SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 20, 2026 @7:00 P.M.

Town Council Vice President William Musser called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council members present were Nathan Scherer, Larry Siegel, and Cindy Kaiser via zoom. Clerk-Treasurer Virginia Cazier and Town Attorney Jay Rigdon. Paul Stoelting was absent.

William Musser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments - Discussion from the floor (agenda items only) 2 minutes per speaker 10 minutes total.

The Council Minutes - The minutes of December 16, 2025, regular meeting presented for approval. Nathan Scherer moved to approve the minutes; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

The Town Claims - Claim #'s 1330-1354 & 1-96 for $5,385531.26 presented for approval. Nathan Scherer moved to approve the claims; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Public Hearing, Ordinance 2025-18 Water Rate Increase (Out of Town Users) – William Musser opened the public hearing for the water rate increase for out-of-town users. Larry Siegel stated he could not support this ordinance as it is stated. He is voting against the ordinance because it states, "persons who are receiving water service from the town who have beyond the town boundaries have ***fairly*** contributed to the capital and operating cost, capital and operating costs of the Syracuse Water Works system." Larry Siegel continued to say, unless they are annexed into the town, they will never be able to contribute fairly to the capital cost of the Syracuse waterworks system. The water works system was paid for by tax dollars by the people inside of town. Nathan Scherer asked, "Is there any reason why that part needs to be in there?" Jay Ridgon stated, the reason you want to have that language indicates why you have done that they do not pay taxes, so therefore, what you are saying is you want to make sure that they have contributed and that's why you impose that rate. It is designed to reflect the purpose of imposing the surcharge in 2026, so that once they are given these increased rates, they will have contributed to paying those capital and operating expenses. What you are trying to do is protect from a rate payer attacking it by saying, I have paid more than my fair contribution to capital and operating expenses. That is the purpose of having that language. You are trying to protect it from a legal challenge; you are not trying to make a point about whether somebody has fairly done something or not fairly done something in the past. I provided language to protect a legal challenge. It is your ordinance you can take it out if you want. Jay strongly feels that keeping the wording the same from a legal perspective, the town would be better off. If the town chooses to remove it, it is a risk. Willam Musser asked if there were any public comments on this issue. There were no comments. Nathan Scherer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-18; William Musser seconded the motion. All in favor, Larry Siegel opposed. The motion carried.

Resolution 2026-01 Signatory Authorization for SRF & OCRA –Nathan Scherer made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01; William Musser seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Resolution 2026-02 Pier Fees appropriated to Police Department Funds -Nathan Scherer made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2026-02 Change to Ordinance 8-17 Pier Registration and Fees - Tabled, Ordinance needs a title and needs better explained.

Commonwealth Engineering Report – Jeremy Hardy informed the council that the water project is progress nicely. Josh Koontz, water foreman, has provided good feedback to us.

The CCMG project was reviewed, and we offered our opinion on some overruns on asphalt. The town might be able to do more alleys or roads this year. Once we get it back, we will be able to make recommendations on what should be paid for and what the contractor did above and beyond on his own accord. We discussed some numbers with Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, on what was suggested. Currently it is on a holding pattern at this point. CCMG project, which you were not awarded this time around, we are going to go after the next one this summer.

Water project, we are making modifications to the design, started drafting utility easements.

North RV Park, we have not seen much of anything lately.

Drafted a memo on where the town stands with the water plant capacity. Mark and David will review it, if there are no changes we will distribute to the council. Last time we did this was back in 2022, this will be for 2024-2025.

The water utility project was informed that the town needs to do an audit by state board of accounts so we could be good with SRF. They require one no older than two years. In the beginning the projected cost was 6.2 million, we have cut the cost down to 4.6 million, that includes the road loop.

There are two separate task orders. The first task order 2026-01 is amending task order 2025-02 Water Utility Improvements for additional services or modifications for $439,000, this is for an inspection service, 40 hours a week

for 8.5 months total on-site time. Larry Siegel approved task order 2026-01; Nathan Scherer seconded. All in favor. The motion carried. Task order 2026-02 for engineering services on an as-needed basis for $10,000. Larry Siegel approved task order 2026-02 not to exceed $10,000; Nathan Scherer seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

David Wilkinson asked if there were any questions in his report. Nathan asked about the boardwalk meeting on December 15th, what was the request from them? Looking at alternative, less expensive version as requested by council. JPR Engineering will look back at what they designed and try to find less expensive alternatives.

The Pearl Street parking lot, JPR did the original design a couple years ago, but AZ Engineering did the work on the Pearl Street parking lot. Working with AZ Engineering to finalize cost-sharing agreement, I have not heard back from them yet.

Main Street parking lot, we sent the RFQ to three firms. David has talked to all three, they are all interested and going to submit a proposal by the end of the month. Willam Musser asked when we would look at construction? David wanted to have it complete by the end of summer, but they all agreed to push it back to next spring for construction completion.

Nathan Scherer talked about the way finding signs; they look good but are hard to read. There were outside comments on why there was not more information on them, other than that we had a lot of positive feedback.

William Musser mentioned the traffic signals, maybe in February the council could reach some kind of decision.

Software for the council was brought up by Larry Siegel. David has done some research and has talked to other communities. He does not have all the information collected yet, will report on this at the February meeting.

The Beautification committee has been discussing the 250th celebration of the United States. A lot of communities are going to celebrate that in a bold fashion; we have been talking about what our community can do to celebrate the 250th anniversary. Last week we had a meeting with other organization around the town that are planning some fourth of July activities. It is a work in progress, getting everything put together. We are asking the council if we could shut down east side of Main Street from SR 13 to the community center for a day or so, would like to have some sort of festival. We are planning the weekend before the fourth of July. Making it a kid friendly event. Details are yet to be determined. The council is ok with shutting down Main Street.

David talked to the CAP committee on behalf of the Park Department. The Park Department produced a list of projects and bundled it together and it totaled $315,000. David was notified that currently they are going to put that one on the shelf because we already have the boardwalk grant. David would like to know from the council what their decision is on the boardwalk. CAP is making us pick or choose one or the other. Council needs to say yes or no by June if we are going to move forward with the boardwalk or the money goes back into the pool.

Willam Musser asked about the lighting at the Industrial park. Mark Aurich replied that he has tried two different lights, trying to save money is not going to work. Mark is going to try another trail of lighting and see if that works. Mark did receive three quotes on electrical lighting as well.

POLICE

Jim Layne, Police Chief, asked if there were any questions in his report. Still accepting application till the first week of February.

No ADA complaints.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, talked about doing some painting, waxing the floors, and doing some drywalling the inside of the community center. Not a lot goes on in January.

Chad provided the council with the tree report from the tree board. This is what we provide to Tree City USA every year as part of the application.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Aurich, Public Works Director, asked if there were any questions in his report. Mark is asking to purchase an international chassis with a dump bed, asking to purchase an international 5500 chassis from Selking International, Fort Wayne for $79,998.84 and $62,277.04 from W.A Jones for the dumb bed and salt spreader. Total cost $142,275.88. The old truck will be auctioned off. Turnaround time should be immediate. Nathan Scherer made a

motion to purchase the new replacement vehicle and dumb bed in the amount of $142,275.88 to be delivered before the end of January; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. The motion carried.

North Trace RV Park proposed running a 4-inch water line off our main, we discussed the difference with council to upgrade that to town limits with an 8-inch main and we would pay the difference in cost. That is complete and the upgrade was approximately $75 a linear foot. We got a pretty good deal. The rebate to Mr. Showalter would be $71,483.00. Larry Siegel made a motion to reimburse Mr. Showalter for $71,483.00; Nathan Scherer seconded. All in favor. The motion carried. The funds will be coming from the new infrastructure fund under the town manager's budget. Grand opening is May 1st.

One big project for this year is filter rehab on the water system. It has been 20 years with the original sand and filter units. It will cost approximately $450,000.00.

FIRE TERRITORY

Quin Hunter, Fire Chief, asked if there were any questions on his report. Quin has two equipment replacement expenditures to ask for council's approval. First one is for $5,948.85 plus shipping cost for some material for the new ladder truck. Quin request approval to spend up to $6,100.00 plus shipping cost at an additional $151.00. Second expenditure Quin asking for approval for turnout gear for the new firefighter that we are hiring next month that will cost $3,940. Nathan Scherer made a motion to approve not to exceed $6,500 for miscellaneous components for the new ladder truck; Larry Siegel seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Nathan Scherer made a motion to approve not to exceed $4,250.00 from Conway Shield to be delivered by April 1st; seconded by Larry Siegel. All in favor. Motion carried.

Quin introduced EMS Chief Cody Mangus to the council.

CLERK TREASURER

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer, asked the council if there were any questions about her report. Nathan Scherer has some questions on the voided checks.

The clerk-treasure asked the council if they would be willing to amend the sprinkling rate ordinance to change it from May to October instead of June to September. We have residents come in early spring and late October and inform us that they are already watering their lawns. Council chose to leave the ordinance the same.

Is there an ordinance that states if a sewer line runs in front of a resident home, if they are not hooked up, they will be charging a sewer rate? Paul Stoelting did confirm in an email that there is an ordinance that does state that. There are several houses on Kern Road that are not hooked up to our sewer, should we be charging them a sewer rate? The town attorney will investigate this for us and report it at the next meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Jay Rigdon, Town Attorney, nothing to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Nothing

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL - OLD BUSINESS

Nathan Scherer said he had some conversations with the sign company about the gateway signs, and there are some opportunities for some cost savings to continue conversations, so he should have more next month.

DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL - NEW BUSINESS

Nathan Scherer asked David what Syracuse Place LLC was on his report. It is the trailer park beside the new RV park.

Nathan Scherer moved to adjourn the Town of Syracuse Council Meeting; Larry Siegel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: _____

Virginia Cazier, Clerk-Treasurer

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~~William Musser~~, Council ~~Vice~~ President

Cindy Kaiser