

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 18, 2018

Town Council President Bill Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 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 amended the Agenda to allow introduction of two new employees. Town Marshall, James Layne, introduced Ken Troutman, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, and Cody Leer, patrolman. Paula Kehr-Wicker swore in Cody Leer.

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

The minutes of the August 21, 2018, meeting was presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 1152 through 1280 were presented for payment. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill Musser opened the floor for a Public Hearing on the Tax Abatement for Driven Innovations. Sharon Fowler asked what the company does. Bill answered. The Public Hearing was closed.

Resolution 2018-04, Confirmatory Resolution for Driven Innovations (300 E Chicago St.) Tax Abatement, was introduced. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the resolution. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2018-11, Confidential Funds for Police Investigations, was introduced. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the ordinance. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill Musser opened the floor for a Public Hearing on the 2019 Budget ordinance. There were no comments. The ordinance will be represented for adoption at the October meeting. The Public Hearing was closed.

TOWN MANAGER

Henry DeJulia reported that a meeting was held on the current issues regarding the Flood Control Structure at Crosson Mill. He is hopeful of a total analysis within a month or so. Henry also reported that the 6 & 13 Industrial Park has 3 of the 4 buildings completed. The Harkless Road striping project is being repaired for a third time. It should be completed within the next week.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked the council if they had any questions regarding his report. There were none. He announced that the Trick or Treat hours will be from 6pm to 8pm on October 31st. Patrolman Jonathan (Gage) Fannin will be graduating from the Police Academy at the end of September.

Jim presented a purchase request for a vehicle to be used by the new Ordinance Enforcement officer. He would like to spend no more than \$6,000 on a used vehicle. He stated the money is already in his budget. The vehicle will be parked at the Town Hall and will not be a take-home vehicle. It will not have any permanent identifying marks. Tom Hoover moved to approve the purchase for no more than \$6,000. Paul Stoelting seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jim announced that there have been reports of a fraud or breach with Interra Credit Union. He urges all to be on the watch for any suspicious devices on gas pumps and ATM machines.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that there will be a Kids Wildlife Program scheduled on September 29th. This will be for grades Kindergarten through Eighth. The Harvest Festival, as well as the last day of the Farmer's Market, will be on October 13th. The Fall Indoor Garage Sale is scheduled for October 20th. Chad announced that a donation was made to the Park for a new L.E.D. sign in front of the Community Center.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent, Rob Merchant, presented a quote for the new Chlorine System upgrade at the Water Department. Living Waters quoted \$31,534.00 for the system and Scadata quoted an additional \$27,929.00 for the new wires and computer, making a total of \$59,463 for the upgrade. The funds are already budgeted, and the project should be completed by the end of the year. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the chlorine system upgrade. Larry Martindale seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob reported that an updated Sewer Use Ordinance is past due on being submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). He would like to increase the suggested limit of Fats Oil & Grease to 200 mg per liter. Commonwealth would make the change, Vern would need to look it over, and then IDEM will need to review and approve it.

Rob also reported that the storm water drainage on Chicago street in front of Rinker Boats was repaired. The wastewater department continues to leave tags on doors of the houses on Medusa Street to set appointments for sump pump inspections. So far, one out of ten that have been inspected will need to be corrected. Tom Hoover expressed a great need on increasing the sewer line for Medusa Street. He states that the issues that have been going on between the rain and the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District is causing problems with the real estate.

Rob informed the council that a man hole was discovered in a swampy area behind McDonald's that needs to be raised up. He also stated that the Crack Sealing for this year will be done in October. The L.E.D. lights will be installed and completed on the street lights south of the tracks by the end of the year.

Jeremy Hardy of Commonwealth Engineers updated the Council on the Aeration project. Jeremy will also be meeting with Henry and A&Z Engineering to discuss the 2018 Community Crossings Grant submission. He would like to get council approve to move on with the project. Paul Stoelting moved to approve proceeding with the submission; Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott reported that the monthly outdoor warning siren test was done on September 14th instead of the first Friday as scheduled due to inclement weather. The building improvements should be started soon. They will also be receiving a new L.E.D. sign to advertise Public Service announcements. Mickey also reported that the new vacuum tanker was delivered to the dealer and during inspection there were some issues noted and the truck was sent back for corrections. The back-up generators were tested and serviced at both fire stations. They are currently conducting the annual fire hose inspection and there is some hose that need to be replaced.

Mickey invited the Council to the upcoming Fish Fry at the Kosciusko County Fairgrounds.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, had nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler stated that she had made a public records request to the Police Department and it has not been done. (After the meeting, it was discovered that the request was for private records that are not susceptible to the Access to Public Records Act.) Sharon asked what was done with the red Police Vehicle. Jim Layne answered that it was traded in. Sharon stated that her trash was not picked up and would like something done about it. The Council advised her to provide her name and address to the Clerk-Treasurer to aid in a resolution.

A resident in the audience asked what the issues were with the Flood Control Structure. Bill Musser gave a summarized explanation.

OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Musser asked about the building that Goodwill and other companies have at various properties for donations. He would like to know if there are any repercussions for people leaving things outside of the buildings.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:53 pm.

ATTEST:



Bill Musser, Council President



Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer