

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2020

Town Council President Paul Stoelting called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Other Council members present were Larry Martindale, Tom Hoover, and Larry Siegel. Bill Musser attended by phone call. Attorney Vern Landis and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

The minutes of the June 4, 2020 special meeting and the June 16, 2020 regular meeting were presented for approval. Larry Siegel moved to approve both minutes; Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #'s 821 through 979 for \$691,495.64 were presented for payment. Larry Siegel moved to approve the claims; Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Public Hearing was opened by Paul Stoelting for Resolution 20-08, Confirmatory Resolution for Polywood Tax Abatement (new building on existing property). There were no comments made from the audience. The Public Hearing was closed.

Resolution 20-08, Confirmatory Resolution for Polywood Tax Abatement (new building on existing property), was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Public Hearing was opened by Paul Stoelting for Resolution 20-09, Confirmatory Resolution for Polywood Tax Abatement (for newly purchased property- previously Harold Schrock Field). There were no comments made from the audience. The Public Hearing was closed.

Resolution 20-09, Confirmatory Resolution for Polywood Tax Abatement (for newly purchased property- previously Harold Schrock Field), was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 20-10, Approving Tax Increment Finance Area for Polywood, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Bill Musser seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 20-11, Approving the Issuance of Bonds, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 20-12, Memorandum of Understanding – Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System (TRECS) Enrollment, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve the resolution. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 20-04, Transfer of Appropriations for TIF-Town of Syracuse Fund, was presented. Larry Siegel moved to approve ordinance. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Alan Tio, Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO), gave a presentation on a housing program available to the Town. After lengthy discussion, Bill Musser moved to table the offer of joining in the program until more information can be provided to the Council. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion to table the request, none against. The motion carried. Alan then made a request to the Council to approve a Service Agreement and pay \$15,000 to KEDCO for those services. There was lengthy discussion between the Council and Alan, regarding what has been done for the Town from KEDCO in the past. Tom Hoover moved to pay only \$5,000 for their services instead of \$15,000. Larry Siegel seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

2021 BUDGETS

The 2021 Budgets were presented to the council.

Paula pointed out that the proposed property tax rate from the levy requested would decrease by 1%.

Larry Siegel asked about the request for changing a part-time position within the Clerk's Office to a full-time position. It was explained that a lot more reports are necessary along with new utility legislation. Larry Siegel, Paul Stoelting, and Bill Musser stated that they do not believe we should be hiring a full-time employee during this time due to the possible loss in income tax revenue and possibly other revenues.

Paul Stoelting asked if Mike could provide a list of items he plans on replacing in 2021.

The Council asked Chad about the increase in the employee salary appropriations. Chad explained that merit increases have not been done for a while and he would like to provide increases when certifications have been achieved.

Mickey presented the Fire Territory Budget. He informed the Council that the Budget he presented them earlier will drop by \$32,000 due to paying the extra Hazard Pay out of the Rainy Day Fund instead. Larry Martindale moved to approve the Fire Territory Budget for 2021. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Mickey also announced that the new fire truck has been received.

TOWN MANAGER / PUBLIC WORKS

Mike Noe requested that the council approve the engineering services for Kimple and Associates for \$30,000. Larry Martindale moved to approve the services. Tom Hoover seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike also requested to have Mike's Fencing install the fencing around the Flood Control Structure. The estimated cost would be around \$16,489.00 total with the Wawasee Property Owners paying for half. Larry Siegel moved to approve Mike's Fencing for an amount to be paid from the Town to be no more than \$10,000 and work to be complete by the end of September. Tom Hoover seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike reported that the pump at the Carroll Street Lift Station has been installed and is operational. Two pumps on Steel Drive has also been replaced. The security system installation is complete at the Public Works Department for all 3 departments.

Mike also reported that Pulver Asphalt is in town and working on various projects. An issue was discovered on Pickwick Drive with retaining water on the north side of the ditch. There is a study being done from Harkless Dr to Chicago regarding the storm water.

Mike announced that our new banners are up on the streetlight posts.

A purchase request was made for a new jack hammer for the Street Department. Tom Hoover moved to approve the purchase for the amount not to exceed \$9,300. Bill Musser seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked if there were any questions on his report. There were none. Jim informed the council that all of his officers are wearing face masks when needed.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, reported that there have not been that many activities due to the pandemic. Baseball is wrapping up; the Geocache Hunt and the Farmer's and Artisan's market are continuing. Tom Hoover commended the job done for the July 4th preparations. Paul asked about the Women's Suffragette festivities. Chad answered that they have rented the Pavilion. Chad also announced that there will, most likely, not be a Fall Festival due to the current pandemic.

CLERK

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

TOWN ATTORNEY

Vern Landis had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry Siegel mentioned that we will need to look into updating our Comprehensive Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

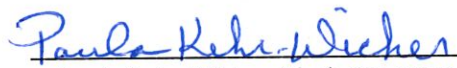
Bill Musser announced that there will be a meeting regarding the creation of the new conservancy district on Thursday. He is urging as many Council members as possible to attend. Bill Pipp spoke up and stated the letter from the Council in support of the creation would be the most important item. He also reminded the council that down stream would not be part of the Conservancy, as well as the lake level must be controlled by the Town.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:11 pm.

ATTEST:


Paul Stoelting, Council President


Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer