
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 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 Steve Best of Bethany Community Church gave the invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Swedberg added Collective Bargaining to the Closed Meeting Consideration.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the agenda with the addition and Alderperson Maness 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

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of November 4, 2002;
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 18, 2002 in the amount of \$350,207.42.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of October 14, 2002.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the Consent 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Proclamation Honoring Pete Johnson on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Mayor Swedberg read the Proclamation and explained that Pete Johnson was not in the audience because he was celebrating his birthday with family. Mayor Swedberg said that he had attended a party for Pete at the Fargo Saturday night that was thrown by many of Pete's old football players

B. Recognition of Kirk Lundbeck, acting Park District Director, on the occasion of his being named one of America's "Top Golf Instructors" by the Consumers Research Council of America.

Mayor Swedberg read the Park District release and congratulated Kirk Lundbeck who was in attendance. Kirk said that it was nice to be recognized nationally but more importantly he was proud to work for the Sycamore residents at the Sycamore Park District.

Mayor Swedberg said he had received a thank you from the Pumpkin Fest Committee for the City's contribution to the event.

Mayor Swedberg reported that he and Administrator Nicklas had attended the 3rd Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting. Mayor Swedberg explained that since the County's population had reached 50,000 they were mandated to create an MPO. He said that the Policy Committee had been created and they would create technical and budget committees. Mayor Swedberg said he hoped to bring an intergovernmental agreement to the next Council meeting.

Aldersperson Bauer reported that he attended a meeting in Creston where Shawn Denning from the Attorney General's office gave a talk about the Open Meeting Act. Mr. Bauer said that the emphasis was how to comply with the spirit of the Act and some court rulings regarding the Act.

Mayor Swedberg said that two LH liquor license holders have requested to be allowed to sell spirits and asked Ordinance Committee Chairperson Maness to schedule a meeting to review the request. Chairperson Maness scheduled the meeting for December 2, 2002 before the regular council meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas reported that he would close on the Henderson properties Thursday, November 21, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Nicklas said that plans and specifications were underway for the remodeling and he hoped to go out for bids in three weeks.

Engineer – John Brady – no report

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty reported that since the last meeting he had written 25 permits: 4 single-family, 3 14-unit attached single-family, 1 8-unit multi-family, 11 miscellaneous residential, and 6 miscellaneous commercial.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that the October financials represented the 50% benchmark with revenue slightly ahead of that and expenditures were slightly behind. Treasurer Mundy said that he would be in Urbana at the Illinois Municipal Treasurer's Institute Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported that since the last meeting the Fire Department had responded to 44 calls: 25 EMS, 13 Non-fire mutual aid, and 6 fire calls. Chief Riddle said the new ambulance had been delivered

and was being outfitted with radios and equipment in the new Fire Department shop. Chief Riddle said that the Department had transitioned to upgrade the services to paramedic to increase the level of service to the community and, in fact, one of the firefighters saved his father's life this past week. Chief Riddle took the opportunity to thank the Council for allowing that upgrade.

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 updated the leaf pickup schedule and said that Public Works had just caught up with the leaves and were back on schedule today. He said that the new leaf machine eliminated a lot of trips to dump the leaves. Superintendent Busse said that because of the lateness of the leaves falling this year they would probably pick up through the first week in December. Superintendent Busse said that Christmas decorations would be going up Wednesday.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance –no report

Ordinance – Chairperson Maness reported that a meeting was scheduled for December 2, 2002.

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water –Chairperson Bauer reported that the Committee had met earlier and would meet again December 2nd to discuss water related issues.

Streets & Walks –no report

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2002.52—An Ordinance Awarding a Contract in the Amount of Up To \$107,105 to Open Software Solutions, Inc. (OSS) for a New Computerized Police and Fire Records Management System. Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas explained that Chief Thomas was not available at the last meeting to answer questions regarding the \$52,695 training fee and deferred the discussion to Chief Thomas.

Chief Thomas explained that he and Chief Riddle had done a significant amount of homework in choosing the best product. Chief Thomas said that the \$52,695 would be better defined as Implementation Services, which included installation of the software, training, maintaining, and review of the system to make sure it worked correctly. Chief Thomas said that it was unfortunate that he referred to it as training cost when only about half of the \$52,695 was training cost and he was confident they would not use all of that.

Alderperson Bauer noted that \$16,000 looked like living and travel expense and thought that was a lot. Chief Thomas said that meant traveling out here 4 or 5 times and he did not anticipate needing them that much. Chief Thomas also said separate trips were scheduled for Fire and Police Departments and he

would have them service both departments with one trip. Administrator Nicklas asked if the City had control over their need for training and Chief Thomas said they did.

Aldersperson Blickem said that she had faith in Chief Thomas to keep close watch over the procedure and that it was in his own best interest to use as little as possible for the training.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2002.52 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.

B. Ordinance No. 2002.53—An Ordinance Approving the Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore, Illinois and IMLRMA for Worker’s Compensation and Liability Coverage for City Employees. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas explained that the IMLRMA was the largest public risk pool for coverage and gave the City the lowest rate over any private insurance market. Mr. Nicklas said that this year the rate increased about \$7,000 from \$181,500 in 2002 to \$189,052 in 2003. He said that last year and this year the claim experience was not as good as previous years, but he didn’t feel like it was due to carelessness.

Aldersperson Bauer said that safety falls on the shoulders of employees as well as managers to keep the cost down, but mostly from the human issue to keep anybody from being hurt.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2002.53 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2002.53 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of An Administration Report on City Tax Levy Options for the 2002 Tax Year.

Administrator Nicklas said that each year the City Council takes two major financial actions, setting the levy and voting for the budget. Mr. Nicklas said that the levy must be adopted by December 31st of each year. Mr. Nicklas explained that all five options that he had presented would decrease the dollars available for general operations. He said that some of the increases were due to equity losses in the Police and Fire Pension funds as well as losses in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Mr. Nicklas said the five options went from no increase to 5% increase and he recommended the 5% increase. Mr. Nicklas said that the City's Levy combined with the Sycamore Library levy would create the Corporate Levy.

Administrator Nicklas said the Council would hold a public hearing on the levy at the December 2, 2002 meeting and then vote on the Levy and any abatements at the December 16th meeting.

Sarah Tobias, Executive Director of the Sycamore Public Library, explained that the Library rates over the last several years had been going down until this year the request for increased funds would be needed for technology, building maintenance, and wage increases. Director Tobias said that the Library had recently automated its system and needed money to maintain the automation. She said that the Board decided to create a capital improvement fund for repairs to the building and they hoped that wage increases would help retain employees as well as cover an anticipated increase in the minimum wage.

Mayor Swedberg asked what capital improvements were needed and Ms. Tobias said the Carnegie portion of the building needed to be tuck pointed at a cost of \$90,000 and the furnace in that portion of the building was 98 years old.

Aldersperson Tripp inquired how many employees there were and Ms. Tobias said that were 25 total employees with 13 full-time equivalent.

Aldersperson Blickem expressed concern with the large increase and thought maybe they could incrementally increase the levy and not make up for lost revenues all in one year.

Aldersperson Chambon said that he did not know how he could explain to his constituents why the Library needed a 13% increase and did not think he could vote for it.

Mayor Swedberg explained that the Council had no authority to deny the Library's Levy, but could suggest that they reconsider the amount. Aldersperson Chambon said he could vote against the total levy.

Aldersperson Bauer also suggested that the Board reconsider their figures and perhaps consider going to referendum to become a District Library that would become a separate taxing entity.

Director Tobias explained that not maintaining the building or keeping up with technology would be a huge mistake. Ms. Tobias said that she felt the Library was a viable part of the community and property taxes were the major source of revenue since they do not charge user fees. Ms. Tobias said that they needed a major increase to provide the community with the services.

Mayor Swedberg asked Ms. Tobias to take this back to the Board to revisit the issue. Mayor Swedberg said that the Library Board was a good bunch of volunteers that were appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council.

Aldersperson Blickem said that a 13% increase would not set well with the community and suggested Ms. Tobias work with her board to look at incremental increases.

Aldersperson Stowe stressed that almost one-half of the increase was in payroll and if the minimum wage increased the increase would need to be covered.

Aldersperson Bauer said that City Departments do unbelievable work with a minimum number of employees and he thought perhaps the Library could operate with eight full-time equivalent employees.

Aldersperson Chambon said that the EAV increase of 7% should be followed and that if the Library wanted to double that increase the need should be crystal clear and he could not see that it was.

Aldersperson Blickem said that she did not have a problem with Mr. Nicklas' recommendation of a 5% increase, but she did have a problem with that combined with the Library Levy.

Mayor Swedberg thanked Director Tobias for her presentation and opened discussion for the City's portion of the levy.

The consensus of Council was toward approval of the 5% increase.

B. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation to Request Action by the Sycamore Fire and Police Commission.

Administrator Nicklas reported that Lieutenant Pat Solar has been appointed Police Chief in Genoa and Sergeant Tom Scott has been restored to the rank of Lieutenant. Mr. Nicklas said that he was requesting Council authorization for Fire and Police Commission action to confirm Thomas Scott in the civil service rank of lieutenant, promote Steve Cook to the rank of sergeant, and hire the next eligible person on the Police hiring list.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to authorize the confirmation of Thomas Scott, promotion of Steve Cook, and the hiring of a new officer and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

C. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation Concerning the Timing of Community Planning Events.

Administrator Nicklas said that on November 11, 2002 a joint meeting was held to preview the process for revising the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Nicklas set three dates and times for the next steps in the process. The Image Preference Survey will be Tuesday, January 7, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sycamore Public Library, the Charrette will be held Saturday, January 11, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at South Prairie School, and the Consensus Plan Presentation will be held at the regular Plan Commission Meeting January 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Aldersperson Tripp asked if a certain type of building could be added to the Image Preference Survey and Mr. Nicklas said that if she got an address to him he would contact Land Vision to photograph it.

D. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation for a Closed Session to Review Closed Session Minutes.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to go into closed session at 9:02 p.m. 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 Paulsen moved to return to Open Session at 9:38 p.m. and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 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.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith