

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 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, Paul Stoelting and Bill Musser. Attorney Vern Landis and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Larry Martindale opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Police Chief, Jim Layne, introduced the new full-time officer, Corey Kenworthy. Paula Kehr-Wicker swore in Mr. Kenworthy.

Attorney Steve Snyder presented an encroachment agreement to the Council for the residents of Gordon and Laurie Lord at 700 N. Lake St. The agreement allows them to continue having an already existing fence within a public easement. Various photos from past years were presented showing the history of a fence in the area, even prior to the Lord's ownership. There were also photos presented of other easements that have various landscaping. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the history of the complaint on the Lord's property and the interference of the public's reasonable use of the right-of-way. Bill Musser moved to approve the agreement. More discussion followed. There was no second to the motion. Larry Martindale declared the motion as "tabled." Paul Stoelting stated that he has a concern that "untaxed property" would be given to the landowner if this allowed. Larry Siegel made a motion to have a letter written to the Kosciusko County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) requesting that the lawsuit be dropped. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Three voted for the motion, Bill Musser opposed, and Paul Stoelting abstained. The motion carried.

The minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting was presented for approval. Bill Musser moved to approve the minutes; Larry Siegel seconded. Four voted for the motion, Paul Stoelting abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1600 through 1742 were presented for payment. Tom Hoover moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2019-06, Year End Transfers, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2019-07, Transfer of funds to the Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund, was presented. Bill Musser moved to approve the resolution. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

2020 APPOINTMENTS

Mike Noe presented the following 2020 appointments:

Town Attorney (one-year term) – Vern Landis

Police Chief (one-year term) – Jim Layne

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

Tree Board (3-year term) – Jerry Riffle (until 2022).

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

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

Tom Hoover announced that he was appointed by the Township to be on the Library Board.

TOWN MANAGER / PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Noe requested that the council allow him to sign an agreement with Oakwood to maintain 6 lights. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the request. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against.

Due to the water main break on Pickwick Drive back in November, repairs were needed for Hammer's Pub and Grub's backflow preventor. Mike is requesting that the Town pay for their repair bill from Brent's Plumbing

for \$520. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the payment. Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike requested to purchase 2 solar powered radar speed limit signs from RadarSign, LLC. One would be purchased from the Town Manager's budget and the other would be from the Police Department budget. The total cost would not exceed \$7,246.00 and will be delivered within 60 days. Larry Siegel moved to approve the request. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike reported that the Town Hall is lacking handicap accessibility for entering and in the bathrooms. He would like to have Williams Construction install a remote opening door to the west entrance and remodel both bathrooms. The cost would be \$50,467. Tom Hoover moved to approve the construction. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike stated that the structure being built over the wastewater influent is in process. The contractor, White Oaks Construction, is requesting payment for the cost of the materials before the work is completed. Bill Musser moved to approve paying \$18,585.50 for the cost of materials only for the building of the cover before the work is completed. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Four voted for the motion, Larry Siegel opposed. The motion carried.

Mike announced that the water department is replacing the 'media' with anthracite. The cost will be \$3,150. Installation will be on January 7th. Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) stated in their inspection that this was needed.

Mike reported that all the streetlights in town are working.

Mike informed the council that the Community Crossings Grant project bid advertisements will be let out on the 23rd and the 30th of December. The Medusa Street water main and fire hydrants will be included. He hopes to have everything done by Memorial Day.

Mike requested a purchase of a new dump truck for the Street Department. The cost would not exceed \$195,000 and will be purchased from M C Equipment / W A Jones, Inc. The truck should be ready by June of 2020. Tom Hoover moved to approve the purchase. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike presented the Water and Wastewater Budgets for 2020. He stated he is planning on a new truck for the water department and more well heads. He would also like to have a new roof put on the wastewater plant. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the 2020 Water and Wastewater Budgets. Tom Hoover seconded. 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.

Jim made a request to purchase 9 body armor vests from U.S. Uniform and Supply for an amount not to exceed \$10,575. They will be delivered within 90 days. Tom Hoover moved to approve the request. Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim also requested to purchase 12 Electronic Control Weapons (ECW) from Phazzer. The amount would not exceed \$13,581. Delivery would be within 90 days. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the purchase. Larry Siegel seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim also requested approval to purchase 9 body cameras from Axon Enterprises for an amount not to exceed \$6,291.00. Delivery would also be within 90 days. Bill Musser moved to approve the purchase. Paul Stoelting seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim stated that the carpet in the Police Department needs replaced. He would like to have Goshen Floor Mart install new carpeting for an amount not to exceed \$11,608.21. He also requests that the Council authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to process a check for 50% of the cost as a down payment before the installation. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the purchase of new carpeting and allow the Clerk to pay 50% before installation. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against.

Jim informed the Council that the Police Department is currently being painted. The cost is under his pre-approved allowance. However, he is requesting that the Clerk-Treasurer be allowed to pay \$1,000 to the painter, Margaret Easterly, prior to completing the job. Larry Siegel moved to approve the pre-payment. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, presented a recommendation from the Park Board to re-appoint Jeff Nicodemus. This is a three year term that would expire at the end of 2022. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the re-appointment. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Chad reported that it has been a slow month, but they are playing catch-up. He also reported that there were 515 breakfasts served during the Breakfast with Santa.

Bill Musser thanked Chad for his assistance with the Flood Control Structure issue.

FIRE TERRITORY

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

Mickey made a purchase request for 2 new cots from Stryker. The total cost would not exceed \$35,035. Bill Musser moved to approve the purchase of the cots. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, announced that the Town Hall would be closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Clerk's Office only will be closed at noon on New Year's Eve.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Vern Landis had nothing to report.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Vern Landis swore in Paula Kehr-Wicker for the office of Clerk-Treasurer and Bill Musser, Tom Hoover, and Larry Martindale for their new terms as Town Council members

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler stated that Pittsburg Street has one streetlight, but it is not light enough. She would like to have more light installed on that street.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Siegel nominated Paul Stoelting as Town Council President for 2020. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:37 pm.

ATTEST:

x Larry Martindale
Larry Martindale, Council President

Paula Kehr-Wicker
Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer