

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 21, 2018

Town Council President Bill Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:03 p.m. Other Council members present were Tom Hoover, Paul Stoelting, Larry Siegel, and Larry Martindale. Town Attorney Vern Landis, Town Manager Henry DeJulia, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Bill Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Musser asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the July 17, 2018, meeting was presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1009 through 1151 were presented for payment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry DeJulia introduced George Robertson to the Council. Mr. Robertson spoke regarding the property at 300 E Chicago Street. It currently contains four startup companies. Chris Greer, of Driven Innovations addressed the council with a request for a tax abatement that will be used to upgrade one of the buildings and construct another. Mr. Greer stated that this property would be the headquarters, research and development laboratory, manufacturing and distribution facility for the company. He also explained that Driven Innovations provides small components, chassis, and welding and fabrication to the RV industry. Larry moved to approve Resolution 18-02, Declaratory Resolution Approving a Deduction Application for an Area Previously Designated an Economic Revitalization Area. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Henry stated that he will be presenting the Confirmatory Resolution at next month's meeting.

Resolution 2018-03, Transfer of Funds from the Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the resolution; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia announced that a rail spur would be cut out on the Huntington Street railroad crossing right after Labor Day. This will be a 2 day process and trucks will be rerouted to other State Roads during the shutdown. Mickey Scott spoke up and stated that the Main Street railroad crossing will be closed in October for repairs. He was unsure of how long the closing would last. He also stated that the other crossing would not be closed during that time. Henry also informed the council that there will be a meeting at the Wawasee High School cafeteria on August 29th to discuss future planning of a round-about being constructed at the intersection of State Road 13 and U.S. Highway 6. Henry then reported on his attendance at the August 4th Syracuse Lake Association meeting, and the presentation of the flood control structure project. He stated there were approximately 100 members in attendance. Henry also informed the council that the engineers doing a study on the flood control structure, Lawson-Fisher, has submitted their preliminary costs for improvements. If we do the repairs all at once in 2019, the cost would be \$575,000. If we do the repairs in two phases, the cost for phase 1 in 2019 would be \$300,000 and phase 2 in 2023 would be \$320,00.

Henry presented Jeremy Hardy of Commonwealth Engineers to discuss an additional proposal for the 2018 Community Crossing Grant applications. Jeremy passed out a list of the roads that needed either new or upgraded sidewalks. He explained that we could possibly get more funding if we include these sidewalks to the project. The additional cost to the project would be \$80,000. If we receive the grant, the Town would only be responsible to pay 25% or \$20,000. Paul Stoelting moved to approve adding the sidewalks to the current application. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions regarding his report. There were none. He announced that one of his patrolmen, Kyle Denton, would be resigning and going to work for the Kosciusko Sherriff's Department as of the 30th of this month. He hopes to fill his position with a current reserve officer.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, was absent.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent, Rob Merchant, asked if there were any questions on his report. There were none. He updated the council regarding letters that were sent to Oakwood for the sewer line testing and Medusa Street to inspect sump pumps. He asked the council if he could go door to door and put door hangers on the properties that have not responded. The council agreed.

Rob stated that the corrective street line painting for Harkless Drive will be completed this week. Rob is also updating the Standard Operating Procedure for utility locates to include photographs. He also informed the council that Dutchman has completed their water taps and that they still need to do pressure testing and add chlorine.

Rob introduced Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineers, again, to speak about the Water Plant's chlorine system evaluation. Jeremy claims that the system is in bad shape. He stated it would cost more to buy the chemicals than to replace the whole system. The cost for the system would be approximately \$60,000. He will provide updated quotes by the next council meeting.

Jeremy provided an updated list on the Guaranteed Savings estimate for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Bill Musser asked about the current problems going on. Jeremy and Tina Wolff (Kokosing Industrial) explained that the cost to repair those problems are included in the project contingency amount. Tina added that the benefit of the Guaranteed Savings program is that there are no Change Orders.

Tina also discussed the Energy Savings program that they have worked on for the Town with NIPSCO. She explained the timeline and process for getting the savings for the Wastewater Plant improvements and other projects.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott reported that the Turkey Creek Fire Territory budget has expended 41.47% of their budget for the year. There were a total of 132 Emergency and Fire responses for the month of July. He also stated that there was a total of 321.75 hours of training completed by the fire & emergency personnel in July. Mickey requested that the council approve a \$300,000 additional appropriation to the 2018 budget to help pay for expenses needed for the Station 1 and 2 Building improvements. Tom Hoover moved to approve the request. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; Larry Siegel abstained. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, asked if there were any questions regarding the corrections to the 2019 Budgets or her report. There were none.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

John Earnest, Syracuse Lake Association board member, spoke about the Flood Control Structure repairs. He thanked the council members that were present at the last Syracuse Lake Association meeting. He would like to assist on finding ways to help fund the repairs. He suggested different options such as donations or a fee/tax. Tom Hoover mentioned the Wawasee Area Conservancy District and Trails committee that continue to receive funding and is interested on how they get that funding. Bill Pipp, representing Wawasee Lake Association, stated that residents from the outer areas need to be included on Town issues before funding is needed. Jim Silcox, Conklin Bay (Lake Wawasee) resident, said that most people feel that it is the town's "dam" and that it was the Town that wanted it. He stated that if the Council were involved with the Lake Association meetings, the Lake Association Boards would be more willing to come to the Council meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS


Tom Hoover stated that the Town Council has a difference of opinion with the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District (TCRSD) regarding their discharges into our system, the amount of the discharge, and the rates that the district should pay. Tom said that we have talked publicly about these differences for many months now. Previously, we have instructed our rate consultant and engineer to meet with TCRSD's accountant and engineer to try to reach a mutually satisfactory decision. The consultants and engineers have been unable to reach any kind of mutually acceptable agreement. Tom made a motion that our rate consultants, engineers, and other professionals work together for an effort to make a demand or offer that is acceptable to the Town of Syracuse. If unable to reach a reasonable agreement or decision, Tom would resolve that the Town of Syracuse file a complaint in court. Bill Musser seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tom pointed out that TCRSD currently owes the town approximately \$200,000 in charges.

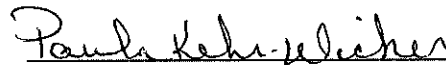
Paul Stoelting moved to adjourn; Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:28 pm.

ATTEST:



Bill Musser, Council President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer