

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

May 18, 2010

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian asked for comments from the public on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the April 20, 2010 meeting were presented for approval. Cassie moved to approve the minutes, Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

Claims #495 through #614 were introduced for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Cassie seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Town Manager Henry DeJulia discussed the bid award for the trash contract. Borden's presented several options; Henry recommended we accept the bid for Option 2. Option 2 is for a seven year contract with 96 gallon toters, one toter for trash and a second for recycling. A sample toter was in the council room for inspection. A representative from Borden's, Judy Bialka, was present. Ms. Bialka explained Borden's is suggesting we move from our current system to a system with carts, which has been very successful in other communities. Cassie stated she likes option 4, which includes weekly recycling in the summer. She pointed out the bid in year one is about \$139,000.00 for alternate weekly recycling and about \$144,000.00 to add weekly recycling in the summer. Brian noted we are already increasing the recycling 5 times by going from an 18 gallon container to a 96 gallon container; Paul agreed. Cassie added on her street there is a lot of recycling. Larry agreed with Cassie; he sees a lot of recycling on top of bins. Ms. Bialka was asked about the time frame for weekly recycling; she advised it would be from May 1 through August 31. Cassie made a motion to award the bid to Borden's for option #4 ; the price in year #1 is \$143,989.00. Option #4 is a seven year contract with two 96 gallon toters; recycling will increase from alternate weekly to weekly from May to August. Larry seconded. Paul asked if pickup of one large item per week is included in the bid; he was advised it is included. Cassie asked if it is necessary to call in for large items. Ms. Bialka advised for appliances with freon, yes, since there is a fee. For other items, it is not necessary. Julie advised two contractors picked up specifications, but only one company submitted a bid. Paul asked about the placement of the toters for pickup; he was told they must be placed curbside. Ms. Bialka added they will work with residents on placement. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brian announced the Public Hearing on raising the rate for the Cumulative Park Building Fund would be held at this time. There were no comments or remonstrators. Paul moved to adopt Resolution 10-01 to Re-establish the

Cumulative Park Building Fund; Cassie seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 10-02, An Ordinance Establishing a Base Point for Numbering, was introduced. Julie advised it was discovered the code book was not corrected when we renumbered in 1991; this ordinance will reflect the numbering we currently have. Cassie confirmed no one's house number will change. Bill moved to adopt Ordinance 10-02; Cassie seconded. Five voted for the motion; one against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 10-03, An Ordinance for Cell Phone Reimbursement, was introduced. Cassie moved to adopt Ordinance 10-03. There was no second. The ordinance was not adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported that the EDA has assigned a field representative to review our application for assistance for the industrial park.

For the Economic Development Grant we were awarded, we will have to conduct an environmental review. We can do most of it ourselves, but some assistance may be required. Henry asked the council to approve an additional appropriation of \$20,000.00 of EDIT dollars. It was the consensus of the council to have Mike Reed advertise for a public hearing and prepare an ordinance for the additional appropriation.

Henry announced the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation has taken the place of KDI. This is a new organization with a new location; there will be a full time director and at least one staff person. There may be a grant writer that could assist communities for a fee. The Board will be reduced from 27 to about 11. Kosciusko County has pledged \$150,000.00 of EDIT money; Warsaw is considering \$50,000.00. They are asking the towns to contribute, as well as private industries. Henry stated he believes this will work, and we should participate. Larry stated he would like to meet the director. Paul asked if the contribution would be for next year; Henry advised it would be for this year. Discussion followed on an amount to possibly contribute and the structure of the new board. Henry advised they are trying to give more emphasis to small towns. Henry suggested a contribution of \$1,000.00. More discussion followed on a possible town contribution; it was proposed we could contribute more if we had a representative on the board. Paul suggested we table a decision until we have more information; the council agreed to table the discussion.

Henry made several announcements. The Open House was held last week at the water plant. We are working on sidewalk projects. On Harkless Dr., there is concern about foot traffic across the bridge. We may be able to build a walkway on the bridge with our manpower; we will have to work with the county. Henry asked council permission to look into how much it would cost. Larry asked how wide the walkway will be; Henry stated at least five feet. Larry would like to see it wider. The council agreed to have Henry look into the cost of a foot bridge. Henry continued with his announcements. The police are sending notices on high grass. For the banners and decorative lights, Henry stated he will bring quotes for the electric to install about 9 or 10 decorative lights. We should be able to take the lights to the end of town next year. Henry noted we can't

install much on the west side of S.R. 13. He added he would also like to install 2 or 3 more lights on W. Main St to take the lights down to Dolan Dr.

Henry asked Mike Reed to discuss the purchase of Vega Field from the Wawasee Community School Corporation. Mike advised a draft purchase agreement was distributed one month ago; the School Board approved the agreement with one change. A line was added stating closing costs will be shared equally by both parties; costs are expected to be about \$400.00. Mike stated he has prepared a resolution for the council's consideration to approve the purchase Vega Field. Cassie moved to approve Resolution 10-02, A Resolution Approving The Exchange of Real Estate and Personal Property; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello went over the calls for service for the police department; he noted we are starting to see an increase in traffic over the weekends. There were 10 criminal arrests; five of them were felonies and five were misdemeanors. Tony reported that both vehicles that were approved last month have been purchased. The patrol car has been painted and will be on the road by Thursday. We are working on stripping out the reserve car we are going to get rid of .

Tony reported on the Cruise In that was held on Main St last Friday night. It was a huge success and plans are underway to hold it uptown again next year.

Tony discussed the numbering of businesses. According to our ordinances, all homes and business are required to have address numbers displayed. There are several businesses, especially in the village, that do not have numbers on their buildings. This makes it difficult when police and fire are dispatched to an address. He asked the media to assist in getting the word out to the businesses to let them know they need to put numbers up. Tammy Cotton, of the Chamber, will also assist in getting the word out.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson made several announcements. The Farmer's and Artisan Market will start on May 22. It will be at Crossen Mill from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Fun & Fitness Event will be held on June 5 at the elementary school. The beaches will be open for the Memorial Day weekend; the first day for lifeguards will be May 29.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller reported that the first pump is in and installed. This pump takes less time to do the job.

Jeremy discussed the 2010 sidewalk project. Hamman Concrete & Excavating submitted the low quote of \$38,355.00 for sidewalks on Dolan Dr. and on the east side of Harkless from Pickwick Dr. to Palm Dr. Main Channel Marina has a fence that they will reinstall since it is on our right of way. Jeremy described how the Dolan Dr. sidewalk will be completed.

Jeremy explained a stormwater problem has come up. Public works employees found a spot in the Pickwick and Forrest Lane area where the culverts are buried and filled in. If we replace the culverts and install catch basins we can alleviate some of the problems. Jeremy described what needs to be done; he requested approval to spend \$3,000.00. Paul made a motion to approve up to \$3,000.00 for the Maple Grove and Forrest Lane area culvert replacement; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy requested permission to replace 4 hydrants at a cost of about \$1,700.00 each. He explained the problems they are having. Paul moved to approve to purchase of 4 hydrants; the cost is not to exceed \$6,800.00. Cassie seconded. Larry asked if this was budgeted; Jeremy stated it will be paid from Water Depreciation. Larry asked if we have hydrants on 2" mains; Jeremy advised there are some scattered around town. Jeremy added code is for a 6" line. Larry noted that there was a plan to start upgrading the distribution system once the new plant and water tower were constructed. Julie advised the Umbaugh study and water rate increase included an annual amount to be spent to upgrade the water lines. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy reported town hydrants will be flushed the first week of June. Also, signs have been ordered for Forest Park, but have not been received yet.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline thanked the Garden Club for planting the flowers at the Town Hall. She advised council members that we had a special meeting last year to discuss and approve the 2010 budgets. She asked them to think about if they want to do the same thing this year for the 2011 budgets.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed advised a payment was made by the previous owners of Turtle Bay. The amount of the payment was \$9,665.81. The payment was on a final bill and was authorized to be automatically debited electronically from their account. The automatic payment was returned NSF. The prosecutor can not help because the payment was not a paper check. Mike asked council members if they wanted to take the previous owners to court. Discussion followed on court costs to recover the money. Larry asked if there are any assets. After discussion, Mike Reed was authorized to conduct an asset search if the cost is reasonable, and report back to the council. Larry suggested we look into requiring deposits on this type of entity.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Susan Myrick stated there is a lot of brush growing up around the Huntington St. bridge and Front St. bridge. She noted county maintains the bridges, but didn't know if that included brush. She also asked how much the town was going to pay for Vega Field. Mike Reed advised there will be an exchange of services worth about \$24,000.00, but no actual money will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry stated he would like to see a review of our comprehensive plan. We need to note what has been completed and add new priorities. He suggested we complete it by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Henry advised he received correspondence from the Arbor Day Foundation awarding the Town of Syracuse a Tree City USA and a Growth Award for 2009.

Brian discussed fire territory issues. He noted at the fire meeting a couple of weeks ago, the fire department was directed to prepare budgets with two options; one with a 0% increase in wages and a second with a 1% increase in wages. The Equipment Replacement Fund was also discussed at that meeting; it was agreed it would stay at \$500,000.00 this year. He noted when the fire territory was established, we knew we would have to levy that amount for two to four years to catch up. There was consensus at the Fire Board meeting to keep that amount for three or four years, then bring it down. Brian stated the fire department has a 19 year old ladder truck scheduled for replacement. The cost of a new ladder truck ranges from \$900,000.00 to \$1,200,000.00; the fire department has located a used ladder truck that is 9 years old for \$575,000.00. Brian Richcreek, fire department mechanic, inspected the truck today. They have determined this truck will meet the fire departments needs. Brian recommended as a member of the Fire Territory Board that we move quickly and purchase this truck. Larry asked how many buildings we have that would need the ladder truck; Mickey advised 10 plus all of the condos. Cassie noted we also have to consider the buildings in the Rinker compound. Mickey described the problems they have had with the current ladder truck. Discussion followed on how often a ladder truck would be used and what mutual aid is available. Larry suggested looking into impact fees in the future.

Brian reminded council members they have to approve the purchase of equipment. Brian Richcreek spoke about the problems he has been having with the current ladder truck. He added this purchase would replace two trucks; Engine 21, which is 31 years old, and the ladder truck. Bill questioned when the ladder truck is scheduled for replacement; he was advised 2011 or 2012. Fire Chief Mickey Scott stated they will try to purchase the ladder truck for less than the \$575,000.00, but he would like permission to spend up to that amount. Mike Reed clarified the Syracuse Council has to approve the purchase. Larry asked when the Fire Cum might be reduced; he asked will it be in two years. Mickey stated the department is trying to renovate Station #1; they have applied for a grant. After that renovation is complete, they hope to start reducing the Equipment Replacement Fund. Discussion followed on when the levy for the Equipment Replacement Fund will be reduced. Larry clarified that this purchase will replace two of the present fire trucks; he was advised that is correct. Mickey has also reduced the total amount on the equipment replacement spreadsheet by four million.

Brian moved to allow the Fire Territory Board to approve the purchase of a ladder truck at a cost not to exceed \$575,000.00. Bill seconded the motion. Paul advised he would like more notice in the future before a purchase request like this is presented. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Woody, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer