

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 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.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting were introduced. Paul moved to approve the minutes: Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1069 to #1217 were presented for payment. Paul made a motion to approve the claims. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The claims were approved.

Ordinance 2014-15, the 2015 Budget Ordinance, was presented. Julie stated the budgets funded by taxes total \$3,375,727.00; budgets for Home Rule funds total \$122,500.00. The tax levy is \$1,739,783.00. Paul made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-15 for the 2015 budget; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2014-16, the 2015 Salary Ordinance, was introduced. Larry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-16; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinski, reported that all close out documents for the EDA grant were submitted. Documents were also submitted to Elkhart County. Right now, we are just waiting for comments to see if anything else is required.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported on the Industrial Park. Construction has been completed, as well as landscaping and advertising signs. He distributed a brochure that has been prepared for marketing the park. Henry asked the council to accept the construction as completed and to make a motion to sign the completion document from EDA. Paul moved to accept the construction completion and sign the EDA document; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry advised Nipsco finally completed the installation of a pipe on the north side of Brooklyn St. so the area could be paved. After the engineer inspects the work, we will submit a request to the state for reimbursement. Oakwood paving is complete; the barricades and signage need to be completed.

Bill asked Henry what his plans are for the industrial park. Henry stated he will target certain industries, like technology. He will mail the brochure and information to area businesses.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 321 calls for service in September. There were ten accidents; two of them were personal injury. There were eight criminal arrests. The security upgrades in the police department are complete; the only thing left to complete is the panic alarm in the clerk's

office. So far, the expenses are about \$3,000.00 under budget. Tony discussed body cams for the officers. The police department purchased one for \$400.00, and it works well. He asked the council if he could purchase seven more body cameras from the money that is left. Larry asked Tony how many are needed; Tony answered ten if the reserves are included. Seven would be a good start toward providing them for all officers. It was agreed Tony could transfer money within his current budget to pay for the remaining two. Larry made a motion to allow the purchase of seven body cameras to be paid from CCI-Cigarette Tax; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tony distributed a flyer for a Suicide Prevention Forum that will be held at the Community Center on Tuesday, November 11. The event is sponsored by the Police Department, Bowen Center, and the Chamber.

Tony announced Trick or Treat will be on October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tony asked if there were any ADA complaints; there were none.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, announced the final Farmer's Market and Harvest Festival was October 11 at Lakeside Park. Plans are to continue the Harvest Festival at that location next year. The new equipment is in place in the remodeled fitness room at the Community Center.

The Haunted House will be at Crossen Mill Park on October 24, 25, 31, and November 1 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The high school choir will be helping out with this event.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, announced the Oakwood paving is complete; he encouraged all to go there and take a look. The paving widened the side somewhat on some streets. The timber barricades on Line St are left to be completed.

Bids for the wastewater plant improvements will be opened on November 12; bids will be presented for council approval at the November meeting.

Jeremy presented a purchase request. He would like to purchase a set of winter tracks for the skid loader; the winter tracks will increase traction on snowy surfaces. Monteith was the lowest quote at \$2,900.00. Paul moved to approve the purchase, to be delivered in 45 days; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy reported the Trail Committee is working on a project to install sidewalk from Waco Dr. going north into town. Jeremy explained there was a previous grant request that was not approved. The grant was denied because when the trail got to the town limits, it was not attached to anything. The Trail Committee asked if the town could create a sidewalk starting at Harkless and S.R. 13 going north on Harkless to Palm Dr. The preliminary cost estimate is \$68,000.00; Jeremy feels the actual cost may be more. Jeremy said he and Henry agree it would not be a bad idea. He asked if the council would put \$25,000.00 toward the project; the Trail Committee would pursue a grant for the remainder of the project. Jeremy stated he could encumber sidewalk money from this year toward the project. Megan McClellan, Executive Director of the Trail Committee, advised it would be completed in the spring if the grant is awarded.

Paul asked if that would affect our normal sidewalk projects next year. Jeremy stated it would not deplete the money for in house projects. He would probably encumber money for Kuert Concrete from this year's budget toward next year's sidewalk projects. Brian asked if there is any way to get solid numbers. Jeremy noted he is proposing a contribution of \$25,000.00. Discussion followed on how the sidewalk might be installed. Bill asked how many people are actually going to walk from Waco Dr. into town. Larry feels the Harkless sidewalks are a good project for the town. Brian confirmed our portion

would be \$25,000.00; the grant would pay the remainder. Larry noted Oakwood TIF money could be considered for the portion by Oakwood. Larry moved to make a \$25,000.00 contribution to the sidewalk on Harkless Dr; the contribution is contingent upon receiving the grant. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian asked how wastewater was doing. Jeremy reported a ditch is running now. Jeremy expects an engineering estimate for the project later this week.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported the Clerk's office will be closed on November 12th for training.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Megan McClelland, Executive Director of the Syracuse Wawasee Trail Committee, introduced herself. She thanked the council for the beautiful bridge on Harkless Dr. She explained the trail they would like to build would not go just on S. R. 13; part of the trail would go through wetlands. They are working with the DNR on this. She announced they just received a Safe Routes to Schools grant; the funds can not be used to build trails, but will be used to do other things. Ms. McClelland noted the Trail Committee meets the third Monday of every month at the Community Center.

Melanie Shorthill, of Indiana Telephone Network, extended an invitation to the council to meet with them so Indiana Telephone Network could break down their proposal. Ben Plikerd would provide dinner to the council. Julie advised we have made a commitment on an alternate proposal.

Tammy Cotton, Executive Director of the Syracuse Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, announced upcoming events. As Tony advised, the Suicide Prevention Event is on November 11. Holiday Magic is on November 22, and Small Shop Saturday is on November 29.

Larry asked what the chamber hours are. Tammy advised she is generally there from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. unless she is at a meeting or is with a local business.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Musser reminded everyone the Fire Department will hold an Open House at Station #1 on November 8 from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Bill asked if the fire station parking lot could be paved next summer. Brian asked if we should consider donating the parking lot to the Fire Department.

NEW BUSINESS

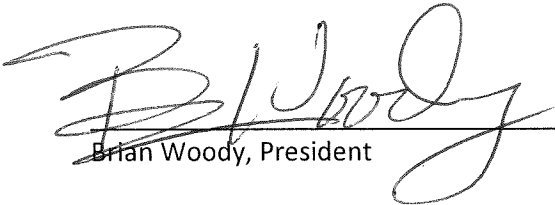
Brian reported on train whistles. He stated he contacted Mishawaka; 23 crossings are included in the Quiet Zone there. The train committee is working with a company out of Mishawaka; they have a proposal for \$8,500.00 to provide the train committee with direction on what has to be accomplished. The train committee does have \$4,000.00 of donated money, but they want to make sure they have a town commitment before they go ahead with it. It was pointed out we would also have to work with county to get the nearby county train crossings included in the Quiet Zone. Discussion followed.

Paul commented there was a plan previously for a Quiet Zone; it was too much money, and no one could afford it. He asked what has changed. Brian advised there are different options now for the crossings. Brian stated the company in Mishawaka has already contacted a representative from CSX. Bill suggested getting the company to make a presentation before we get into engineering. Paul noted in the past we supported it, but we could not commit funds. Brian stated the committee would like a commitment from us before they try to raise the additional \$4,500.00 that is needed for the proposal. Bill stated he feels we need more information. Larry asked what kind of commitment the train committee is asking for from the town. Paul would also like a presentation. Bill said we are supportive of a Quiet Zone, however, there is no guarantee we will spend any town money. More discussion followed on what might be needed to create a Quiet Zone. Brian explained there is a point system that is used to create a Quiet Zone. It was the consensus of the council that they support a Quiet Zone; the support does not guarantee town funds.

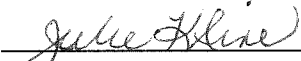
Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

ATTEST:



Brian Woody, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer