

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 2022 @7:00 P.M.

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 Larry Martindale, Cindy Kaiser, Paul Stoelting and Attorney Jay Rigdon. Council Member, Larry Siegel & Clerk Treasurer, Virginia Cazier were not present.

Bill Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the February 15, 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.

Claims #'s 249-384 for \$657,195.06 were presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-04 was presented, Establishing the Fire Protection Territory Equipment Replacement Fund. Paul Stoelting approved the Equipment Replacement Fund; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-05 Traffic is Required to Stop at the Intersection of Oak Street and Portland Street. Larry Martindale moved to approve the Traffic Stop at Oak Street and Portland Street; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Alan Tio, KEDCO, updated the Council on what KEDCO has done and is doing for the Town. Council President asked what KEDCO has done for Syracuse. Alan stated they have assisted several businesses like Polywood and Patrick Industries, also the renovation of the old Syracuse Elementary School. KEDCO is also working with the Town on Housing.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Three task order were presented for approval. Oakwood lift station force main improvement project, total cost is \$107,400.00. Should be in full operation by next summer. This project will be paid from the ARP & Oakwood TIF. Lakeside Drive water main loop not to exceed \$50,400.00. Exterior painting of the North water tower total cost \$39,700.00. On call Engineering not to exceed \$10,000.00. Total cost for all, not to exceed \$207,500.00. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the three task orders; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Oakwood lift station and Lakeside Drive lift station project should be done by the summer of 2023. The water tower should be done either in 2023 or 2024.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson, Town Manager, asked if there were any questions on his report. The Comprehensive Plan will be done internal, working with dept. head on updating the plan.

Syracuse TIF was established approx. 10 years ago, and it currently has around \$1 million. David is asking to use this fund on the SR 13 Corridor, which is mentioned in the comprehensive plan. The Syracuse TIF can only be used for utilities or sidewalks. We could use this fund to update or replace the lift station in the Corridor. The Council decided to use some of the Syracuse TIF for the comprehensive plan.

David asked the Dept. Heads to update employee job description.

Kern Road Annexation petition is done. We only had one signature. Beginning of April Kern Road & Kern's Crossing should be annexed. The Eagles and the house across the street on Kern Road, have both agreed to be annexed.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions on his report. The next police commissioners meeting will be next month.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

The town earned the 21st Tree City USA and the 16th Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. Chad reminded the Council; we received a grant for 50 trees from Releaf Michigan. On Saturday, April 30th we will be planting 50 trees around Syracuse. Planting options were Lauderman Park, Public Works, and the corner of Polywood Way.

Princess Party is this Saturday, March 19th.

Annual Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 9th. Egg hunts will be divided by age group.

There will be a geocache egg hunt for adults.

Ballfield updates: Contractors have been working on the water and sewer lines these past couple of weeks. Drywall is almost complete. Electrical is being run between both buildings.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, was not present.

FIRE TERRITORY

Fire Territory, Mickey Scott, asked if there were any questions on his report. Mickey wanted to thank the community for all their support helping the family who lost everything in the fire back in February.

Mickey reminded the public at 11 a.m. on the first Friday of the month, there will be a siren test.

CLERK

Julie Kline explained the short fall of funds for Forest Park. In 2009, Forest Park asked the Council to be connected to the Towns water and sewer. Forest Park agreed to be annexed and pay for the construction cost of the utility service. Property owners agreed and a charge was put on their monthly utility bill. There are several circumstances that occurred, which made the Town short on revenue to cover the loan. Julie suggested \$10,000 each year from the Cumulative Capital Improvement Tax Fund, to cover the short fall, until paid off in 2029. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the short fall be taken from Cumulative Capital Improvement Tax Fund; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Town received an extra \$1,231.46 from the ARP, Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund. The Town was allocated \$650,676.45 from the ARP (Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund) last year. Half was deposited last year, and the other half will be deposited this year.

Ordinance 2022-03 ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Number Change. State Board of Account changed the Fund Numbers from three digits to four digits this year.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Chasity Sandy introduced herself and is running for Kosciusko County Auditor.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing


NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

Paul Stoelting made a motion to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


William Musser, Council President


Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer