
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 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

Pastor Don Phelps of St. John's Lutheran Church and Sycamore Fire Department Chaplain gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Karen Hardy, 221 N. Main St., informed Council that the bike path running from Borden to Prairie is overgrown with grapevine taking over the southbound lane. Administrator Nicklas said that was DeKalb County Forest Preserve property and he would contact Terry Hannon the next day.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the City Council Workshop Meeting of August 5, 2002;
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 5, 2002;
- C. Payment of the Bills for August 19, 2002 in the amount of \$205,420.10.
- D. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meetings of June 10, 2002 and July 8, 2002.
- E. Budget Report for the Period May 1, 2002 through July 31, 2002.

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 8 - 0.

Alderson Tripp said that Alderson Maness seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda and Clerk Smith said that under Reports of Officers Chief Singer should read Chief Thomas. Clerk Smith said she would make both of those changes.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Presentation of Bronze Plaque to Frances I. Ridulph, Chuck and Diane Ridulph, Patricia (Ridulph) and Bill Quinn, Kay (Ridulph) and Lawrence Hickey. This plaque will be mounted on a permanent masonry base outside the Municipal Building and will replace the memorial that has been mounted on the building in honor of the memory of Maria Elizabeth Ridulph. Maria was kidnapped on December 3, 1957 while playing near her home and was found murdered in the spring of 1958. The original memorial, and this new memorial, honors her memory and the compassion of those law enforcement professionals and local residents who reached out to the family during their tragic experience.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that for many years the Municipal Building had featured a memorial to a tragic time in our Community's history. He said the memorial was in honor of Maria Ridulph who was kidnapped from her home on December 3, 1957 and found murdered in the spring of 1958. Mr. Nicklas said that about a year ago he opened conversation with the Ridulph family to provide a more lasting and fitting memorial that told the story of Maria Ridulph's kidnapping and how the community rallied to search for her.

Mayor Swedberg read the plaque that will be placed on a pedestal in front of the Municipal Building.

Chuck Ridulph thanked the City for the tribute and remembrance to his sister.

- B. Recognition of Jean Tritle, Human Resource Director, for achieving certification as an Employee Benefit Specialist through the International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists.**

Administrator Nicklas recognized Jean Tritle for her diligence in completing a series of courses to complete here certification while learning a new job.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas explained that Council needed to act to move the September 2, 2002 meeting to September 3, 2002. Alderson Paulsen moved to change the date and Alderson Maness seconded. All Aldersons voted aye. Mr. Nicklas said that the Council needed to allocate dollars to create a revolving fund for downtown improvements and to create a budget item. He said he would bring this back in ordinance form at the next meeting. Mr. Nicklas addressed the West Nile Virus issue and explained that the present consensus of the County and Municipalities therein was common sense precautions, such as staying away from bushes at dusk and dawn, using insect repellent and prevent stagnant water.

Engineer – John Brady reported that street contracts were under way.

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty since the last meeting he had written 20 permits: 9 single-family, 1 - 4-unit attached, 1 commercial, and 9 miscellaneous residential.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that the July financials reflected a 25% benchmark and the revenues were running at 28% and the expenses were at 21%.

Fire Chief –Bill Riddle reported that in the past two weeks they had received 57calls for service: 31 EMS, 22 Non Fire/Mutual Aid, and 4 fire with \$2300 fire loss. Chief Riddle also reported that the Sycamore Fire Local IAFF donated two sets of pediatric equipment one for each ambulance, valued at \$1900. Chief Riddle said that the equipment was much appreciated and Mayor Swedberg thanked the Union for their donation.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported since the last meeting they had received 415 calls for service, made 37 traffic stops, issued 25 tickets, made 14 arrests, handled 13 accidents, and written 83 reports.

Public Works Supt. -- Fred Busse – no report

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported they were still pumping sand out of Well #5. Superintendent Smith said that a record amount of water was pumped in July at 66 million gallons with the normal amount being 45 million gallons.

Mayor Swedberg introduced and welcomed Rose Treml as the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance –no report

Ordinance – Chairperson Cheryl Maness reported that all ordinances were on the agenda

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water –no report

Streets & Walks –no report

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2002.32—An Ordinance Approving the Execution of a Lease Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Committee for the Lease of Certain real Estate for a Carnival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2002.32 on first and second reading and Alderperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2002.32 and Alderson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Aldersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

B. Ordinance No. 2002.33—An Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Title 3, “Business and License Regulations,” Chapter 2, “Liquor Control,” Section 6, “Classification of Licenses, Fees, Hours and Days,” to Insert a New Paragraph H, “Outdoor Restaurant Liquor Sales,” in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas said that this would establish a revised legislative framework for the outdoor consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Alderson Maness said that the Ordinance Committee discussed section a. and they did not want to attach food to the ordinance. Ms. Maness requested that section a. be deleted from the ordinance. Attorney Smith suggested she move to waive first reading, then make a motion to approve the ordinance with the deletion of section a.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2002.33 on first and second reading and Alderson Chambon seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Seven Aldersons present voted aye and Alderson Stowe voted nay. Motion carried 7 - 1.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2002.33 with the deletion of paragraph a. since it was not part of the Committee’s recommendation and Alderson Tripp seconded the motion.

Mayor Swedberg said that he requested paragraph a. because he needed direction for establishments to understand who was covered by the ordinance. Mayor Swedberg said this would make the definition of restaurant clearer. Mayor Swedberg said that he would not accept paragraph “d” because he wanted food to be mandatory with the order of alcoholic beverages. He said he heard from the Donlin Court neighborhood concerning nights that Ski’s has special events. Mayor said there was parking in the yards, broken beer bottles, late-night noise, and public urination. Mayor said that the music issue should be addressed because he would like the noise level for music in the outdoor dining area to be a lower level than the City ordinances allow.

Alderson Larson asked what constitutes food and Mayor Swedberg said that would be a menu item. Mr. Larson asked if the diners would need to go inside for drinks when their food was gone and Mayor Swedberg said that the alcoholic beverages would be tied to the food and he said his theory was that the owners would want people to move along to make room for more customers. Alderson Blickem asked if all restaurants that have liquor licenses would have to adhere to the 75/25 food ratio or did that just apply to the outside and Mayor Swedberg said that was strictly outdoors. Ms. Blickem asked how he was going to monitor that and Mayor said they would look at receipts and it would cover entire receipts. Alderson Stowe said that he thought the ratio was too high and suggested Council review all the liquor licenses and how they are being used.

Aldersperson Chambon asked if food was required in order for a restaurant to serve drinks then why hadn't that been enforced and what difference did it make if they were served outside. Mayor Swedberg said because they would be in the public view. Aldersperson Chambon said that he felt the Mayor was trying to legislate something that would be difficult to enforce and that if misbehavior was an issue that would be an enforcement issue not a food issue.

Aldersperson Blickem respectfully disagreed with the Mayor and said that alcohol was the most controlled business in the state of Illinois through licensing.

Call the Question

Aldersperson Blickem called the question.

Aldersperson Maness commented that the property had changed many times over the years and she said there was now a property owner with a successful business who was trying to make his business more successful and attractive to the City. Ms. Maness said that she felt that the requirements the Mayor was imposing would tie the hands of business owners and she did not want to send the message that business owners would not get cooperation from the City.

Call the Question Vote

Seven Alderspersons voted aye to end discussion and vote on the motion with Aldersperson Stowe voting nay.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Seven Alderspersons present voted aye and Chuck Stowe voted nay. Motion carried 7 - 1.

- C. Ordinance No. 2002.34—An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Sycamore, Section 9.02, "C-2 Central Business District," Paragraph 1, "Permitted Uses," and Section 9.03, "C-3 Highway Business District," Paragraph 1, "Permitted Uses," to Permit the Conduct of a Business for the Sale and/or Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in an Outdoor Area in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance defined the areas where consumption of alcoholic beverages would be permitted.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2002.34 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2002.34 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

D. Ordinance No. 2002.35—An Ordinance Authorizing a One-Year Agreement with the Crum-Halsted Agency, Inc. to Act as a Broker in Providing Health Insurance for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas explained that after a search for quotes they received only one creditable quote from Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL for a substantial increase over that allowed for in the budget. Mr. Nicklas said he would set up a fund as a depository for reserve monies to transfer money from the surplus fund to cover the premium increase in early September.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to hear Ordinance 2002.35 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Ordinance 2002.35 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 416—Declaring Wednesday, October 23, 2002 Through Sunday, October 27, 2002 as Pumpkin Festival Weekend in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Administrator Nicklas recommended taking Resolutions 416, 417, and 418 in omnibus fashion.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to adopt Resolution 416, Resolution 417, and Resolution 418 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

B. Resolution No. 417—Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Sabin Street to Somonauk Street Between 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on October 27, 2002 for the "Road Run" as Part of Pumpkin Festival Weekend.

C. Resolution No. 418—Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street from 12:00 Noon Until 5:00 P.M. on October 27, 2002 to Allow for the Pumpkin Festival Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

D. Resolution No. 419—Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street from 7:00 P.M. Until 8:30

P.M. on September 18, 2002 To Allow for the Sycamore High School Homecoming Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to adopt Resolution 419 and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Fire Department Recommendation to Purchase a Used Chevrolet Tahoe In the Amount of \$29,900 from Countryside Motors of Sycamore, Illinois.

Administrator Nicklas explained that they had solicited for bids and received four, but the lowest bidder had sold the vehicle, so he was recommending accepting the second lowest bid of Countryside Motors for \$29,900.

Mayor Swedberg inquired if they planned to keep the Jeep and Chief Riddle said it could be used to save mileage costs for schooling trips.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to award the purchase to Countryside Motors for \$29,900 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

B. Consideration of a Request from AT&T Broadband to Implement a Rate Increase With Less Than Ninety Days Notice to Subscribers.

Administrator Nicklas explained that the purpose of the item was to waive the 90-day notice.

Sharon Douglas, A T & T government representative, said that they wanted to launch new channels by October 3, 2002 in order to stay competitive with the satellite industry.

Aldersperson Blickem said that she had received phone calls complaining about the picture quality, number of Hispanic channels, and the rate increase. Ms. Douglas said that she would have the lines in that area checked.

Aldersperson Chambon questioned the benefit of the 90-day window and Aldersperson Stowe said that was the last piece of control the City could maintain after the federal government took away the franchise control.

Administrator Nicklas said that the City had received the obligatory three-year notice of franchise renewal. Mr. Nicklas said that one of the items for review was the schedule time for cable service house calls.

Aldersperson Stowe said that he hasn't heard the public clamoring for new channels and thought they should wait the 90 days before the bill increases.

Ms. Douglas said that they would like to launch the channels as soon as possible.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to allow A T & T to implement the new channels, but wait 90 days to implement the rate increase and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Seven Alderspersons voted aye with Aldersperson Larson voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 1.

C. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Award a Contract to Fitzgerald Equipment Co. for a Walk-Behind Scrubber in the Amount of \$9,085.

Administrator Nicklas said that this machine was necessary to remove tire marks from the new sidewalks downtown. Mr. Nicklas said it was their goal to get the downtown clean in time for Pumpkin Fest.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to award the purchase to the Yale Fitzgerald Equipment Co. for the amount of \$9,085 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

D. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation for a Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters and Land Acquisition.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to go into closed session at 9:05 p.m. and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to return to Open Session at 9:52 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 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 8 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith