

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 2011

Paul Stoelting, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Jeff Morgan, Bill Musser, Larry Siegel, and Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

Paul introduced approval of the minutes. Bill moved to approve the minutes of the March 4th Special Meeting; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Jeff abstained. The motion carried. Larry made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15th Regular Meeting; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #239 through # 348 were presented for payment. Brian moved to pay the claims; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Additional appropriation ordinance #11-01 was presented. The ordinance appropriates funds in the EDIT and Rainy Day Funds. Brian made a motion to adopt Ordinance 11-01; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike Reed discussed approval of the In Lieu of Annexation Agreements. He explained we received four signed agreements; he asked the council to approve the agreements, authorize Paul to sign and Julie to attest the agreements. Brian made a motion to approve the four signed In Lieu of Annexation renewals; Paul is authorized to sign and Julie is authorized to attest the agreements. Bill seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia announced he attended a meeting with George Robertson, Executive Director of KEDCo, and Dr. Edington, Wawasee Community School Corporation Superintendent on worker training issues.

Henry reported we are moving ahead with the Oakwood Annexation; information was sent to London Witte for the fiscal plan. Mike Reed has provided an information map and a condensed description of the area; Mike has indicated he should have the information to certify the signatures by the end of this week. Mike Reed explained notices must be sent to the property owners 60 days prior to the Public Hearing. He added the ordinance must be adopted between 30 and 60 days following the Public Hearing. Mike explained a special meeting would be needed to meet the annexation timetable. He suggested holding the Public Hearing during the first week in June. The ordinance could be adopted at the regular July meeting, and it would meet the 30 to 60 day requirement. Mike asked the council to set a date so he could advertise it; the council agreed to try and hold the meeting on June 7 at 7:00 p.m.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello announced the number of calls was down for the month of February. He went over the types of arrests that were made. Tony advised this week is severe storm preparedness week. The town tornado siren will be tested tomorrow.

Tony introduced Richard Miotto, the new patrolman for the Syracuse Police Department. Richard was selected from a total of 42 applicants; he will start on April 4. Richard Miotto was sworn in by Town Attorney Mike Reed.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson announced the Easter Egg Hunts will be held on April 8 and April 9. The middle school kids will have their hunt on Friday night, and kids 10 and under will have their hunt on Saturday morning. Last Tuesday, the annual Mardi Gras luncheon was held at the Community Center. Julie Rogers was received a reward for the most laps; she walked 1200 miles in 2010.

Chad advised he has received questions about improvements at Vega Field. He advised the Park Department is using money from the Harkless Foundation to pay for the landscape design for the field. He advised he should have the design back by March 31 so it can be submitted for the K-21 grant application. The intent is to have a ball complex that may include other amenities, such as a walking trail and bridge. He will get the plans to the council as quickly as possible. Paul asked if this was for adults; Chad replied it will be mostly youth related. He is working with the Kiwanis Club on a plan for maintenance of the field. There will be one field that can be used by the adult softball program. Paul asked if this will be located on the Vega Field property; Chad explained the baseball complex will be on what is now Vega Field. He stated he talked to Jeremy about using some of the land by the water plant for a multi purpose field for soccer and football with a pedestrian bridge to the field. Paul expressed concern about safety issues and the land might be needed for future public works needs. Chad assured Paul the area would be secured; they know a fence would be needed. The Park Department envisions some land just along the creek for a field and storage. Brian liked the idea of being able to bring people into town for tournaments. Brian added we need to use caution when planning for the other side of the creek. Chad stated the improvements will need to be done in phases. Larry noted if public works has a future need, it is not hard to pull out goal posts. Larry asked about a timetable. Chad reported the K-21 board meets in the beginning of April.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Miller, Severn Trent Area Director, presented a purchase request. The Street Department would like to purchase a concrete cut saw; the lowest quote was from Kuert Concrete for \$1,820.00. Brian made a motion to approve the purchase of a concrete cut saw from Kuert Concrete for a cost not to exceed \$1,820.00 to be delivered in two weeks; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tom reported the Louie's lift station is complete. The bucket truck should be completed pretty soon. Jeremy is working on the paving budgets. The bar screen at the wastewater plant is installed.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported the utility bills will be printed with the new software this week. and the postcard utility bills will be eliminated.

Julie brought up an issue that was discussed with the council in 2010. We still have not collected on the \$9,625.81 payment from Turtle Bay/Capital One Realty that was returned from the bank. She does not feel we are ever going to collect on it and asked council permission to write it off. Mike Reed advised we have a judgment against them. They are an Illinois LLC that was in foreclosure and receivership, and they closed up the receivership before we could collect. Brian asked Mike if he feels we are at the end. Mike advised they are supposed to show up on April 18th, but they are coming from Illinois and have promised to pay three or four times. Council members decided to wait until the April 19th council meeting to make a decision.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian asked about the progress on obtaining easements. Henry advised we have one signed easement and we are working on the other easements to be paid from EDI funds. Wightman Petrie is working on the easement for the lift station.

Paul discussed a request from Matt Sandy, of the Area Plan Commission, that was made in November to appoint a proxy member to the plan commission. Paul stated he has found someone who lives in town, James Allegret, who will serve as a proxy member. Brian made a motion to appoint James Allegret as the proxy member to the Syracuse BZA. Bill seconded. Larry stated Indiana Code defines BZA members and how they are appointed. He asked Mike Reed if Indiana Code allows for proxies. Mike Reed stated yes. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian stated he would like the paving, sidewalks, and bridge punchlist soon. Henry advised the sidewalks depend upon the cost of the Harkless Bridge; it could take up all of the sidewalk money. He added they are working with the county on the bridge.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Paul Stoelting, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer