

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

October 17, 2017

Town Council President Tom Hoover called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 6:58 p.m. Other Council members present were Larry Martindale, Bill Musser, Paul Stoelting and Larry Siegel. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Tom Hoover opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the September 19, 2017, meeting was presented for approval. Bill Musser moved to approve the minutes; Larry Martindale seconded. Four voted for the motion; Paul Stoelting abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1273 through 1423 were presented for payment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Martindale seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-09, 2018 Budget, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the budget ordinance, Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-10, Establishing a Local Road & Bridge Matching Grant Fund (#203), was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2017-04, Transfer Funds to the Local Road & Bridge Matching Grant Fund, was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the transfer ordinance; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia reported that the new Tax Increment Financing district for the Technology Park is completed. Henry also stated that the sale of various lots in the Technology Park to Travel-Lite has been closed. Henry also reported that information has been sent to Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District regarding the analysis of our contract with them.

Henry presented a request to purchase 10 new decorative lights. He is tentatively planning to install them at various spots; such as Harrison Street, Hoy's Beach, Dolan Drive, Parkway Drive and possibly East Pickwick Drive from State Road 13 to Harkless Dr. The cost of the lights would total \$22,080.00 and would be paid from the Harkless Beautification Grant. The would be purchased from Ward Industries to be delivered within 6 weeks. Larry Siegel moved to approve 10 decorative lights from Ward Industries for \$22,080.00 to be delivered in 6 weeks. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; Bill Musser voted against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions on his report. There were none. He reported that he has an officer going to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He stated that he just received an invoice today that was not included with the regular claims docket and needs to be paid at the time his officer starts his training next week. Jim requested that the Council allow the Clerk to write a check to the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Academy for \$530.00. \$500.00 is for enrollment of the officer and \$30.00 is for the required S.T.O.P.S. training manual. Paul Stoelting moved to approve allowing the Clerk-Treasurer to process payment of \$530.00 to I.L.E.T.A. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim reported on a complaint that was received at last month's meeting regarding parking on Harrison Street. A committee was formed that includes Henry DeJulia, Mickey Scott, Robin Merchant, and himself. One recommendation is for one-sided parking on Harrison St, Lake St, Front St., Pearl St, Carroll St., Benton St. and Henry St. This would give the Fire Department the minimum amount of room needed to maneuver within those streets. Jim explained that even with one sided parking, if there are two vehicles passing each other, one would need to veer off to allow the other to

get through. Because of this, he is suggesting a second option of making the streets become one-way. Larry Siegel believes that more people that live in those areas should be involved in discussing the options available. Discussion followed on different issues that could come up with these changes. Tom suggested getting a letter out to the residents requesting their attendance to a meeting with the committee to discuss all options.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported the annual Harvest Festival was last Saturday and received a good turn-out. He also reported that this coming Saturday will be the Indoor Garage Sale. All 31 booths are reserved. The Haunted Thrill at Crosson Mill will start next weekend on the 27th, 28th, and 31st. Chad gave an update on the master plan. The survey results we separated into 3 priority tabs, that will include the amount of years and prices for each project to help in prioritizing. Chad stated that the Park Board is also working on a 10-year maintenance plan including painting of buildings and furniture. Larry Siegel asked if there were any endowment funds for the Park Department. Chad explained that the Community Center has a couple of funds that can be used for projects. There is an endowment from the Kosciusko Community Foundation that was started by the Kiwanis Club. There is also a Park Foundation that helps fund projects. The Cumulative Park monies that we receive from property taxes is currently used to help pay the Lease on the Community Building. Once the lease is paid off in 2022, those funds can be used to pay for certain projects.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant asked the Council if there were any questions on his report. There were none. Rob presented a request to approve road paving for Medusa Court, and a section of North Lake Street between Main St. and Washington St. He provided quotes from Pulver Asphalt Paving (\$21,825.22), Niblock (\$24,680.25), and Phend and Brown (\$27,792.50). He stated the job consists of milling and resurfacing. Larry Siegel moved to approve Pulver Asphalt Paving to do the milling and resurfacing for \$21,825.22. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob requested to have Commonwealth Engineering assist with the preliminary work (boring, topography, and designing) needed to submit the application for next year's Community Crossings Grant. The project would consist of the Harkless Road and Storm Sewer improvements that we were unable to include with this year's grant. The total agreement would be for \$62,500 (topography & boring = \$24,400, design phase = \$38,100). Paul moved to approve the agreement with Commonwealth Engineering; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob reported that he has not received a response from Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding sewer services for Syracuse Lake properties that are currently not in our territory.

Rob also reported that there are currently 3 properties in Oakwood that are not connected to our sewer system. At this time, 18 properties have been tested. Discussion followed on where the sewer was going currently and what are possible options for correction.

Rob is requesting the council to proceed with an ordinance for no parking on the east side of Dolan Drive from the north property line of the Sunoco station to the corner of Dolan Drive and Main St. He would also like to have no parking from the Town's property where the old water plant use to be to the corner of the next block. Jim Layne states that parking has been allowed for years and haven't had any issues. He confirmed that we cannot enforce no parking if there isn't an ordinance. Larry asked if there are problems we are trying to fix. Rob stated he is trying to be proactive and make sure the Town continues to look nice. Tom suggested having Henry and Jim look at the situation with Rob and discuss the options.

Rob introduced Jeremy Hardy from Commonwealth Engineers. Jeremy reported that the permit for the wastewater aeration project has been submitted to IDEM and waiting on a response. He also reported that advertisements for the Requests for Proposals for the Guaranteed Savings Contracts have been sent out. They will be due by November 3rd. He stated that there will need to be a committee put together to review the proposals or a special meeting to review, score, and select the best provider. After the provider is selected, pricing and scope of work will be discussed. Jeremy explained the process for the scoring. It was agreed to set up a committee consisting of Bill Musser, Tom Hoover, Henry DeJulia, and Rob to review and score the proposals.

Tom asked Rob if the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District has been given all the information they have requested. Henry and Rob both stated that they have.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott asked the council if they had any questions about his report. There were none. Mickey announced that there was a total of 123 responses for September. There was also a property loss in the district of \$131,500 that included a structure fire and a boat fire. There was \$144,600 in property that was saved. So far that has been a total of 1,047 fire and EMS responses for the 2017 calendar year.

Mickey announced a "Thank You" to all area fire, EMS, local, county, and state emergency and law enforcement agencies for their assistance at several different emergencies that have happened recently.

He reported that we have lost 4 sections of hose through testing this year. Two have been replaced and the remaining two were already in stock. The annual pump testing has been completed and all have passed. The Fire Territory attended the Kosciusko County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting on September 27th. They have also conducted an outdoor siren test last Friday. Due to inclement weather, it was postponed from October 6th to the 13th. Mickey also announced that last week was Fire Prevention week.

Mickey would like to remind everyone that November 5th the time changes and everyone should also change the batteries in their smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. The state is currently working on a law to make it mandatory to have carbon monoxide detectors. There is also a state law that requires smoke alarms in rental properties to be in working order. There are forms available that should be signed by both, the renter and the landlord, stating that the smoke detectors are in working order when the tenant moves in.

The ISO rating was reviewed in April and is now a 4/4Y. The rating is the same for both town and township.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, asked the council that a second payment installment be provided to the painting contractors to help pay for supplies. They are requesting \$7,000. Bill Musser moved to approve paying McKinley Painting and Drywall \$7,000 prior to completion to help with supplies. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paula and the other department heads are proposing an additional benefit request for the employees. Currently, the employees are eligible to accumulate up to 50 sick days that can be carried over to the next year. At the first of the following year, the employee would receive another 7 sick days. Making a total of 57 sick days, maximum, that an employee could have on the books. As an example, if the employee only uses 3 sick days out of the year, they will have a balance of 54 sick days on December 31st. Since the benefit ordinance allows the employee to only carry over 50 sick days, the employee would lose 4 sick days earned in the current year. In December, when the employee realizes that they will lose 4 sick days, they may sporadically call in sick throughout the month and leave the department short-handed. As an incentive, we would like to allow the employees to be paid for those lost sick days at the end of the year. The maximum pay would be for 7 days at regular pay. Discussion followed on the purpose of the 50 days, who would have 50 days, and how the process works currently. Due to needing more time to research, this proposal was tabled.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Walter Maxson, homeowner in Oakwood Park, introduced himself. He owns one of the properties that is not hooked up to the town's sewer system. He stated that when it was discovered through the dye testing that he was not hooked up, he contacted a roter and auger company. They came out the next day and ran an auger with camera 100 feet toward the alley, which is equivalent to 3 houses down from their property. The company did not run into any blockage or stoppage. After flushing approximately 100 gallons of water through their toilet, it did start backing up. Mr. Maxson states that right after the annexation, there was a stretch of sewer lines on Park St. that were dug up. That

sewer line is only 10 feet from Mr. Maxson's property. He is expressing the urgency of this situation in hopes that it can get resolved before the ground freezes. Discussion followed on where the sewage could be going.

Mindy Vandermark (on Hansing Street) states she purchased the property in 2016 with intentions of renting it out. After the first week of the rental, the sewer started backing up. She has had Roto-Rooter come in and Weed Company with a camera. She states that she has plans of having Kline Excavating to come in and have already paid the tap permit and a cut fee. She has asked to have the tap fee waived and it was granted that even though she doesn't have it in writing. She asked if everyone else will be waived a tap fee since she was. She is holding off on having Kline Excavating come in until the issues are resolved.

Emily McGowan, previous owner to the Vandermark property, introduced herself. She has been in conversations with the real estate agent and the prior owners before her. It was stated that a \$2,000 tap fee was paid prior to annexation. She states that they have had no drainage problems or sewage backup issues when they were owners of the property. She claims that it seems to have begun when the main was put in. Her concern is that the connections were missed for those three properties. Emily states that all legal documentation at the time of purchasing the property states that it was connected. The house was purchased in 2014. At that time, she noticed a \$25.00 charge added to a bill. When she called the utilities office and was told that it was part of the new wastewater fee that would be tapped into.

Nancy Harter spoke to the council regarding last month's complaint of Oakwood not paying for lighting in their area. Henry informed her that NIPSCO will be putting up a light. She asked for a timeline of when it would be done, and NIPSCO did not give one.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Martindale stated that during the Hazard Mitigation meetings, they have discussed dams. It was mentioned that if something were to happen to our dam, it would drain both Syracuse Lake and Wawasee Lake. Larry asked if the Town has ever approached the Lake Associations to contribute something to the dam maintenance. He also asked if we inspect the dam periodically. Larry Siegel stated that over time, the Town has approached the associations and they have told us that it was our problem. The dam is inspected every 2 years.

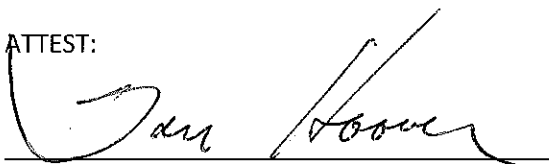
NEW BUSINESS

There is nothing to report.

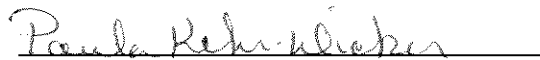
Larry Siegel moved to adjourn; Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:23 pm.

ATTEST:



Tom Hoover, President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer