

**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL**  
**AGENDA**  
June 3, 2002

**City Council Workshop Meeting**  
**No Meeting Is Scheduled**

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**Regular City Council Meeting**  
7:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 20, 2002;
  - B. Payment of the Bills for June 3, 2002.
7. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.**
8. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**
9. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
10. **PUBLIC HEARINGS--None**
11. **ORDINANCES**
  - A. **Ordinance No. 2002.06—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$17,000 to the Voluntary Action Center for Services to Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

As in past years, the Annual City budget allocates grant monies to the Voluntary Action Center to partially underwrite transportation and nutritional services to residents of the City of Sycamore. These funds are budgeted in the Mayor and Council budget (701-8399).

The City of Sycamore's grant will help underwrite a very active transportation system operating in the Sycamore area. TransVac, which makes personalized deliveries connecting residents with schools, work sites, shopping, and recreational events, makes over 15,000 trips for Sycamore residents each year. MedVac, a personalized system for connecting residents with out-of-town health care services (e.g. Rockford, Chicago) makes 400-500 trips. The Meals on Wheels program and Senior Luncheon program together serve over 20,000 meals in individual Sycamore households and the Sycamore High Rise. VAC expects the numbers for its current fiscal year to exceed these trends by about 3 percent.

The VAC grant was increased in FY02 from \$12,000 to \$17,000. The FY03 Budget maintains that level of assistance. As the attached letter from Executive Director Tom Zucker states, the City's grant will help provide the local match for a larger state grant in behalf of their efforts to transport persons with disabilities.

VAC representatives will be on hand to answer any questions. City Council approval is recommended.

**B. Ordinance No. 2002.07—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$1,000 to the DeKalb County Community Foundation for Services to Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Another annual grant funded by the Mayor and Council budget (701-8399) is a \$1,000 allocation to the DeKalb County Community Foundation to help defray organizational expenses. This grant and others from local taxing bodies and private contributors helps offset the operational liabilities of the foundation and in turn optimizes the funds available for helping county agencies and new initiatives in the general welfare. Among the Sycamore agencies or groups that have been served in recent years are Opportunity House, CASA, Sycamore Child Care, VAC, Discover Sycamore, the Sycamore Chamber, the Sycamore Historical Society, the Midwest Museum, and the Sycamore Firefighters Preservation Company.

City Council approval is recommended.

**C. Ordinance No. 2002.08—An Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance No. 98.01 To Restrict the Powers of Appointment of Police Officers to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. First and Second Reading.**

At the regular City Council meeting of May 20, 2002, the Council reviewed a request from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to rescind an ordinance approved in May 1998 that transferred certain responsibilities for hiring to the City Administrator and Police Chief. Specifically, Ordinance 98.01 states that persons from another law enforcement agency could be chosen for an entry-level position with the Sycamore Police department without appointment by the Fire and Police Commission if

- a) they were certified Illinois law enforcement officers (meaning they had successfully completed the course of instruction in an Illinois-certified academy); and
- b) they had two years of service with a law enforcement agency.

Though this change accelerated the process of selection, it set up a parallel hiring process that was not “independent” of the administrators and elected officials then in office. This approach, though legal under state law, does conflict with the independent process of review and decision-making intended by the state legislature when civil service bodies such as the Fire and Police Commission were created. In theory at least, the creation of hiring lists from pre-qualified applicants by a Fire and Police Commission prevents cronyism and inside tracks allowed by purely administrative appointments.

In practical terms, the need for a parallel system is typically debated when or if an independent Commission does not discharge its hiring responsibilities in a timely manner. However, no facet of the Commission’s hiring procedures inevitably leads to such delay. Further, the Commission has the latitude to hire certified officers with experience ahead of other persons on the hiring list, provided persons higher on the list do not match their combined certification or experience.

At the May 20 meeting, the Council concurred with the Administrator’s recommendation to bring this matter back in ordinance form. City Council approval is recommended.

## 12. RESOLUTIONS

### A. Resolution No. 411—Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Sacramento Street to Main Street from 7:00 A.M. Until 5:00 P.M. on July 28, 2002 to Allow for the “Fizz Ehrler” Memorial Car Show In Sycamore, Illinois.

This summer’s car show will be moved from Elm Street, where it was held the first two years, to State Street. The sponsors of the car show and the Discover Group believe the State Street location will provide a mid-summer bounce to weekend business downtown and will also show off the new streetscape to the many visitors who are anticipated.

City Council approval is recommended.

## 13. CONSIDERATIONS

### A. Consideration of the Appointment of Paid On-Call Firefighters.

Fire Chief Bill Riddle has requested the Council’s approval of the hiring of three new paid-on call firefighters: Ann Carlson, Rhonda Overton, and Gregory Schwartz. Each of the candidates has completed the required orientation and has met the requirements of paid-on call status.

City Council approval is recommended.

**B. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation for a Closed Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining and Personnel Matters.**

**14. APPOINTMENTS**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**