

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

October 15, 2019

Town Council President Larry Martindale called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, and Bill Musser. Attorney Karen McGrath and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Tom Hoover and Town Attorney Vern Landis was absent.

Larry Martindale opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry Martindale asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the September 17, 2019 meeting was presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1304 through 1443 were presented for payment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Renea Salyer, director for the Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself. She stated that she is here to help the Town of Syracuse in any way she can. The Chamber will be open from 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

The Kosciusko County Tobacco Free Coalition made a presentation regarding how many cigarette butts were collected around the town. They provided a draft ordinance to the council members to help them create their own if they decide to pass a ban on cigarette smoking for currently exempt businesses.

Ordinance 2019-14, 2020 Budget, was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance. Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-15, Transfer of Funds Between Categories, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Paul Stoelting seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-16, Amending the Town Code regarding Permits for Excavating and Paving of Streets (Street Cut deposit), was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance. Bill Musser seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-17, Amending Chapter 8 Article 8 of the Town Code regarding Handicapped Parking Regulations (at Library), was presented. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance. Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER / PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Noe commended all the employees for the Town for their help regarding the water main break this past week. He announced that the Town of Syracuse was awarded the Community Crossings Grant for \$339,597.75 from the Indiana Department of Transportation. Contracts have been signed for the North Water Tower painting.

Mike presented a purchase request for an upgrade to our current utility meter reading software from Utility Supply. The cost will be an extra \$1,000 for the maintenance contract and \$12,000 for equipment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the purchase. Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike reported that there are some decorative lights not working around Main Street and Huntington Street. He stated that they should be repaired by next month.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions regarding his report. There were none.

Jim presented a purchase request for a new 2019 Dodge Durango to replace a vehicle that was determined to be totaled by the insurance company. The cost would be \$39,498 and purchased from John Jones Automotive. He also requests authorization for the Clerk-Treasurer to process payment before the next meetings docket approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the purchase. Bill Musser seconded. Four voted on the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim announced that the Police Matron/Secretary is out on sick leave so the department may be occasionally closed. He also announced that Trick or Treat hours would be on October 31st from 6pm to 8pm.

There were no ADA complaints.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that the Superhero Academy had 16 participants. He stated he would try a different time of year the next time in hopes of increasing that number. He stated there was a good turnout for the Harvest Festival, despite the cold weather. He announced that this coming Saturday will be the Annual Indoor Garage Sale from 10am to 2pm. October 26th will be the Youth Center Carnival. The Haunted Thrill at Crosson Mill will be open on October 25, 26, and 31 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

Chad also reported that there will be more lighting installed at the Community Center's parking lot in spring of next year. He will be applying for a grant from the Harkless Foundation to help pay for it.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott asked the council if there were any questions on his report. There were none.

Bill Musser thanked Mickey for his carbon monoxide detector and wanted to remind others that the Fire Department will provide them to homes for free.

Mickey reported that the 2008 ambulance that was sent in for repairs and was informed that the engine and oil pressure was unable to be repaired. He is still working with the insurance adjusters and the ambulance company to get answers regarding the ambulance that was damaged in a crash. The insurance company is estimating approximately \$50,000 for repairing it. Mickey stated that repairing the ambulance would take around 6 to 9 months, and to have a new one built would take a year.

Mickey gave thanks to North Webster for loaning their ambulance to the Fire Territory.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, announced that the Clerk's Office would be closed on October 17th and November 1st for training.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Karen McGrath had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Siegel stated that Oakwood residents would like to have more lighting in the area. There are currently 26 lights throughout that are not working and would like the Town to take ownership of them. Larry Siegel moved to have the Town of Syracuse repair, maintain, and convert all NIPSCO light poles in Oakwood to LED and into the Town's name. Bill Musser seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill Musser and Larry Siegel requested a study to be done on how many construction permits have been issued this year, and what the requirements are to receive one.

Paul Stoelting stated that he would like the ordinance for the one-sided parking on Lake Street to be reconsidered. Jim Layne, Mike Noe, and Mickey Scott reminded Paul that it was created due to emergency vehicles being able to get through that street. It was also mentioned that there are a variety of old ordinances and resolutions that will need to be amended.

Mickey Scott reported an issue of people storing 55 gallon drums of gasoline on their property. He stated that above ground storage for gas or kerosene cannot be within 20 feet of any public lines.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:56 pm.

ATTEST:



Larry Martindale, Council President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer