

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 19, 2017

Town Council President Tom Hoover called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:01 p.m. Other Council members present were Larry Martindale, Bill Musser, Paul Stoelting and Larry Siegel. Town Attorney Vern Landis, Town Manager Henry DeJulia, 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. Sharon Fowler spoke on various issues she has with the proposed parking ordinance; along with other Town of Syracuse policies.

The minutes of the November 21, 2017, meeting was presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1562 through 1701 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 2017-13, Salaries and Compensation for 2018, was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance, Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2017-16, Amending Chapter 8: Traffic & Parking Regulations of the Town Code, was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance; Larry Martindale seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2017-05, Year End Transfers, was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paula introduced Todd Williams from Indiana Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. (Save Today and Retire Tomorrow). Mr. Williams made a presentation showing another option available for the employee's contributions to their retirement accounts. He explained that the Roth 457b plan will allow the employees to pay for the taxes upfront while contributing to their account, rather than waiting to pay them when they retire and withdrawal the funds. To offer this option, the Town Council needs to approve and sign the amendment. There would be no extra cost to the Town. Paul Stoelting moved to approve and allow Tom Hoover to sign the amendment. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paula presented quotes from two Insurance companies for the Town's Liability, Auto, and Property insurance. Salem Insurance quoted \$55,892, and Miller Insurance quoted \$54,918. Paula introduced Ben and John Leavitt from Salem and Greg Miller from Miller to the Council should they have any questions. She proposed that we stay with Miller Insurance since the quote is lower as well as we have been with them for many years. Paul moved to accept the proposal from Miller Insurance for the 2018 Renewal; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

2018 APPOINTMENTS

Henry DeJulia presented the following 2018 appointments:

Town Attorney (one-year term) – Vern Landis

Town Marshall (one-year term) – Jim Layne

Park Board (2018 – 2020) – Paul Newcomer and Mary Hursh

Redevelopment Commission (one-year term) – Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, Ernie Rogers, Dan Van Lue, and Henry DeJulia

Tree Board (2018 – 2020) – Chad Jonsson and Henry DeJulia

County Board of Zoning Appeals (2017 – 2020) – Randy Cox

Fire Territory Board (one-year term) – Tom Hoover, Larry Martindale, and Corky Wong

Paul Stoelting moved to approve the above appointments; Larry Martindale seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia reported that Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District (TCRSD) has the information they requested and are currently getting an analysis. Hopefully it will be resolved soon. Discussion followed on a time table for getting this resolved.

Henry stated that the new business at the Technology Park has been doing some construction. He stated that the decent weather has been helpful.

Henry announced that he attended a meeting with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) regarding a proposed round-a-bout at the intersection of U.S. 6 and State Road 13. He stated that another meeting may occur in January of 2018.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions on his report. There were none. Jim made a request to lease to purchase 3 new vehicles after trading in 3 current vehicles. He would be leasing 2 – 2018 Dodge Chargers and one 2018 Dodge Ram Truck. Paul Stoelting moved to approve leasing to purchase the 3 vehicles after trading in the older 3, under the terms of the lease description given, with delivery within 45 days. Bill Musser seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim ask the council to allow an encumbrance of \$14,500 from the 2017 budget to be forwarded to the 2018 budget for the cost of up-fitting the two Chargers through CopsGear.com. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the encumbrance; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim informed the Council that the hiring process has begun for replacing an officer that is retiring. There are currently 3 candidates.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported on the status of the Park Master Plan. He also announced that the adult basketball league will begin in January. He stated that the Ice Rink was opened; however, it is now a pond due to the weather. He stated that there are skates that can be rented for the rink. They were donated by the K21 Grant.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Hoover announced that Bruce Vandermark called him and wanted to thank the Town and Public Works for correcting the Oakwood sewer issue.

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant reported that the new dump truck should be in next week. He requested the Council to allow him to purchase a snow plow for the new truck. He has received three quotes; W.A. Jones for \$11,790, Monroe Snow & Ice Control for \$12,632.00, and The Godwin Group for \$13,108.00. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the purchase of a snow plow from W.A. Jones for \$11,790 to be delivered within 60 days. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob presented the bids for the Pavement Project accepted by the Community Crossings Grant. Niblock's bid was \$272,741.60, Phend & Brown was \$339,937.00, and Rieth-Riley was \$370,671.07. Rob would like the council to approve the quote from Niblock for \$272,741.60; in which the Town would only have to pay for 25% (\$68,185.40). The start date would have to be by April 1st of 2018 and should be completed by July 1st,

2018. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the bid from Niblock; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob reported on the status of the booster station for the Technology Park. He contacted Jones Petri Rafinski and they state they want to replace the pressure relief valve. Rob believes a technician needs to look at it before replacing anything. He will be talking to the technician over the phone tomorrow. Discussion followed on possible water loss through this issue and other issues.

Rob introduced a situation to the Council regarding lost revenue due to stuck or broken meters, as well as customers bypassing the meter for their water usage. In the past the customer was only billed for the minimum charges if no water was measured. Rob provided Indiana Administrative code that allows us to bill an average or estimated usage to the customer for said situations. He would like for the Council to direct the Clerk-Treasurer or change the ordinance to allow the estimation or adjustment. In the case of a by-pass being done by a customer, the Council agreed to billing them an average of their past 12-month usage for the time it was by-passed. Lengthy discussion followed.

Rob presented the 2018 Water and Wastewater Budgets. He explained the different areas in which some items went over budget and some went under budget in 2017. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the 2018 Water and Wastewater Budgets as presented. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob discussed the Guaranteed Savings Contract for the Wastewater Aeration project. He is asking the council to sign a Limited Notice to Proceed agreement from Kokosing, dependent upon Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) permit, that will allow them to order the needed equipment. If the Town decides to use a different contractor than Kokosing, the equipment would remain the same; however, they require payment of no more than \$30,000 in ordering fees that would go towards that equipment. There is approximately a 14 to 16-week lead time for the equipment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve having the Council President sign the Limited Notice to Proceed for Kokosing. Bill Musser seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry Martindale asked Rob about the status of the Backflow Prevention situation. Rob explained that he has a call into I.D.E.M. regarding the instances for the CO2 tanks on some businesses pop machines.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott asked the council if they had any questions about his report. There were none. Mickey stated he wanted to thank all the boards for working together this year. He updated the council regarding the fire on Boston Street. He stated that the residents have been relocated.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, had nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler wanted to know where Hal's report was. She stated that there should be \$10,000 in the Unsafe Building Fund. Paula informed that there is currently \$5,000 in the Fund. She also feels that Hal needs a raise for all he does for the community. She would also like to know how deep of a background check is done for the town police officers. Ms. Fowler and Mike McNiel requested that the Town provide parking for Semi-trucks. It was stated by Town Attorney, Vern Landis, that there is no state law that requires the Town to provide parking for Semi-trucks.

ELECTION OF 2018 TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Town Attorney, Vern Landis opened the floor to nominations of the 2018 Town Council President. Paul Stoelting nominated Bill Musser. Bill Musser moved to approve his nomination; Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Vern closed the floor for nominations.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Musser asked Rob who paints the yellow lines in the streets. He claims that the lines are very crooked. Rob stated that the new sprayer might need modified.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Hoover thanks all the employees for making his job as President easy.

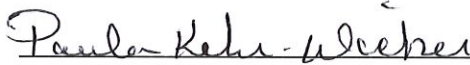
Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:16 pm.

ATTEST:



Tom Hoover, President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer