

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 2012

Larry Siegel, Council 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, Paul Stoelting, and Brian Woody. Also present were Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Larry presented the minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; Jeff abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #1086 through #1212 were presented for payment. Paul made a motion to approve the claims; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry announced that Tony has requested the agenda be amended to allow him to introduce and swear in two new officers at this time. Brian moved to amend the agenda as requested; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried to amend the agenda.

Tony announced the Syracuse Police Department has hired two new officers, Neil Likens and Michael Bumbaugh. Town Attorney Mike Reed swore in the two new officers.

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline read Ordinance 12-12, An Ordinance for 2013 Appropriations and Tax Rate. Brian made a motion to approve Ordinance 12-12; Bill seconded. Larry stated he has difficulty increasing the tax rate; especially in these times. He added he does not have a better idea at this time, but it is a matter of conscience. He will vote no. There was no further discussion. Four voted for the motion; Larry against. The 2013 budget was adopted.

Ordinance 12-13, Fair Housing Ordinance, was introduced. Brian moved to adopt Ordinance 12-13; Paul seconded. Five voted to approve Ordinance 12-13; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance 12-14 to Create Town Budget Accounts was introduced. Brian moved to adopt the ordinance; Paul seconded. Five voted for the ordinance; none against. Motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Wightman Petrie, gave his monthly update to the council. He noted there is a pay request for Cripe this month; Cripe is progressing well with their work. Mr. Jones advised there is a 12" high pressure gas line owned by Kinder Morgan that is located deeper than what was originally thought. Cripe will be asking for payment for the added depth. The cost to bury the sewer line an additional foot will be an additional \$1.70 per foot; the estimated cost is \$2,074.00. An additional manhole section will also need to be installed at a cost of about \$800.00. A change order will be presented to the council in the future for about \$2,874.00. Henry questioned why the specifications did not include the correct depth. Ken Jones explained how companies like Kinder Morgan would handle locate requests. Brian questioned why the contractor did not allow for this. It was noted the actual depth was different from what was shown on the plans. Ken Jones will check with Kinder Morgan and research this further.

Mr. Jones continued with his report. H & G has started working on the water mains to the industrial park. Mr. Jones explained we are having difficulty with dated utility maps with incorrect locations; this has led to repairs to our water lines and interruption of the project. H & G has done a good job, however since our locates were incorrect in some cases, this is another changing condition of the contract. H & G fixed the water lines at the town's request; there will be an additional charge. When the work is complete, we will have very accurate "as built" information. They are starting to use a GPS locator; Brett is now using the equipment on site. The information will be turned over to the town when the project is completed. Ken added problems may happen again.

Town Attorney Mike Reed discussed the exchange of property with Polywood. He introduced two deeds, two contracts, and two sales disclosure forms for council approval. We will receive the 1.471 acres to square off the athletic field. The 1.69 acre wedge between the two Polywood tracts will go to Polywood. The transaction would be a straight up swap between the town and Polywood. Brian moved to approve the two deeds, two sales contracts, and two sales disclosures that Mike Reed has presented. Larry is authorized to sign the documents; Julie is to attest. Jeff seconded the motion. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported the contractors are on top of things and doing a nice job. Larry brought up water in the road at the Industrial Park.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 362 calls for service and 10 vehicle crashes in September. He reminded everyone that Trick or Treat will be on October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tony explained that he is the town ADA Coordinator; he will be meeting with MACOG next week on our ADA Transition Plan. He plans to bring it for council approval in November.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported on park events. The final day for the Farmer's Market this season was last Saturday, October 13. A couple of markets will be held in the winter; one during Holiday Magic, and a second during the Winter Carnival in January. Holiday Magic will be on November 17. The Lakeland Youth Center Carnival will be this Saturday. Construction has begun on the Haunted House to be held at Crossen Mill Park. It will be on October 25 to October 27.

Chad gave an update on the Youth Athletic Complex. Gabe Ritter completed the water and sewer lines. Baseball scoreboards have been put up on the concession stand. The football scrimmage on October 13 was cancelled due to rain. There will be more work on the infield this fall.

Larry asked about a pedestrian crosswalk from the town hall to Crossen Mill Park. Tony advised a letter was sent to INDOT after the meeting last month; he has not received a reply yet. Dick Peletier asked about crossing at Pickwick and S.R. 13 from the trail; Tony pointed out there is a stop light at that intersection.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller reported the Oakwood Lift Station is operational and under new power. The Arthur's lift station has been repaired. Airmarking has completed the striping. The stormwater project at Palm Dr. by Oakwood is installed and the fence is out. We are still working on a portion of sidewalk at Lake & Main; we found some lead pipe and that had to be replaced. We will begin the fall hydrant flushing sometime this month.

Jeremy announced we solicited quotes for the lighting for the new decorative street lights. We requested quotes from four companies and two of them responded. L & M Electric was the lowest quote at \$17,794.00 to install the electric from the old water plant site to the ten new decorative lights.

L & M Electric expects to do the work the week of November 12 or right before Thanksgiving. Brian made a motion to approve the quote from L & M Electric for \$17,794.00; work is to be completed by December 24. Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline discussed the replacement of the town hall light fixtures; due to changes in the federal law, we will soon not be able to buy light bulbs for the current fixtures. Gary Garber, Wastewater Foreman, prepared the specifications and solicited quotes; three contractors responded. Ritter Electric of Syracuse submitted the lowest quote at \$12,992.36. Henry suggested we require completion in 90 days. Paul moved to accept the quote from Ritter Electric to be completed in 90 days; Jeff seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Fowler asked for the population of Syracuse; she was advised it is 2,810. She asked how much is in Rainy Day; she was advised it is \$323,962.00. She stated it is unfair to raise taxes. She spoke about code enforcement, ordinance enforcement by police, and building codes. Brian Woody noted he asked Sharon last month if she had reported any of these things; he asked her again if she reported it.

Dick Peletier reported for the Youth Athletic Complex. So far, we have raised \$350,000.00 of the \$400,000.00 goal. The \$400,000.00 figure does not include lighting. We have received money from businesses, grants, and individuals. Kiwanis has donated about \$10,000 in materials and \$20,000 in labor. Other grant requests have been submitted. We are at the point where the funds have dwindled. We have \$60,000 in matching funds available for lighting the fields; he feels we need two lighted fields. He asked council to give it some consideration. An individual has agreed to match up to \$60,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian asked how much we have in Cigarette Tax; he was advised the balance is \$51,578.41. He stated the Youth Athletic Complex would be a good use for it.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Larry Siegel, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer