

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING

September 15, 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 Deputy Clerk Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Council member Brian Woody and Clerk-Treasurer Julie Kline were absent.

Paul opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the August 18, 2015 meeting were presented for approval. Larry moved to approve the minutes; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1028 to #1150 were presented for payment. Larry moved to approve the claims; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

William Baxter, from the Kosciusko County Health Department, discussed the County's role in regards to demolition of properties. The Health Department only assists in demolitions in the county district, not within incorporated municipalities. Kosciusko County has adopted an ordinance using the State Code's regulations. Bill Musser asked how much time it takes to get a building to the point of being demolished. Mr. Baxter said that it could vary depending on the property owner's choice to fight it, demolish it themselves, or if no one takes claim to the property. Mr. Baxter also stated that out of 12 properties they have dealt with recently, they have only had to pay for three of them. He informed the council that KCHD does not care who owns the property, since the property cannot "unsafe" itself. KCHD will put a notification in the newspaper requesting interest in the property. If nobody responds, there would be a hearing and request bids. Bill Musser asked how long it takes for this process. Mr. Baxter answered that it varies and that the quickest one they had was about a year and a half, from initial complaint of the property. Mr. Baxter said that the KCHD will work with the town, such as attorney-to-attorney. Larry Siegel questioned if properties in town or out of town both pay county taxes, why the county will not pay for inside of town. Mr. Baxter explained that the Town of Syracuse is a separate government agency and has jurisdiction within their boundaries. He gave an example as to why should the Town of Claypool be expected to pay for demolitions in the Town of Syracuse. Mr. Baxter also stated that properties outside of incorporated areas have no representation. The KCHD will help in any way they can, but they will not pay for the demolition. Larry asked who makes the decision to separate the incorporated and unincorporated areas. Mr. Baxter stated it was the County's attorney. Kathy Beer asked Mr. Baxter if the County pays to demolish a property, is the property then owned by the county. Mr. Baxter answered that it would not, and Kathy confirmed that it would stay in the original owner's name. Paul asked if the county ends up putting a lien on the property. Mr. Baxter confirmed there would be a lien applied to the property taxes to recoup the costs. Bill asked if there was an estimate in taking a property down. Mr. Baxter stated that it depends on the size. So far, KCHD has spent a total of \$11,250 for the three properties mentioned earlier. Paul asked from the time that notices are sent, is there a percentage that are taken care of prior to demolition? Mr. Baxter explained that it depends on how much time they allow each property according to their ordinance procedures. They try to work with the property owners as much as possible, granting them adequate time needed to correct the issues. The goal is to get the job done along with saving the taxpayer's money.

Paula Kehr-Wicker, Deputy Clerk, gave the first reading of the 2016 Budget:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Budget Estimate</b>	<b>Estimated Levy</b>
Rainy Day	\$0	\$0
General	\$1,925,025	\$695,000
Local Road & Street	\$25,000	\$0
Motor Vehicle Highway	\$984,694	\$615,000
Park	\$397,632	\$325,000
Cumulative Park & Recreation	\$19,000	\$21,000
Cumulative Capital Improvement – Property Tax	\$0	\$26,000
Cumulative Capital Development	\$42,000	\$42,000
Cumulative Sewer	\$5,000	\$45,000
Economic Development Income Tax	\$100,000	\$0
Riverboat Revenue Sharing	\$20,000	\$0
Law Enforcement Continuing Education	\$2,500	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,520,851</b>	<b>\$1,769,000</b>

The Council accepted the Budget at first reading.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

##### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported that he is working on getting quotes for installing decorative lights starting at North County Line Road and going south. They will put most of them on the west side of the road, not the east side. He is also working on getting quotes for rebuilding the small lift station in Oakwood. He would like the council to approve spending on this before the next council meeting. Larry made a motion for Henry to get quotes for rebuilding the lift station at a cost not to exceed \$45,000; paid for out of the Oakwood Infrastructure Improvement Fund. Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Henry mentioned he has met with some artisans and the Wawasee Community School Superintendent to discuss possible uses for the old Syracuse Elementary. He is still working on getting some costs for the salt barn. He states that it will not be finished this year.

##### POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 487 calls for service in August. There were sixteen vehicle crashes, six felony criminal arrests, three file-for-warrants, and seven juvenile arrests. Tony gave an update on the reserve police officer that was electrocuted on his personal job, and not on duty.

Tony announced that this was his last council meeting. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the Town of Syracuse. Larry and Paul thanked Tony for his service. Paul mentioned that Tony tendered his resignation to them a couple weeks ago. Henry presented a plaque to Tony on behalf of the Town Council and the Town in honor of his years of dedication to the Town. Tony introduced Investigative Sergeant Jim Layne to the Council and the audience. Tony recommended to the council that they choose Jim as his replacement. Larry made a motion that on Tony Ciriello's

resignation, as accepted by the Town Council, that we appoint Jim Layne as our Town Marshal under a contract to be determined. Kathy seconded. Paul stated there would be an approximate 30-day period that Jim would be "acting" Town Marshall and that the council hopes to have a contract made up by the next council meeting. It was discussed that there would be a probationary period included. Four voted for the motion, none against.

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

#### PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that the Canoeing event continues on Tuesday nights from 6pm to 8pm at the Lakeside Park beach. WACF is letting them use their canoes. September 16<sup>th</sup> is the NFL Punt, Pass, and Kick at the Harold Schrock Athletic Complex at 5:30pm. October 10<sup>th</sup> is the Fall Harvest Festival at the Lakeside Park. October 30<sup>th</sup> is the Youth Center Carnival at the Community Center. The Haunted Thrill at Crosson Mill will be on October 23, 24, 30, and 31<sup>st</sup>. Bill Musser asked for an update on the new Pavilion. Chad informed that it is completed, and there is still some dirt work to be cleaned up that will be done this fall.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant reported some programming issues with the new booster at the Technology Park. He hopes they have been resolved. He will not know for sure until they do some flow testing. They will do that as soon as the booster pump is repaired. A representative from Gasvoda, the manufacturer of the booster station, will be here tomorrow to look at it. Rob mentioned that there were a couple water leak repairs done. The Water Department is continuing to change out meters. They may need to make appointments with residents outside of normal working hours to be able to get inside the house to change them. He also stated that we would need to budget for moving a majority of meters outside of the homes in order to aid in access to the meter as well as locate if there are leaks at the property. Rob informed that hydrant flushing has started. They have repaired a water heater that was not working properly, which gave them problems with their chlorine system.

The Street Department has poured 750 feet of new sidewalk. Sink holes have been filled. Twenty-one new crosswalks were painted and 11 repainted.

Rob discovered some overcharging on one of the NIPSCO bills due to the rate not changed from previous use of the property. The account is for the old water plant/animal control building. The rate charged was for a peak demand usage when now it is for the storm siren used about twice a year. The change should save the Town approximately \$2,337.60 a year.

Rob reported that the Wastewater Department has found some I & I issues at the new Technology Park. They used a camera system to find some water infiltration, along with mud and debris in the lines. The engineering firm recommended that there are possibly three sewer laterals that need tested. They thought that NIPSCO bored through one line, but no issues were found. The other two lines, by SR 6, showed no signs of leakage. A smoke test was done to those sites and saw no signs of a leak. The new plan of action is to put two plugs in the laterals that empty into the lift station. The theory is if there is something in the lift station structure itself, it will fill up with water. If the water backs up to the first manhole, it means one of the laterals could be leaking. The original contractor agreed to buy additional plugs in order to plug each section. In order for this to work, we need rain. It was found that the initial pressure testing done for the project did not meet the specifications. All the new plugs are in. Rob further reported that the Sewer department had to jet out a line between Cool Beans and Beef's Booze Barn. Eventually they will need to excavate the manhole structure at the Booze Barn. A sewer line leak on Medusa Street was also repaired. Rob made new cards used to post at a

residence to notify them to contact us. There was discussion on informing customers on how to contact Public Works for emergencies. Currently they are working on replacing the D.I. Filtration System used by the lab. It was discovered that the current company has been over charging the Town. The sludge press is not working correctly and continues to deteriorate. We could either have the sludge hauled off at a substantial cost, or change how the plant uses the oxidation ditches. At some point, when the old sludge press is removed, and before the new one is put in, the sludge will still have to be hauled away.

The dewatering issues have caused some delays in the Wastewater Construction project. It was discovered during excavation of the new sludge tank that the original drawings for the plant did not include an electrical conduit bank that would need to be relocated. As a result, a change order needs to be approved in order to continue construction of the sludge tank. Jon Moen from Triad Associates explained the change order and the process for the construction. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the beginning quotes for the Wastewater Construction project and the amount for the contingencies. It was explained as to why the original amount was reduced and what was removed to reduce it. Bill Musser made a motion to approve Change Order #2 for \$25,834.00. Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against.

CLERK

Deputy Clerk Paula Kehr-Wicker had nothing further to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Becky Fox, resident on Front Street, is representing the Quiet Zone committee. Many residents showed up and are asking the Town to support them in researching and getting a study done on what is needed to create a Quiet Zone. Ms. Fox introduced George Krabbe, a resident on Medusa St, to explain more about it. He stated that he has a letter from Lawson & Fisher, engineers that have worked on various other quiet zones. The letter outlines what they could do for the Quiet Zone committee. The committee will try to do the fundraising to get approximately \$8,500.00 to have the study done. Paul stated that he recalls giving their blessing just a year ago. Mr. Krabbe explained that they are here to confirm that they do still have the Town's blessing to go further.

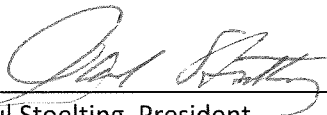
OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

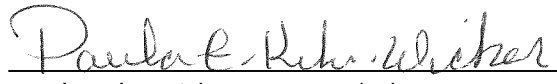
None.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Paul Stoelting, President

  
Paula Kehr-Wicker, Deputy Clerk