

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 2014

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian asked for comments on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting were introduced. Kathy Beer would like a sentence on page 3, "*council members don't understand the DNR*" removed; council members agreed. Paul moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #941 to #1068 were presented for payment. Paul made a motion to approve the claims. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The claims were approved.

Brian opened the Public Hearing on the 2015 Budget. Julie read the amounts advertised for the budgets and tax levies by fund. Brian asked if there were any comments from the public on the budget. Sharon Fowler asked why there wasn't \$10,000.00 budgeted for a building demolition fund. Julie explained we do have \$10,000.00 in the Unsafe Building Fund. Sharon asked if money is deposited annually. Julie stated no; we deposited \$10,000.00 in that fund, and so far nothing has been used. Paul moved to accept the 2015 Budget on First Reading; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian introduced Ordinance 2014-13; he explained this ordinance appropriates \$15,000.00 from the Cumulative Capital Improvement-Cigarette Tax Fund for the improvements to the police department. Paul moved to adopt Ordinance 2014-13; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian introduced Ordinance 2014-14, An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 2014-2 and Adding a Three Way Stop Intersection at Oakwood Park. Paul made a motion to approve Ordinance 2014-14; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Ordinance 2014-14 was adopted.

Brett Konarski, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinski, gave an update on the Industrial Park. The construction is completed. We are working on the closeout documents; the documents are due to EDA by October 17. The entrance signs have been completed; JPR plans to submit as-built drawings to Elkhart County by the end of this week. Brett advised Elkhart County will require payment of \$1,000.00 for street signage at the site. Henry advised we have already contacted HUD to release those funds; they have not responded. Brett explained he left a message for Angela Dyer, with HUD; he will also see if the letter from Elkhart County will be sufficient for payment. The payment process was discussed; Brett stated JPR is considering making the payment, and then being reimbursed from EDI. Paul moved to request approval from HUD for payment of \$1,000.00 for the signs from the EDI grant; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported all construction is done on the park except for some glacial stone by the sign.

Henry announced he met with Niblock, Larry Long, and Polywood about the Brooklyn St storm sewer project to iron out some glitches.

Henry advised Joe Leatherman is interested in serving on the Syracuse BZA. Larry moved to appoint Joe Leatherman to the Syracuse BZA; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry announced Ben Plikerd is interested in serving on the county Area Plan Commission. Henry advised representatives of the Area Plan Commission told him there is no problem with Ben Plikerd serving on the Area Plan Commission and the Syracuse BZA. Larry moved to appoint Ben Plikerd to the Area Plan Commission; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry asked where we will be depositing the federal reimbursement for the snow emergency; Henry stated it will go back into the street fund.

POLICE

Captain Calvin Kline reported there were 385 calls for service in August and 8 property damage accidents. There were 6 criminal arrests; two were felony drug arrest and four arrests were misdemeanors. There was also one O.W.I. arrest and one juvenile arrest.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported Harvest Festival will be held on October 11. It is also the last day of the Farmer's Market this year. It will be held at Lakeside Park since more space is needed.

Chad advised the Park Department is working on expanding the fitness room at the Community Center. The delivery of equipment is scheduled for September 27, with completion by October 1. The park department is considering adding an ice rink at the ball park this winter.

Chad announced the Park Foundation is negotiating with Rotary on the purchase of the property at the east end of Wildwood Dr.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, announced the schedule for the treatment plant has been put back until November. The City of Ligonier has a bid opening on October 9, and our engineers feel that bidding two similar projects that close in proximity might result in a scramble for the available contractors. Our bid opening will be in the beginning of November; bids will be presented for council approval at the November meeting.

Jeremy reported the sewer point repairs in Oakwood Park are complete. One area was very extensive; a whole section had to be replaced. Niblock patched the smaller sections; the larger patches will be completed when the road is paved.

Jeremy presented a quote from Construction Services, Inc. to replace two main valves and a hydrant. There is a bad valve just north of the Town Hall that needs to be replaced, and the valve at Brooklyn and Main also needs to be replaced. A hydrant at Benton and Lake needs to be replaced; there is currently no shut off valve for the hydrant. Jeremy explained we do not have the equipment to complete these replacements; Construction Services is the only area contractor that does this. The estimate from Construction Services is \$19,277.69. An additional line stop at a cost of \$3,600.00 is included in that quote; the cost will be less if the additional line stop is not needed. Paul moved to

accept the quote from Construction Services Inc. for \$19,277.69; work is to be completed in 30 days. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy advised the street department has been working on the Rotary Block. The decorative lights encroached on the sidewalk. The trees were removed so they could install the decorative lights in the landscaped area. The railing will be redone; they are looking to replace it with timber railing.

Larry said the two storm drains on Long Dr are plugged up. Larry asked if they are using the trailer mounted vac. Jeremy said right now they are using it to clean storm drains; he will be setting up a program. Paul pointed out there is also a storm drain near his house that needs attention.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline announced the Clerk's office will be closed on Thursday, October 9, for a District Meeting with the DLGF and State Board of Accounts.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler asked when the patrol cars are going to be marked. Brian told her we have three administrative cars that will not be marked. Sharon and Mike MacNeil asked if we have looked into parking for trucks. There is no place for truckers who live in town to park their rigs. Sharon Fowler stated we need better code enforcement.

OLD BUSINESS

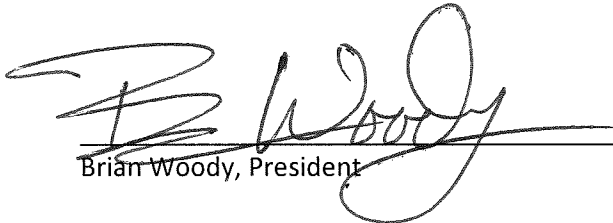
Bill Musser reported he checked on the promotion of our community. He spoke with the company that does the commercials for Elkhart City.; he also has an appointment next week with WNIT. Brian advised there was no Fire Territory meeting due to lack of a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting; Paul seconded. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:


Brian Woody, President


Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer