

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 2015

Town Council President Paul Stoelting 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, and Larry Siegel. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present. Councilman Brian Woody was absent.

Paul opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items; Sharon Fowler asked about Ordinance 2015 -1. She was advised it was for a request to rezone the church on Harrison and Pearl.

The minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting were presented. Bill moved to approve the minutes; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #264 to #386 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Kathy seconded. Bill asked about claim #271. It was explained it was for flags. The motion carried.

Dan Richard, Director of the Area Plan Commission, presented Ordinance 2015-01. He explained the Area Plan Commission has prepared a report and recommendation for the council. The owner of the property wants to rezone two lots from public use to residential. Currently, a church and church parking lot are located on the property, which is on the corner of Pearl and Harrison St. Dan Richard advised the APC unanimously recommends allowing the rezoning. Larry moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-01; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Megan McClellan, Executive Director of the Syracuse-Wawasee Trails, updated the council on the sidewalk that will be installed on Harkless Dr from Palm Dr to S.R. 13. She noted in 2014, the council agreed to set aside \$25,000.00 toward the cost of the project. Megan reported K21 stepped up with funds for the project, as well as the Trail Committee. The Trail Committee selected Pulver Asphalt to complete the project; the cost will be slightly under budget. Pulver Asphalt expects to start in two weeks, and it will take six weeks to complete. Earth Source was selected to do the planning, permitting, and design of the boardwalk trail on S.R. 13 south of Harkless Dr. Kathy asked if it will be concrete or asphalt; Megan stated it will be concrete. Larry confirmed the sidewalk will be on the east side of the road. Megan stated it will be on the east side of Harkless; crossing the road would be too dangerous. Megan added the trail will be built entirely in the right of way; no easements are necessary. The trail will be ADA compliant, so it will not go up and down. Megan advised she has previously written two letters to the homeowners on that stretch of road; she has been answering questions and addressing their concerns. She is in the process of writing another letter since the contract has now been awarded.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reminded everyone the Front Street Bridge is now closed; the work will hopefully be completed by Memorial Day.

Henry reported he will be presenting the tax abatement forms at the April meeting. Bids will be accepted tomorrow for the parcels at the Technology & Industrial Park. Paul added this a requirement of the state. Henry reported we received our Certificate of Incorporation for the Syracuse Development Corporation.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 295 calls for service in February. There were 11 vehicle crashes, and 7 criminal arrests. He commended the police and sheriff's department for their work and assistance over the past three weeks.

Tony announced they are working on traffic control that will be needed while the trail is being constructed on Harkless Dr since it is heavily traveled.

Tony thanked Jeremy for their tremendous working relationship. It was announced today is Jeremy's last day.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported about upcoming park events. A Geo Cache Hunt will be held from March 23 to March 30. The first egg hunt will be on March 27; it is for teens and will be held in the dark. The second egg hunt will be on March 28. Eight teams participated in the Adult Basketball League which ended Sunday.

Chad announced the Park Board recommended Paul Newcomer as a Park Board member. Bill moved to appoint Paul Newcomer to the Park Board; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeremy Sponseller provided a final update on the Wastewater Improvement Project. He advised 2.9 million is left on the bond; after other costs, there will be 2.423 million left to spend for construction. Since the bids came in higher than the funds available, reductions had to be made. This reduction was done by reducing the scope of equipment and by negotiations with the contractor. The construction costs have been reduced to \$2,325,400.00 plus contingencies. Jeremy advised he can recommend other things we can complete with any remaining bond money. Triad will create a contract; if council approves, Julie and Henry will sign the contract as soon as it is ready. Council had no objections to Henry and Julie signing.

Paul asked with the cost cuts, what are we looking at for the next year or two. Jeremy responded after we finish the project we can consider the following:

1. Put the telemetry system back in if funds allow. The telemetry system that is connected to the lift stations is old and antiquated and often does not work. Jeremy feels if we go through the Scadata provider and use some existing infrastructure, we can save money. The bid amount was \$139,000.00; Jeremy feels we can complete it slightly cheaper than that.

2. The building needs soffit, fascia, and insulation; we also need to look at the roof. The HVAC also needs to be overhauled. The \$100,000.00 estimated cost may be cheaper if we use local contractors.

3. The grit removal system is working now, but is 25 years old. The cost is \$200,000.00.

Jeremy added the roofs on the sludge barn and other items can be completed within the budgets each year. Paul said it has been suggested we could commit some EDIT money each year.

Jeremy presented a request to replace a 1994 street department pickup truck. He received quotes from Ford, Chevrolet, and Dodge. The quotes ranged from \$27,993.00 to \$28,598.00. Larry asked what will happen to the 1994 truck. Jeremy answered they will probably part it out; it will be taken out of service. The purchase would be paid from the street department new equipment, and delivery will be in six to ten weeks. Jeremy noted a plow will be added before the next snow season; a plow would cost about \$7,500.00.

Larry moved to approve the purchase of a new truck for an amount not to exceed \$28,598.00, with delivery in six to ten weeks. The 1994 truck is to be taken out of commission upon delivery of the new truck. Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy discussed the trash cans that were proposed for uptown. He and Henry have found trash cans with lids that will be suitable; the cost will be \$675.00 each, plus shipping. Henry stated the purchase will be paid from beautification money. Kathy made a motion to approve the purchase for \$675.00 each plus shipping; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy thanked council for the opportunity to work in Syracuse. Larry stated he appreciated Jeremy's work and responsiveness; council members agreed.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline requested approval to have the Town Code updated; the cost will be a maximum of \$1,630.00. Larry moved to approve the expense; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie announced water readings were estimated again March 1.

Julie presented a request from Bayview Estates to waive a penalty for the third time; the post office is still returning their utility payments stating 310 N Huntington is not a valid address. Julie noted we have adjusted penalties twice; payments that they mail certified are not returned. Julie added we offered ACH payments where their payment is taken out of their checking account each month, but Bayview Estates doesn't want to do that. It was the consensus of the council not to make an adjustment again.

Julie reported the bids for the wastewater bonds were received today; the average rate was 3.38%. She noted the rate ordinance that was adopted requires review of the final rate increase; that will probably be done in January.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler, of 202 E Pittsburgh St, asked the council if there was grant money available to assist homeowners in removing trees. She suggested the ordinance be rewritten. Bill asked what the town's obligation is to remove trees on someone's property. Vern Landis advised the town is not obligated to pay to remove trees on private property. Paul also advised if there is a dispute between neighbors, that can be taken to small claims if the dispute cannot be resolved.

Melanie Shorthill, of Indiana Telephone Network, distributed information to council members about a plan through Indiana Telephone Network.

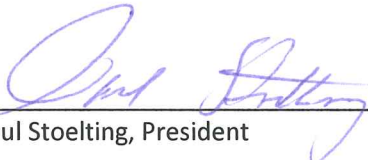
OLD & NEW BUSINESS

None.

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

ATTEST:



Paul Stoelting, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer