
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2002**

ROLL CALL

Mayor John Swedberg called the meeting to order and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Pam Blickem, Michael Chambon, Andrew Larson, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, and Janice Tripp.

INVOCATION

Steve Persson of the First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Swedberg stated there would be an addition of Resolution 402, an easement agreement with Norman Adshade.

Motion

Alderperson Larson moved to approve the agenda with the addition and Alderperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of December 17, 2001;
- B. Payment of the Bills for January 7, 2002 in the amount of \$892,938.13.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Maness inquired if a survey would be conducted now that there was a crossing guard in place at Maplewood and Route 23? Administrator Nicklas said that the crossing guard would conduct a survey.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas reported on the budget report year-do-date. Mr. Nicklas said that due to the used of conservative sales tax budget figures, the percentages looked a little high. The state income tax figures were below expectation because the state had lowered the per capita figures from \$79/capita to \$73/capita. Mr. Nicklas also passed out a capital plan at-a-glance sheet to the Council.

Engineer – John Brady – no report

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty reported that since the last meeting he had written 19 permits: 5 single-family residential, 1 multi –6-unit residential, 1 commercial, 8 miscellaneous residential, 3 miscellaneous commercial, and 1 demolition.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that December financials contained an average of \$20,000 for the State Illinois funds and will insert the correct figure when he received it from the state.

Fire Chief –Bill Riddle reported 72 calls since the last meeting and several of them were upgraded to paramedic status. Chief Riddle said that by March 1st 100% of the calls would be run as paramedic status. Chief Riddle was pleased to report no holiday fire incidents.

Police Chief – Thomas reported that they had received 466 calls for service in the last 3 weeks, 114 reports, 21 accidents, 12 arrests, and 76 citations. Chief Thomas reported that the crossing guard was in place at Maplewood and Route 23. Chief Thomas also reported that the traffic study was complete for Mercantile Drive and recommended a 45 M.P.H. speed limit. Mayor Swedberg thanked Chief Thomas for allowing him to ride with a couple of police officers for a shift. Chief Thomas said that eventually they would like to create a citizen’s academy and invited all the Council members to participate in the program which would include a couple of ride-alongs.

Public Works Supt. -- Fred Busse - no report.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported there would be a GIS/GPS presentation next Council Meeting. Administrator Nicklas explained that the Water Department had been under-staffed due to injury and Superintendent Smith ‘s father’s illness. Mr. Nicklas thanked Superintendent Smith for his dedication to the department while tending to his parents’ needs.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance –no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – Chair Alan Bauer said there would be a meeting next Council meeting. Administrator Nicklas said that if there were not enough time for the presentation and the meeting he would have something on the agenda.

Streets & Walks – Chair Michael Chambon asked to have Chief Thomas’ speed limit recommendation for Mercantile Drive come back in ordinance form at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2001.56—An Ordinance Amending Title 9, “Building Regulations,” Chapter 2, “Building Codes,” Section 9-2-3, “Plan Review Fees,” Subsection A, Residential; Section 9-2-4, “Building Permit Fees,” Subsection B, Miscellaneous; Section 9-4-4, “Permit and Inspection Fees,” Subsection A, Permit Fees, and B, Rewiring Inspection Fees; and Title 8, “Water and Sewer,” Chapter 2, “Water Use and Service,” Section 8-2-8, “Taps and Water Service Pipes,” Subsection E, Water Tap Fees, Permit, of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance would increase building permit fees as recommended by the Ordinance Committee.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to hear Ordinance 2001.56 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2001.56 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Ordinance No. 2001.57—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 2, “Parking Regulations,” Section 7, “Parking After Snowfall,” Subsection A, Parking Restricted, of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this amendment, proposed by Superintendent of Public Works Fred Busse and Police Chief Don Thomas, would enforce a new approach to the removal of parked cars from the public ways during snowstorms. Mr. Nicklas said that nearly all arterials and collectors would be considered emergency snow routes that had to be cleared of vehicles immediately after a two-inch snowfall, and the balance of City streets—the minor residential streets—would need to be cleared of vehicles four hours after an accumulation of two or more inches of snow. Mr. Nicklas added that an exception of legally parked metered spaces needed to be inserted.

Mayor Swedberg inquired if Waterman Street should be included as a snow route, since all the other schools were on snow routes. Superintendent Busse said he had no problem adding Waterman Street as a snow route.

Aldersperson Chambon expressed concern regarding the lack of eye appeal for the number of additional signs the snow routes would require.

Aldersperson Chambon inquired about the size and number of sign would be needed. Superintendent Busse responded that the signs could be as small as 12 x 15 inches and suggested that many of them could be added to existing signposts.

City Attorney Peter Smith stated that in order to tow the cars, reasonable notice needed to be provided.

Aldersperson Chambon asked how many signs would be needed and what they would look like because he felt like this was sounding very unsightly. Mr. Nicklas said he thought they could use mostly existing posts. Superintendent Busse said that he would put together the number of signs and posts required and bring an example of a sign to the next Council meeting.

Aldersperson Bauer said that he felt the system was not broken and seemed to work fine.

Administrator Nicklas said that there existed no systems and the plows would run for 12 hours going back over streets creating tens of thousands of dollars of overtime.

Aldersperson Blickem suggested using stages to implement snow routes, starting with the major collectors and narrow streets the plows couldn't navigate through because of parked cars.

Mayor Swedberg directed Superintendent Busse to create a prototype of the sign to display at the next Council meeting.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to set Ordinance 2001.57 over until the next meeting and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Ordinance No. 2001.58—An Ordinance Amending Title 9, "Building Regulations," Chapter 4, "Electricity and Fire Protection," Section 9-4-2, "Codes Adopted," Subsection A, Electrical Code Adopted, of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance would adopt the 1999 Electric Code with some additions and revisions.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to hear Ordinance 2001.58 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2001.58 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION 402 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SYCAMORE AND NORMAN AD SHADE TO CONSTRUCT SANITARY SEWERS IN DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Administrator Nicklas explained that this was the last easement needed by B & B Development to establish a sanitary sewer trunk line to the Heron Creek Subdivision.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 402 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation Regarding a New General Obligation Offering to Finance Capital Expenditures.

Administrator Nicklas said it was time to look at operational needs as well as general capital or large ticket items for the City. Administrator Nicklas said he wanted to invite the Council to consider new borrowing in terms of the City's capital needs. Mr. Nicklas explained that interest rates were presently good for municipal bond market. Mr. Nicklas proposed a 1% restaurant & bar tax to cover the revenue needed to cover the cost of borrowing. Mr. Nicklas asked Council to discuss this concept with their constituents.

Aldersperson Stowe suggested discussing a 2% restaurant & bar tax rather than returning to this discussion two years later and trying to raise it. Alderspersons Bauer, Blickem, and Maness agreed with the 2% restaurant & bar tax.

Mayor Swedberg moved the issue to Finance Committee January 21st at 6:30 p.m.

B. Consideration of an Administration Report on a Proposed FY2002-2003 Budget Schedule.

Administrator Nicklas proposed the following schedule for the FY03 budget process:

- January 7: The Administrator circulates target-spending numbers to City department heads.
- February 4: Very preliminary General Fund revenue and expenditure numbers presented to the Council for comment at the monthly workshop meeting. The Council will also be asked to advise the staff concerning proposed FY03 capital projects and the annual street maintenance list.
- February 18: The Preliminary FY03 Budget presented to the Council for review and comment.
- March 18: The revised Preliminary City Budget formally presented to the Council and placed on file.
- March 19-27: Finance Committee meetings are held to review each budget fund and department.

- April 1: The Budget hearing held.
- April 15. The Council approves the Final FY03 City Budget.

C. Consideration of a Closed Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to go into closed session at 9:00 p.m. and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to come out of closed session at 9:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Swedberg stated that Gary Stapleton had stepped down from the Plan Commission because of work-related conflicts. Mayor Swedberg appointed John McBride as the School District liaison and appointed previous School District liaison John Lewis to the seat vacated by Gary Stapleton.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to approve the appointments and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith