

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2023 @7:00 P.M.

Town Council Vice President Paul Stoelting called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were William Musser, Nathan Scherer, Larry Siegel, Clerk Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Attorney Jay Rigdon. Cindy Kaiser was absent.

Paul Stoelting opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the January 17, 2023, regular meeting presented for approval. Larry Siegel moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 114-249 for \$1,078,292.43 presented for approval. Larry Siegel moved to approve the claims; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Paul Stoelting introduced Mr. Gordon Lord, Mr. Lord stated he lives at 700 N. Lake St., they have owned this property since 2004. Mr. Lord has a retaining wall on his property that encroaches on the Town's right of way and would like to renovate the wall. He also stated that the retaining wall has been there since the house was built in the 1960's. There will be no change in the renovation of the wall. The Town is for the renovation and not to take any action.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy received two proposals for the Lakeside water main loop and Oakwood lift station project. The proposals were reviewed by the Town committee and recommend F.A. Wilhelm over Kokosing. Asking for approval from the Council. Jeremy explained that the approval with F.A. Wilhelm would not be binding till the contract is signed. There will be some work done in-house to save on cost. The Council approved what the committee recommended for the project.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson hired an engineering firm to look into the two municipal parking lots across the street from the Library on Main Street. The engineering firm came back with some renderings, David would like to set up a public meeting for some suggestions or alternatives. This is not binding. Tentatively scheduled for March 15th at 6 p.m.

David spoke about the building that would store permanent records for the Clerk's office and Police department. The old records are stored in a building by the water plant. It is not climate controlled, and the records are deteriorating. The new building would be climate controlled. Mark, Public Works Director, received some quotes for the new building. Approximately \$85,000 for the building, the groundwork would be done in house. We could use CCI property tax funds (4423) to pay for the building. There is \$85,000 appropriated for this year in the CCI (4423).

Nathan Scherer asked about digital storage for records moving forward. The Clerk stated the Town must keep employee's personal information permanently and payroll. It is easier for the Auditors to have paperwork in front of them instead of looking it up digitally. Once we are audited we do shred the paperwork that does not have to be kept permanently. Bill Musser made the motion to purchase the building, not to exceed \$85,000.00; Larry Seigel seconded the motion. Nathan Scherer abstained from the vote. The motion was carried.

David reported that he has done some research on the utility fund, revenue vs expenses, in the last 5 years. In 2018-2020 the Town did not lose any money, we gained a little money. In 2021 and 2022 we lost money. We are not generating the revenues as we expected in order to keep operating. David projected at the end of 2023 we be more in the red than last year. David stated we need to do a sewer rate study, there has not been one done since. 2017. David recommended having Jim Higgins from London Witte do the rate study for the Town. The Council approved the rate study.

Larry Martindale served on the Syracuse Metro Police Commissioners Board and the Turkey Creek Fire Territory Board so we need to reappoint someone to take his place. The Council would have to nominate someone to fill his position. Larry Siegel nominated Nathan Scherer; Paul Stoelting seconded. All in favor; none against. Motion carried.

David asked Jay Ridgon, Town Attorney, if he would like to discuss the Library and the Dolan Street property. Jay Ridgon stated the Town can donate the land to the library. Jay will need the legal description of the land and will have the deed approved by the Council at the March meeting.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. The Police Department is going through an internal interviewing process to replace Dan Buell.

Last week the new in-car cameras were installed in the police cars.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, reported on the indoor garage sale will be on March 4th. The following weekend will be the Rotary's poker tournament on March 11th.

April 29th is the tentative date for the first baseball game on the new field. There will be a ceremony that day.

Ballfield: 7 of the 8 sets of bleachers have been assembled. There are still some issues that the contractor needs to complete before the first game. Water is still not on; this will happen at the end of March. There are some fence issues to resolve. Entry way that still needs to be put up.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mark is asking the Council for approval to purchase a new John Deere tractor with a manure spreader. The 1974 tractor and manure spreader has been rebuilt several times and the Street dept. is ready to retire this equipment. Mark is asking for approval from the Council to purchase the new tractor and manure spreader for \$81,233.32. Bill Musser approved the purchase not to exceed \$82,000.00 and delivered within 60 days; Nathan Scherer seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Mark hired a new employee to replace Jim Glaze from the Street Department. Jim Glaze retired last month.

Looking to hire a new employee for the Water department, would like to get a certified license operator.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, did not have much to report. Asking for Council approval to replace the 2007 Fire engine. It is 36 to 42 months out till we receive the new Fire truck. We can put half down \$439,560.00 and there will be a discount of \$12,179.48. The purchase of the new fire truck will cost \$879,120.00 minus the discounted price of \$12,179.48, with the total cost of \$866,940.53. Bill Musser made the motion to purchase the Fire truck for \$879,120.00, paying half up front \$439,560.00 with the balance due when the Fire truck is complete; Nathan Scherer seconded the motion. All voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer requested a special meeting to discuss employee's insurance. The past meeting that discussed the Town's Insurance and the starting of the HAS was back in 2004 and is so vague. The Clerk-Treasurer spoke with State Board of Accounts, Town's HR Consulting Firm New Focus, and Jay Ridgon, Town Attorney, they all agreed that there needs to be a special meeting to discuss the insurance. Paul suggested having Cindy Kaiser set up the meeting in March when she gets back. Paul asked Jay Ridgon, if this would be a special meeting or an executive meeting? Jay said it would be a special meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Ridgon, Town Attorney, did not have anything further to discuss.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Bill asked if we could get a committee together to discuss Christmas decorations in the Town. The ones we have are old and need to be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS


Nothing

Larry Siegel made a motion to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Bill Musser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



Paul Stoelting, Council Vice President



Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer