

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 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, Clerk Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Attorney Jay Rigdon. Larry Siegel was not present.

William Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – No public comments.

The minutes from the October 18, 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 1355-1471 for \$488,942.65 presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the claims; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-18 Salary and Compensation was presented for approval. Paul Stoelting moved to approve Ordinance 2022-18; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-19 Zoning for Dr. Allen was presented for approval. Matt Sandy, Kosciusko Plan Commission, requesting the land behind Dr. Allen's office north of town be zoned from commercial to residential. Paul Stoelting moved to approve Ordinance 2022-19; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

David Johnston, Turkey Creek Dike & Dam Conservancy, addressed the funding of the Dike repair project located within the Town limits. An interlocal agreement between the TCDDC and the Town of Syracuse will help to share the expense of repairing the Dike. Mr. Johnston respectfully asked the Town to vote for \$50,000 appropriated out of the 2023 Budget to help assist the TCDDC in repairing the Dike. It will cost around \$700,000 to repair the dike. The TCDDC will prepare the agreement and send the agreement to the Town's attorney Jay Rigdon to review. It is important for the Town to work with the TCDDC. Paul Stoelting made a motion to appropriate \$50,000 for the repairs on the Dike; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

2023 Terminal Service Data Agreement with Kosciusko County was signed and approved. Paul Stoelting made a motion to approve the agreement for \$5,250.00 pay before December 9, 2022; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Myron Schwartz, Ridgestone Development Group, addressed the alleys and utility easements in and around his property at 502 W Brooklyn St. The easements and alleys are covered up with grass, you cannot see it. They would like to resurface the parking lot within the next year. If the alleys or easements are not vacated would the Town be responsible for helping pave the parking lot. Jay Ridgon, Town Attorney, stated No, the Town gets to maintain the alleys the way they see fit. Myron was requesting for the Town to vacate the alleys & easements, in return, Ridgestone will donate land to the Town. Ridgestone will also donate part of the land where the old elementary school sign is currently on. When the Deed is completed and brought to the Council, the Town can also sign a Resolution accepting the land from Ridgestone Development Group.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

No report.

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. Nothing to report.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, is currently working on Breakfast with Santa for next month.

Ballpark is moving forward. All the nets have been hung. Beer & Slabaugh is still working on last-minute touch-ups and are hoping to be complete by the end of the year. The grass looks good.

Chad passed out an Ordinance from Winona Lake, not allowing smoking in the Ballpark. They eliminated smoking in all their parks. Chad would like to create an ordinance with the Town Attorney's help, on no smoking at the Ballpark. The Park Board is in favor of no smoking. Bill asked if we could include dogs on leashes at the ballpark. Jay will write up an Ordinance and send it to the Council to review.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, was not present. No report.

FIRE TERRITORY

Mickey Scott, Fire Chief, requested approval for \$39,525.00 from the 2022 budget for the purchase of fifty dual band digital pagers with chargers from J & K Communications. Paul Stoelting made a motion for \$39,525.00 towards the purchase of pagers and chargers from J & K Communications to come from the 2022 Budget; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Second request to order new fire hose, it takes up to 6 months to receive from the time it is ordered. The purchase of the new fire hose \$17,000 will come out of the 2023 budget. Paul Stoelting made a motion to order the new fire hose for \$17,000, to come out of the 2023 Budget; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Informed the Council on the Town's health insurance renewal. Last year our health insurance went up 6.64%. We budgeted 20% for 2023. PHP only went up 3.24%. Received two other quotes from Anthem and United Healthcare. Both comparable, but PHP was still a better bargain. All three raised their deductibles for next year. PHP went from Single \$2,500 to \$3,000. Family \$5,000 to \$6,000. Paul Stoelting made the motion to stay with PHP; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Clerk asked the Council if they would want a year end meeting. Paul Stoelting made the motion to not have a year-end meeting; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay will be sending to the Council, before the next meeting, an updated annual agreement for legal services. It has been 10 years since the last agreement was signed.

Update on 401 E. Cable Lane, is ready to file for several reasons, a public nuisance and is still not hooked up to the Towns utilities. There has been activity outside of the property. Jay wanted to make sure with the Council before filing a lawsuit if the Council wanted to file now or later. Jay suggested having the building inspector asked the property owner if he is going to hook up to the Towns utility and when. If not, we will move forward with the lawsuit.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

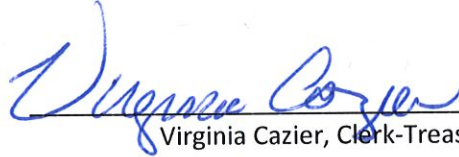
Larry Martindale asked if we had an Ordinance on barking dogs? He has a neighbor who raises dogs for profit, they have 4-6 dogs in the yard. Is there a way to control the barking of those dogs? Matt Sandy, Kosciusko Plan Commission, said they could pursue it as a home occupation but there needs to be proof, they are making a profit. Larry asked if the Town had an Ordinance and wanted a copy.

Cindy Kaiser made a motion to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Larry Martindale seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



William Musser, Council President



Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer