

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 23, 2021 @7:00 P.M.

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

Larry Siegel opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – Martha Stoelting, 402 N. Harrison St., opposes the vacancy of public access between 404 N. Front St. and 406 N. Front St. The Town can use that piece of property for pier space and the residents of the Town who do not have lake access can use that as well.

The minutes from the October 19, 2021, 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 1415-1564 for \$896,730.24 were presented for approval. Larry Martindale moved to approve the claims; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-13 Adoption of Kern Road Annexation, Paul Stoelting moved to approve Ordinance 2021-13; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Public Hearing- Confirmatory Resolution 2021-15, Ridgestone Development “Economic Development Target Area”, Steve Snyder presented the Confirmatory Resolution. Bill Musser moved to approve the Confirmatory Resolution; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against.

Public Hearing - Ordinance 2021-21 Petition for vacation of a portion of an unimproved alley. Alley is between 404 N. Front Street and 406 N. Front Street. Steve Snyder proposed the vacancy of the alley. After the Public Hearing closed, Paul Stoelting voted to not vacate the alley between 404 and 406 N. Front Street. Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; non against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-22 Salaries and Compensation for 2022 presented for approval. Bill Musser moved to approve the Salaries and Compensation for 2022; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-23 Emergency Transfer of Appropriations for various departments. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the Emergency Ordinance; Larry Martindale seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-24 Renaming Brooklyn Street to Polywood Way. Paul Stoelting moved to approve the renaming Brooklyn Street to Polywood Way; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Terminal Services Agreement with Kosciusko County. Jim Layne spoke about the annual agreement with Kosciusko County. Cost for the town is \$5,000, this will help with the upkeep of computer software and computers. Bill Musser moved to approve the Terminal Service Agreement; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

ENGINEER – COMMONWEALTH

Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineering, Main Street is now open, Polywood Way will be opening in a couple of weeks.

TOWN MANAGER

The Clerk present the K21 Request for Grant Payment to the Council in the amount of \$200,000.00. President of the Council, Larry Siegel, signed the request for payment. The grant money will help with the expenses for the Ballfield.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne asked if there were any question on his report. Nothing further to report.

PARK

Park Superintendent, Chad Jonsson, drive thru trick or treat was a success, had about 270 or more vehicles come thru from 3 to 4:45.

This Saturday, Old fashion Christmas at Oakwood.

December 4th, Breakfast with Santa is coming up.

Renea Salyer & Dennis Pressler, Chamber of Commerce, joined Chad in presenting the Dog Park to the Council. The Park Dept. received a donation about a year and a half ago for a dog park. The property they were interested in, was the property at the corner of Main St. & Dolan Dr. It is in a prime location. Chad asked the Council if this property would be available for a dog park. Parks Dept already has \$35,000 towards the dog park and anticipate \$100,000 to complete this project. Larry Siegel asked how this park would fit into the Towns Comprehensive Plan. Chad explained any park would be beneficial to our Comprehensive Plan. it is in an area that people walk their dogs all the time, it is an undeveloped piece of property. Larry is not against a dog park, just wanted to see how it would fit into the river front district and the Comprehensive Plan. Bill Musser stated he liked the idea of a dog park in that area, also liked that they did research by talking to other communities with dog parks. Chad stated this project will be using grant or donated money to complete. Charging a membership fee, will help cover the cost of maintaining the park. Renea added there could also be other uses with the dog park. A walking paths around the dog area, gardening plots and/or art and culture areas. Renea also explained the positive aspects of having a dog park in town.

Ballfield Project: First layer of asphalt down. Poles and building foundation done as well. This winter we can start building the walls, since the foundation is down. Talked to the fence contactor, he will be ready to install the fence this coming spring.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, submitted to the Council the 2022 budget for Water and Wastewater. Mark asked for approval of the budget, Paul Stoelting moved to approve the Water & Wastewater Budget for 2022; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

FIRE TERRITORY

Fire Territory, Mickey Scott, asked the Council if he could use the empty office in the Town Hall for his Administrative Assistant. He explained when they are out on a call, Fire station is locked down. It would be nice to have a place for a representative of the Fire Dept. to be available to the public. Larry Seigel mentioned that room has been used as a small meeting room in the past. Recently used for the Town Managers Assistant. That room is now vacant. Larry Siegel is opposed to having it used for the Fire Department Administrative Assistant. Bill Musser, Larry Martindale & Paul Stoelting, all said it was fine with the Fire Departments Administrative Assistant to move into the vacant office.

Radios ordered last month from J&K Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$220,691.06 as approved by the board.

CLERK

Clerk asked about having a year end meeting. Clerk will present a Resolution to the Council at the December Council meeting.

PHP Insurance, after discussing and comparing Insurance policies with our health insurance agent, we decided that PHP by far was the best for the Town Hall. Last year our health insurance went up 23%. To our surprise it only went up 6.64%, expecting it to go up at least 20%. We reviewed two other insurance providers that were like PHP, Anthem, and United Healthcare. Clerk is asking for approval to keep PHP as our Health Insurance Company. Bill Musser moved to approve PHP Health Insurance; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Vern introduced Jay Rigdon, Rockhill Pinnick, who will be the Town's Attorney starting January 1, 2022. Mr. Rigdon represents Milford, Etna Green, Cromwell and now Town of Syracuse. Vern will be stepping down and enjoying his semi-retirement. Approval to appoint Jay Rigdon as Town Attorney starting January 1, 2022. Paul Stoelting moved to approve Jay Rigdon as Town Attorney; Bill Musser seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Tyler Kelsey, Arkos Design, and Kim Blaha, Director of Syracuse Public Library presented a general introduction of a feasibility study. Library purchased 701 N. Harrison St. The property is on the corner of Harrison St. and Pearl St., right behind the library. Arkos Design would like to vacate the alley between the two properties. We can either expand the library or more outdoor activities for the library. Council was concerned about truck traffic and the uptown businesses.

Renea Salyer, Chamber of Commerce, would like to apply for the Indiana Main Street program. In order, to do that, the Town would have to sign the letter of intent. Larry Seigel was concerned about the Chamber asking the Town for money. Renea responded that she would not come to the town for money, just wanted the Town to be behind the Main Street Program. Vern, Town Attorney, will review the information and Letter of Intent. The grant is due in February. Vern made the motion to have Larry Seigel sign the Letter of Intent once Vern reviews the information. Bill Musser moved to approve the signing of the letter one reviewed by Vern; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for motion; none against. The motion carried.

Resident at 1033 N. Mullen St., asked the Council if they have made a decision on having chicken at his residence. Bill Musser stated the Council will not allow farm animals in town, there is an Ordinance that states Wild and Farm Animals Prohibited within the Town Limits. Larry Siegel made a motion to lift the moratorium, allow the Code Enforcer to enforce the Ordinances; Cindy Kaiser seconded. All voted for motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tom Hoover asked if there is any more information on the annexation. Larry Martindale informed him we already voted on the annexation tonight. Mr. Hoover also had an opinion on the dog park. He does not feel that we should have a dog park in the middle of town. There was a gentleman who disagreed with Mr. Hoover, spoke about the benefits of having the dog park on the corner of Dolan Drive and Main Street.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL

Bill Musser spoke about the agreement with the Turkey Creek Dam & Dike Conservancy, stating the Town will clear the area around North Koko Drive and Pickwick Drive, for Lawson Fisher to begin the repairs on the dike. Bill Musser approved for the agreement; Paul Stoelting seconded. All voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

Paul Stoelting made a motion to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting at 8:15 p.m.; Bill Musser seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



Larry Siegel, Council President



Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer