eligible for town trash pickup since there is not a dwelling on the property.

Discussion on the utility deposit ordinance was tabled.

Julie asked the council for their input on the Season's Greeting sign; it needs to be repaired or replaced. Chad explained last year many lights were out because the sockets are bad; that's why he got an estimate to fix it. The council decided Julie, Henry, and Chad should determine what should be done.

Julie announced weekly recycling will start on May 2 and will run through August.

#### TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed reported Turtle Bay is not accepting their service and they are located out of state. The receivership was closed out before we were notified.

Mike presented an In Lieu of Annexation agreement to the council. Larry moved to accept the agreement from the Haessig's; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

## DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Henry advised he has one more request. He would like to purchase ten decorative lights from Ward Industries at \$1,800.00 each. This would take the lights south to the end of SR 13. Brian moved to approve the purchase of 10 decorative lights at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.00 each to be delivered in 60 days; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Cassie Cowan, former council member, discussed the Fire Territory. She stated she wants to see a viable board; she would encourage the council to find someone that is acceptable to both sides. We need a good fire department; she would hate to see it gone. She noted she owns three pieces of property and the township taxes on all three pieces of property was reduced. We have a great community; we need to work together.

## OLD BUSINESS

Bill Musser announced that last month we advertised for any other interested people who would like to serve on the Fire Territory Board. He stated we received a couple of applications; he would like to recommend to the council that we add Brad Jackson to our list of people; the list also includes John Heckman and Marc Henn. It was clarified our list would include Marc Henn and Brad Jackson. Bill made a motion to nominate Brad Jackson and Marc Henn. Larry seconded. Paul added he asked the town's Fire Territory Board members to decide who should be added. Brian asked if the township doesn't agree, then what. Mike Reed stated then there will be four members. Paul stated Brad has experience in government; Paul added Mr. Dixon indicated they were looking for someone with mechanical and construction experience, which Mr. Jackson has. Larry noted they were also looking for someone who could manage crews. Brian asked if we should look into clarifying our interlocal agreement. Mike Reed noted the draft agreement did include language that if the town and township did not agree on the fifth member, each entity would make the appointment in alternating years. It was decided that language was not necessary; the final language states both entities must agree. Four voted for the motion; Brian abstained. The motion carried.

Bill Dixon, President of the Turkey Creek Township Advisory Board, was present; Paul asked Bill if the council needs to do any more. Bill asked the council to forward any information they may have to the advisory board. He stated he can't speak for the other two advisors; he will call a meeting as soon as possible so they can vote yea or nay.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bill Musser asked if we could assist Maxwellton Golf Course in placing a location sign. It was noted that would be the INDOT right of way; Jeremy provided a contact name.

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Jeff seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Paul Stoelting, President

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Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer