

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 19, 2013

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 Kathy Beer, Paul Stoelting, and Brian Woody. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present. Councilman Larry Siegel was absent.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

November claims were presented. Julie explained two of the claims are for Cripe Excavating; the claims are for 50% of the retainage for the EDI and EDA contracts. Kathy made a motion to approve release of 50% of the retainage; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Paul moved to approve claims #1297 through #1440; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Annexation Ordinance 2013-09 was presented. Henry explained this annexation is for the Campbell property. Henry has also prepared a fiscal plan; both the plan and ordinance need to be approved. Paul moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-09 and the fiscal plan; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2013-10, An Ordinance to Prohibit the Sale, Delivery, Manufacturing, or Possession of Synthetic Drugs, was introduced. Police Chief Tony Ciriello explained we have had problems with synthetic and synthetic lookalike drugs. He advised he presented the proposed ordinance to the prosecutor, and the prosecutor is okay with the ordinance. This ordinance will prohibit anyone from opening a store, manufacturing, delivering, and possession of these substances. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-10; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Attorney Steve Snyder, representing P.W. Realty and Polywood, presented requests for tax abatement. He explained that P. W. Realty owns the real estate, and Polywood is the operating entity. The project would combine two buildings into one large facility; the company would be able to add additional lines and expand production. There are currently 153 employees with an annual salary \$6,675,000.00 and the facility has \$2,387,610.00 of equipment. Polywood proposes to add 52 new employees with additional salaries of \$1,378,400.00 and additional equipment in the amount of \$1,743,000.00. The P.W. Realty building addition would be at a cost of \$1,600,000.00. He advised the project started in June of this year and will be completed by June 1, 2014. Attorney Snyder asked the council to adopt the Declaratory Resolution tonight. He added the council will be asked to approve waiving the requirement that construction can not begin until the SB-1's are filed. If the council approves the Declaratory Resolution, a public hearing will be held and a Confirmatory Resolution will be on the agenda for the December 17th council meeting. The Confirmatory Resolution will contain language to approve the SB'1's, declare the economic revitalization area, and waive the requirement that construction not begin until the SB1's have been filed. Attorney Snyder advised the tax abatement request for the building and the equipment is for 10 years. Bill asked how the 10 year tax abatement works; Attorney Snyder explained how it works. Brian would like the Confirmatory Resolution to have a two year time frame for improvements to be completed. Paul moved to adopt Declaratory Resolution 2013-02; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinsky, gave the monthly report on the Industrial Park construction. Brett reported the Industrial Park was inspected by the Elkhart County Soil and Conservation District. They were pleased with everything with the DPUD ; that permit can be closed out. For the utilities extension, they want additional restoration done and some sediment cleaned up. H & G plans to return in the spring. Cripe Excavating is in good shape; Brett will continue to monitor the restoration. Brett is still waiting to hear back from INDOT about the pavement markings. For the Long Dr culvert, a letter was submitted to EDA for approval to use grant money. Brett stated he understands Henry would like to consider some alternatives for the site signage and landscaping. The signage and landscaping costs will be submitted to EDA when the cost is known.

Tom Miller, Severn Trent Area Director, discussed the Severn Trent contract that expires at the end of 2013. He introduced an amendment to the contract that will provide a five year extension; the contract amendment includes a five year automatic renewal. The amendment contains the same terms and conditions as the current contract. Bill questioned the automatic renewal. Tom explained either party can opt out by providing 90 days notice. Brian made a motion to approve the amendment to the Severn Trent contract and allow Council President Bill Musser to sign it; Kathy seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported he just received word that the state approved a grant of \$100,000.00 toward the Polywood stormwater improvements. The total project cost is estimated to be \$165,000.00. He asked the council to approve the grant and authorize the town manager or council president to sign after our Town Attorney has approved the document. Paul moved to accept the \$100,000.00 IDGF Infrastructure Grant and authorize Bill Musser to sign once Vern Landis has approved the document; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry advised that Polywood currently has one street light; they have requested additional lights. Henry recommends we have NIPSCO install two 100 watt sodium streetlights. Paul moved we approve two NIPSCO 100 watt high pressure sodium lights; Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry announced he hopes to have quotes next month for the exact cost of the sign at the Industrial Park. The Oakwood curbing and paving are complete; decorative lights will be installed there in spring. Paving of residential areas in Oakwood is also planned for next year.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 357 calls for service in October. There were 12 accidents and 21 criminal arrests; 12 of the arrests were felonies.

Tony asked the council to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Kosciusko County for the records management system; the system is used for the office and police car computers. Our share is \$5,000.00 per year; the same cost as last year. He also asked the council to authorize Julie to write a check. Brian moved to approve the 2014 Interlocal Agreement and authorize Julie to write a check to Kosciusko County; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Tony asked if there were any ADA complaints; there were none.

Brian asked if there were any problems with the power outage; Tony replied there were no major problems.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported on upcoming park events. Holiday Magic will be this Saturday, November 23 at Crossen Park and the Community Center from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Two thirds of the snowflakes are up. Breakfast with Santa will be on December 7. Chad added they have quite a few holiday rentals. For the Haunted House held in October, participation was down a bit. Bill asked about year to date rentals. Chad answered participation is the about the same; rental revenue is up \$1,200.00. For the pavilion improvements, plans have been turned over to the local businessman who is interested in doing the improvements.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, advised the pedestrian bridge on Harkess is underway; the foundations are in. The street department plans to build boardwalk sections inside this winter.

Jeremy presented the annual brush chipping quotes; VRCM quoted \$3,450.00 and Beer & Slabaugh quoted \$5,000.00. Brian moved to have VRCM remove the brush for \$3,450.00; work is to be completed by 12-31. Paul seconded. Three voted for the motion; Kathy abstained. The motion carried.

Jeremy stated he has brought up the trailer mounted vac several times. He will present a proposal next month unless the council tells him not to tonight. He suggested the street department could pay \$35,000.00 from the New Equipment line item, and \$50,000.00 could be paid from the Cumulative Storm Sewer Fund. Henry noted it is important to clean storm drains; some of them have two to three feet of caked soil.

CLERK TREASURER

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced the renewal quote for a health renewal on January 1 came in much lower than expected. The premiums would actually drop by 2.51%, a savings of \$8,254.08 over the 2013 premium. She noted there is a change in the way premium amounts are billed. For example, there is no longer one price for single coverage; premiums are now based upon age.

Julie reported she has been providing information to London Witte for the rate study. For our property and liability insurance, our agent, Greg Miller has submitted applications to two different companies who write municipal insurance. We should have the renewal quotes before the next meeting.

Julie asked council members if they would like to hold a year end meeting, or adopt a resolution to allow her to make any necessary transfers. Council members would like to adopt a resolution.

Julie advised she just received information today on a company called Invoice Cloud that she distributed to council members. Invoice Cloud works with our software program to allow our utility customers to view and pay their bills online. Payments could be made by credit card. We would be charged \$50.00 per month for this service. There is a convenience charge for the credit card payments that could be paid by the customer, or we could choose to absorb the fee. Customers could also choose paperless billing. Julie noted the automatic withdrawal (ACH payment) that we currently offer would continue. She asked the council to look the information over and provide input.

Julie presented a request to continue the town hall remodeling. She would like to replace the vinyl tile in the entrance foyers and four rooms; two rooms in the clerk's office and two in the police department. She presented a quote from BC Tile for the work. Paul stated he would like to see more than one quote. Julie will request quotes from other flooring businesses.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler, of Pittsburgh St., asked why a police car was out of the area in Noble County. Tony advised he knows why the attacks on the police department began several months ago and Sharon has never contacted him. Sharon added there are still areas where the housing needs to be cleaned up.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian advised the Fire Department will need to replace fire hose; fire hose purchased before 1982 no longer meets standards. The cost is about \$5,800.00 and will be paid from the Equipment Replacement Fund. Brian moved to approve payment of up to \$6,000.00 for new fire hose; Kathy seconded. Henry questioned if the Fire Department wouldn't have the authority to purchase something like this in an emergency situation. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian reported that during the recent power outage, the fire repeater did not work since there is no backup generator. He noted they will probably need a backup generator in the future. Tony was asked if the police had problems. Tony advised the police repeater is at the high school, and the high school generator covers that. The Fire Department chose to install their repeater on the water tower instead.

Kathy asked about the fire equipment truck. Bill explained Mickey has specs for the new truck and will be advertising for bids.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

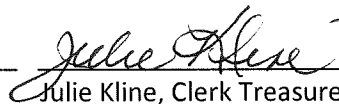
Brian moved to adjourn the meeting; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ATTEST:



William Musser, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer