

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 17, 2023 @7:00 P.M.

Town Council President William Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were Larry Siegel, Larry Martindale, Paul Stoelting, Clerk Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Attorney Jay Rigdon. Cindy Kaiser was absent.

Jay Rigdon swore into Council Paul Stoelting and Larry Siegel.

William Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the December 20, 2022 regular meeting presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the minutes; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claim #'s 1623-1646 and 1-113 for \$690,360.37 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resolution 2023-01 Regarding Sewage Works Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2022 and Waterworks Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2022 was presented for approval. Larry Siegel asked which Bonds will be paid off this year to help pay for the two new BANs, with the total cost of \$2.2 million. David stated the CCD fund, the water and wastewater revenue will be helping to pay on the two BANs. We have two Bonds that will be paid off in 2026 (Waterworks) & 2028 (Wastewater), these two Bonds will be allocated to pay on both BANs. Larry was hoping to see that in Resolution 2023-01. Larry Siegel made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 for purposes of funding the water loop and sewer project only; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2023-01 Smoking Ban in Park, the Council was presented with two options; one ordinance would cover all the parks and the other ordinance would only cover Harold Schrock Athletic Complex. Paul Stoelting was wondering why we don't do it for all parks instead of just one. Paul suggested excluding the word possession from the ordinance, we just don't want people smoking at the parks. Chad Jonsson stated the intent was just for the Harold Schrock Complex not to have smoking, he would rather only have it at the Harold Schrock Complex. We are not ready to enforce it on all the parks. Larry Siegel questioned the fines if a person violated the smoking ban. Jay Rigdon explained if they violate the smoking ban they will be fined, most people pay the fine and would not want to go to court over this. Jim Layne said if we decide to pass this Ordinance, the police dept would take a friendly approach to the people who are in violation. The Council decided to take 'Possession' off the Ordinance. Larry Siegel made a motion to pass Ordinance 2023-01 taking out the word "Possession"; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2023-02 Dogs on Leash, Bill Musser read the Ordinance out loud. There were some discrepancies between the Ordinance presented and the Town of Syracuse Code. Bill Musser suggested we table Ordinance 2023-02. Jay Rigdon stated you do not need to table it, since there was no motion taken.

Ordinance 2023-03 Utility Connection/Annexation requirements outside of Town limits. Bill Musser made a comment that he was surprised when he saw this Ordinance, it was not discussed as a Council. Bill read some of the Ordinance and as we all know the water and sewer are in the red, due to lack of funds plus inflation. We have had three inquires asking if we would run water and sewer outside of Town limits. One developer wanted the Town to pay for water and sewer to go out to their facility, the town decided not to, it would be too expensive for the Town. If the developer decided to pay the expense the Town would consider it. In looking at the Ordinance we cannot make a blank statement that says no we cannot do this. The only way we can raise money in water and wastewater is to raise rates, we have not had a rate study in 15 years or so. Another way is to supply the Towns water and sewer to users and developers. Bill Musser did not think it was a good idea. Larry Siegel stated he thought it was a good idea, since they have our town services there is no incentive to be annexed into the town. We discourage the growth of the Town. Once they have what we have for half the price they will not want to be annexed. It will generate revenue, but it will not generate increased revenue. We are a break-even utility. Bill stated he saw Larry's point of view and he also saw his own point of view. There were continuing talks on annexation. Larry Martindale suggested that we table this Ordinance, it needs further discussion. Larry Siegel made the motion to adopted as is Ordinance 2023-03; there was not second. There were no votes for the motion.

Selection of Vice President, Bill Musser asked Jay Ridgon to speak about how the Council selects a Vice President. Jay stated the Council must approve the Vice President. The President can make the selection and the Council can approve it. Jay spoke to AIM stating there is no provision in state law as to how we pick a Vice President for Council and there for it is up to the Council to make that decision. Bill stated in the past the vice president was always the next president in line. Since Larry Martindale turned in his resignation this evening, the next president would be Paul Stoelting. Bill nominated Paul Stoelting for Vice President of the Council; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

A representative of the Syracuse Library Board, Kim Blaha, spoke to the Council about the land on the west side of Main Street & Dolan Drive. Ms. Blaha stated that if the Town give the Syracuse Library that piece of property, that would be the only Library in town. She stated the old building would be sold; it is becoming very expensive to maintain. Ms. Blaha passed out some papers showing what programs the Library did 2022 and what they are doing in January of 2023. She addressed issues they are currently having and how it would improve with the new library being built on the corner of Dolan and Main. Bill Musser asked approximately how much it would cost to build the library. It will cost around \$7 million. The Town asked Jay Ridgon to look into the proper procedure to donate the land to the library.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy submitted the Water distribution model to the public works for review.

Oakwood Lift Station, we received a quote from American Pump Repair for the upgrade, controls, pumps, misc. items. The quote is \$107,861.00. Jeremy is looking for a motion to approve the \$107,861.00 being paid for by the Wastewater BAN. Paul Stoelting made the motion not to exceed \$107,861.00; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if the Council had any questions in his report. Nothing to report.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Jim applied for the Harpa Grant and was granted \$14,140.94. Those funds will be used for upgrading the programming on their radios.
No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, did not have a lot to report. Reported on the Tree Board activities for 2022, on the plantings and removal.

Chad is working with the schools on life guards this summer.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, was not present.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, did not have much to report. A total of 1260 responses last year, 255 Fire calls and 1515 EMS calls.

Next CPR class will be March 29th, it is always the 5th Wednesday of the month, 4:30 p.m.

CLERK

Nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, will be working on the joint resolution with the Turkey Creek Dam and Dike Conservancy. The Town made a commitment of \$50,000.00 to the Wawasee Dike project. Jay brought an agreement for the Town Council President to sign. The agreement states that the Town is committing to \$50,000 and what the money is going to be spent on. It will cost between \$700,000 and \$900,000. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the joint resolution establishing cost sharing with Wawasee Dike Project for \$50,000.00; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion, Larry Siegel abstained. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

Paul Stoelting made a motion to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Larry Martindale seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: William E. Musser Virginia Cazier
William Musser, Council President Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer