

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 19, 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, Tom Hoover, and Bill Musser. Attorney Vern Landis and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present. Paul Stoelting was absent.

Larry Martindale opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Rich Haddid, Executive Director for K-21 Foundation, made a presentation. He announced that the Foundation Board has made a pledge to the Town of Syracuse for up to \$200,000 in grant money to be available for Health and Wellness assistance. He stated that the Syracuse Council would need to approve any kind of plan that is presented before a grant would be awarded. He added that there could be multiple items for use, but only one application could be submitted.

The minutes of the October 15, 2019 meeting was presented for approval. Larry Siegel moved to approve the minutes; Bill Musser seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. Tom Hoover abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1444 through 1599 were presented for payment. Tom Hoover moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-18, 2020 Salaries and Compensation, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-19, Amending Employee Benefits, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2019-20, Transfer of Funds between Categories – EDIT & Park, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the ordinance. Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER / PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Noe requested that the Council waive an outstanding balance on the invoice for post-employment use of a town-owned cell phone. Bill Musser moved to approve writing off the amount of \$57.41 owed. Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike asked the council to solicit bids for the water main project on Medusa Street. He stated that he would like to have it completed before Labor Day in 2020. Tom Hoover moved to approve the request. Bill Musser seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike informed the council that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) does not require the injection of fluoride into the water. He stated that the ground water already has some fluoride in it, and that most toothpastes include fluoride. If we no longer inject fluoride into our water, it would be a cost savings of approximately \$18,250 a year. Tom Hoover moved to allow our water department to no longer inject fluoride into our water treatment. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike reported that he received 4 different quotes for a new security system at Public Works. The best option came from Koorsen Fire & Security. Larry Siegel moved to approve the installation of a security system at Public Works for an amount not to exceed \$22,340.39 and to be completed within 60 days. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike made a personal request to the council to allow him to roll-over a week of vacation from 2019 to 2020 due to unexpected work load this year. Larry Siegel moved to approve the request and stated that he does not want this type of request to become a habit for any employee. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike presented the Kosciusko Economic Development Agreement for the remaining of 2019. He reminded the council that they have already agreed previously to pay the \$10,000 fee.

Mike provided the council a list of possible fees for various building permits. Larry Siegel stated that until recently we have had several years of no development. Larry Siegel also stated that we need to consider and allow for a good economy and a bad one when coming up with fees. The council directed Mike to contact other municipalities and compare their fees.

Mike informed the council that Middlebury Electric will be repairing a panel on the Louie's Lift Station. It is expected to cost \$8,740.00

Mike made a purchase request from Straeffer Pump & Supply to renovate the Carroll Street Lift Station. The cost is \$41,825. Larry Siegel moved to approve the renovation and to have it completed within 120 days. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike presented another purchase request for a new generator for the Smokey's Lift Station for \$21,896. It would be purchased and installed through Middlebury Electric. Larry Siegel moved to approve the purchase and to be completed within 120 days. Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike would like to have a cover built and installed over the Influent structure at the wastewater building. He stated this will prevent it from freezing and spending for fuel and man hours when it does freeze. He stated that when it's finished, it will blend in with the rest of the building. Larry Siegel moved to approve having White Oaks Construction build the Influent Cover for an amount not to exceed \$38,171 and to be completed within 45 days. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike reported that the North Water Tank has been repaired and is painted. The paint will need to cure for about 10 days and then it will be another 2 weeks to fill it back up and have the water tested. Mike announced that the street department is planning on stopping the leaf pickup on November 27th. Depending on weather and other circumstances, they may pick them up after that date, but is not a guarantee.

POLICE

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

Jim reported that a new police officer, Corey Kenworthy, has started on the 18th. He and 7 reserve officers will be going through their pre-basic training. Corey will be at next months meeting to be sworn in.

Jim also reported that the new Dodge Durango has been received and is now in service.

Jim reported on the status of updating various old ordinances. He requested 2 council members to volunteer to be part of a committee for this task. Tom Hoover and Larry Martindale volunteered.

Jim requested that the council approve the annual Interlocal Agreement for Terminal Services with Kosciusko County for \$5,000. Larry Siegel moved to approve the agreement. Bill Musser seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim reported on ADA complaints he has received. He stated that there are some issues regarding sidewalks and wheelchair capabilities. Jim and Mike are currently investigating various areas.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that the Haunted House was only open for two nights due to the weather; however, it still had over 150 visitors. He also stated that the Fall Carnival went very well.

Upcoming events include a tree lighting ceremony at Crosson Park on Saturday the 23rd starting at 5pm with Santa arriving at 6pm. Breakfast with Santa will be on December 7th between 8am and 11am at the Community Center.

Chad also reported that the Snowflakes for the decorative lights are all up. The trail committee continues to work on the trail on Conklin Bay. They hope to be finished within a week.

Tom Hoover asked about the funding of the lighting at the community center's parking lot. Chad answered that the Harkless Foundation Grant award of \$12,000 would cover the installation and cement work. The decorative lights being used would come from the Town's inventory. Any other expenses would come from the Park's budget. Chad hopes to have the project completed in early spring.

Jim Layne spoke up to announce that the solar speed signs are working, and he is hoping to get 2 more at a later time. He also stated that the elementary school zone signs will be removed soon.

FIRE TERRITORY

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

Mickey thanked the council and Mike on working to get the water main reconstructed for Medusa Street. He stated it will help greatly with the water pressure and hydrants.

Mickey reported on the ambulance that was damaged due to a wreck. The insurance company estimated that the body damage is approximately \$61,460. It does not include any damage to the drive train. Mickey stated that they

need to have 3 working ambulances and they only have two. He is requesting to purchase an already out-fitted demo ambulance and a cot for an amount not to exceed \$295,00. Bill Musser stated that the Fire Territory does have funds available to purchase the demo ambulance. Bill Musser moved to approve the purchase of the demo ambulance and that it needs to be delivered by January 31st. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry Siegel asked Mickey if it would benefit Syracuse if North Webster Fire Department were to join a fire territory. Mickey stated he would look into it.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, asked the council if they would like to have a year-end meeting. They stated they would prefer all business done at the regular December meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Vern Landis had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler stated that she lives on Pittsburg Street and that the street is very dark at night. She would like to get more lighting for that street. Larry Siegel requested that the police department be on watch for any other dark areas of town while they are on patrol.

Sharon also asked why the recycling couldn't be picked up every week with the trash. Bill Musser explained that it would cost more to the Town as well as there isn't as much recycling to pick up.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Siegel moved to have Mike get a survey completed for the levee behind Subway. He would like to know who owns it. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted the motion; none against. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS


Tom Hoover reported that Mary Hursch is asking for more lighting at the parking lot across from the library. Discussion was made on possible resolutions and types of lighting.

Bill Musser moved to adjourn; Tom Hoover seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:10 pm.

ATTEST:


Larry Martindale, Council President


Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer