

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

May 17, 2022 @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 Martindale, Cindy Kaiser, Paul Stoelting, Larry Siegel and Clerk Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Attorney Jay Rigdon.

William Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the April 19, 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 514-662 for \$704,465.74 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Commonwealth met with Oakwood about the Lift Station Routing.

Main & Brooklyn are being stripped this month.

Railroad Reconstruction will not begin until Nipsco is finished relocating utilities.

The water main loop is almost complete, once done, will begin the process of bidding towards the end of the year.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson spoke with the RDC, who oversees the Town TIF Funds, allowing the Public Works to spend the revenue of the TIF Syracuse for paving. This will help the Street Dept. Paving Fund free up for other projects. We will be able to do more paving this year. The RDC oversees the Town TIF Funds.

Bose McKinney & Evans gave a quote of \$1,500.00 to review and comply on our Job Descriptions.

Commonwealth completed the surveys on Kern Road for Annexation. There are property owners who want to be annexed into the Town. They have been sent to Bose McKinney & Evans office to be officially annexed.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions on report. The Police Dept is starting on tall grass. Jim wants to remind everyone that anything over 9" will be staked. After 5 days, the Town will mow the property. The Resident will receive a bill for the mowing, if not paid within 30 days there will be a lien on the property.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, on the April 29th Arbor Day Celebration with the Syracuse third graders event happened at Laudeman Park. Three trees were planted at the park. April 30th 50 trees donated by the St. Joseph River Basin were planted. 15 Wawasee Football and 7 Soccer players along with members of the Community helped plant the trees in Laudeman Park, Corner of Main Street & Polywood Way and Corner of Main Street and Dolan Drive. Town also received 30 additional trees from ReLeaf Michigan that will be planted around the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Chad mentioned that there were no applicants for lifeguards for Lakeside Park. Chad informed the Council that the pay for lifeguards is only \$12.00 an hour, while Goshen and Warsaw both offer \$15.00 an hour. The Council agreed to raise the pay for Lifeguards up to \$15.00. The Council agreed to allocate \$5,000.00 from Rainy Day Fund (2235) to Park's Department Lifeguard (113). Larry Siegel made the motion; Paul Stoelting seconded. All votes for the motion; Paul abstained. The motion carried.

Ballfield updates: Lights poles are up and installed. Walking trail has begun, and work is continuing inside the buildings.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions on report.

Mark received approval from the RDC to spend some of the Syracuse TIF on paving that is in the TIF district. The Paving Project, Harkless from Pickwick to Chicago, which was approved by the Council last month falls into the Syracuse TIF district. Mark would like to substitute the money approved for the Paving Project last month to pave Maple Grove, Poplar Drive, Forest Lane, and Medusa Street. Mark is asking the Council for approval of \$285,705.00, \$205,705.00 which was already been approved by the RDC from the Syracuse TIF, plus approve \$80,000 from the Street Budget. Larry Siegel made the motion to approve \$285,705.00; Paul Stoelting seconded. All votes for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

FIRE TERRITORY

Fire Territory, Mickey Scott, asked if there were any questions on his report. Mickey informed the Council that there will be a free CPR Class at 4:00 p.m. on June 29th at the Fire Station 1, if anyone is interested. Anytime there is a 5th Wednesday in a month, there will be a free CPR Class. Take about 2.5 hours.

CLERK

Nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Ridgon asked Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineers, if he had the paperwork on the extension of utilities for Koko Drive to the four lots. Jeremy said he had the paperwork. Once completed it will need to signed.

The Council asked Jay to write a letter to the property owner at 401 E. Cable Lane, having to do with repairs around the property and tapping on to the sewer system. The Town has given 30 days to comply, the homeowner has applied for the sewer permit, but nothing has been done. Now that the 30 days is over, should we go into litigation? The Council agreed to start litigation against the property owner. Larry Siegel made the motion; Larry Martindale seconded. All votes for the motion; Paul abstained. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Larry Martindale asked who was responsible for the lawn damage during the widening of Polywood Way? Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineers, said it is being taken care of by the contractor.

Paul Stoelting asked about 511 W. Boston Street, the house that burnt down. David Wilkinson, Town Manager, said there is a new owner. They plan to tear down the house and building a new one.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

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

ATTEST: William Musser
William Musser, Council President

Virginia Cazier
Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer