

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 16, 2014

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

Brian opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian asked for comments on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting were introduced. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Larry seconded. Three voted for the motion; Brian and Kathy abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #1335 to #1449 were presented for payment. Paul made a motion to approve the claims. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The claims were approved.

Jeremy discussed the bid award for the Wastewater Improvement Project. He reported the bids were opened on December 9 and taken under advisement. Jeremy explained he doesn't feel he has had enough time to give a good recommendation. He will bring his recommendation to the January meeting.

Resolution 2014-01, Authorizing the Clerk Treasurer to Make Certain Transfers, was presented. Paul made a motion to adopt the resolution; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The resolution was adopted.

Ordinance 2014-17, Amending the Bereavement Section of the Benefits Ordinance, was introduced. Paul made a motion to adopt the ordinance; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-18, a Transfer Ordinance for the Park Department, was introduced. Bill moved to adopt the ordinance; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The ordinance was adopted.

Fire Chief Mickey Scott requested permission to purchase a 2015 Ford truck for fighting grass fires. The cost of the truck will be \$100,865.00 and will be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund. Mickey provided information on the features and advantages of the new truck; he noted it will replace a 1998 truck that is worth about \$4,000.00. It will be up to the township if the fire department will keep or sell the old truck. Kathy asked Mickey if there were any other bids; Mickey stated this is the only one they have. He added two other area departments have this type of truck. Paul asked what makes this truck worth \$100,000.00; Mickey answered the conversion kit to convert it to a grass rig. Brian stated if this truck is purchased, he would like to see the old truck sold or traded in. Paul agreed he would not like to see the fleet grow. Mickey stated he doesn't care if they keep, sell, or trade the old truck. Kathy asked how this truck would be paid for. The Fire Territory budget will pay for the truck; discussion followed about the percentage that town taxpayers will pay.

Bill made a motion to go forward with the purchase of the new truck; Brian seconded. Brian asked for discussion. Kathy feels that is a lot for a truck, and she questioned having only one bid. Mickey distributed a photograph of the truck he would like to purchase. Brian again stated he would like to get rid of the old truck if we purchase a new truck. Three voted for the motion; Larry and Paul abstained. The motion carried. Larry stated he supports the fire department, however, he has trouble differentiating how decisions are made.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia announced appraisals have been received on the various lots available in the Industrial Park. Brian asked if he has a digital copy; Henry will scan and send what he has. Henry stated he is working on guidelines for the sale of the lots.

Henry stated his professional services contract as town manager needs to be renewed. Larry questioned sections 9 & 10. Larry would like section 9 amended to say Employer "may" agree to budget; Larry would like to determine this at budget time. For section 10, Larry would like to see the same language. Larry noted he has discussed comp time with Henry. The way it is worded, there is no limit; Larry would like to see a maximum of five days. Brian does not have a problem if a department head works extra hours, and decides to take a day off. Henry suggested adding approval of the Council President if it exceeds five days. Discussion followed. Vern was asked for his opinion; Vern questioned if five days is enough. Tony provided information on the Fair Labor Standards Act and exempt/non-exempt employees. Many ideas and suggestions were made. Paul suggested verbally agreeing on the record to retain Henry and approving the contract next month. Henry would prefer to have a contract in place. Bill made a motion to approve up to five days compensatory time; anything over that number will require approval of the council president. The Town Manager's contract is approved with changes to sections 6, 9, and 10; the Council President is authorized to sign the contract. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 400 calls for service in November; he commented November was busier than normal. He also commended the fire department for their work on the crash that happened yesterday.

Tony advised the body cams that were approved have been delivered. The body cams and the policies for use will be issued tomorrow. It was noted the Syracuse police started piloting the body cams before it became a nationwide issue. Larry asked if the video will be admissible in court; Tony answered very admissible. Larry asked when the body cams will be on. Tony explained when an officer goes on duty they will be on standby mode. There will be specific times when the camera shall be turned on, as well as specific times when it will be turned off, such as in a hospital. The video must be saved on an external hard drive for three years. Tony described the features of the cameras.

Larry pointed out three of the police cars have over 100,000 miles on them. Tony advised car 9 had a new motor and transmission installed a couple of years ago and was just repainted this year. Tony stated he budgeted to replace Car 7 next year. Car 10 is the reserve car; it is mechanically sound. Paul asked what determines if a car will be fixed or replaced. Tony provided information on his criteria; he added he doesn't like to spend a ton of money if a car has over 100,000 miles.

Brian asked if there were any ADA complaints. Sharon would like more handicapped spaces.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported there was a good crowd for Holiday Magic on November 22. There were 600 breakfasts served at Breakfast with Santa on December 6. The ice rink at the ball park was installed; there will be more skating when ice freezes again. The grand opening for the remodeled fitness center was held on December 1; since the remodel, the fitness center numbers have doubled month to month over last year.

An upcoming event is the Adult Basketball starting in January. There are usually 10 to 12 teams.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public works Director Jeremy Sponseller presented the 2015 water and wastewater budgets. For water, there is a 1% increase in the operating expenses over last year. The radio read meter installation increased the overall budget by 12%. Jeremy hopes to have the majority of the radio read meters installed in 2015. For wastewater, there is a 5% increase that is due mostly to inflation, an aging infrastructure, and the cost of materials and supplies. He reduced the amount budgeted for depreciation due to the new construction that will take place this year.

Paul moved to approve the 2015 water and wastewater budgets as proposed. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported we received our preliminary budget approval for the 2015 budgets. The Town of Syracuse will be under the maximum levy by \$118,149.00, and the tax rate will drop slightly from the 2014 rate.

Julie advised we received our renewal for the liability, equipment, and property insurance. The increase was 4.4%. Bill moved to authorize Henry or Julie to sign the renewal; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The health insurance renewal was discussed; the increase is 18.09%. Julie advised our agent, Chris Cotton, also received quotes from two other companies. The quotes had higher deductibles and co-pays and did not have significant savings. Paul moved to authorize Julie to sign the health insurance renewal with PHP; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler stated she has previously addressed the housing inspector, and parking for large trucks.

2015 APPOINTMENTS

Paul moved to appoint Tony Ciriello as Police Chief for 2015; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion ; none against. The motion was adopted.

Larry moved to reappoint Vern Landis as Town Attorney for 2015; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Chad advised there are two appointments for the Park Board. Mary Hursh is currently on the Park Board and has agreed to serve another term. Paul moved to approve Mary Hursh to the Park Board for a term from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Chad advised the Park Board is looking into filling another vacancy on the board; Jason Traycoff has resigned.

For the 2015 Redevelopment Commission, Brian moved to appoint Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, Henry DeJulia, Dan Van Lue, and Ernie Rogers. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion was adopted.

For the 2015 Fire Territory appointments, Paul moved to appoint Bill Musser and Brian Woody. Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian moved to appoint Henry DeJulia and Chad Jonsson to the Tree Board; their terms would be from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paul made a motion to appoint Jim Allegret to the Syracuse BZA term from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Town Attorney Vern Landis opened the floor to nominations for Town Council President. Bill nominated Paul Stoelting as Town Council President for 2015; Kathy seconded. There were no other nominations. Vern closed the nominations. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill discussed the need for trash cans uptown. Discussion followed on locations and maintenance. The department heads and Bill will look into it.

Brian commented we had a heck of a year with the snow and storms. He commended the town crews and asked it to be passed on to the employees.

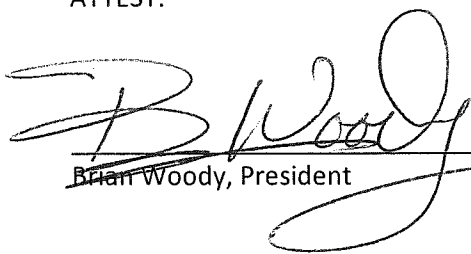
NEW BUSINESS

None.

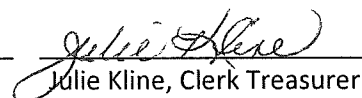
Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:



Brian Woody, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer