
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2003**

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, Andrew Larson, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe and Janice Tripp.

INVOCATION

Pastor Dan Stovall of the Sycamore Baptist Church gave the invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda 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 8 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Brian Wiedert, 1617 Sleepy Hollow, DeKalb, on behalf of the DeKalb County Builders and Development Association thanked Council for the time to work with the staff regarding the engineering and annexation fees.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the City Council Workshop Meeting of February 17, 2003;
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 17, 2003;
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of February 10, 2003;
- D. Payment of the Bills for March 3, 2003 in the amount of \$615,874.74.

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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Maness asked Building Commissioner Doty to address occupancy limits in light of current events. Mr. Doty said the occupancy standards were 15 sq. ft./person with tables and chairs and 3 sq. ft./person standing. Mr. Doty said he had not had the time to measure and post all the businesses, but would do that in the future. Ms. Maness said they should ask the establishments to monitor themselves. Mayor Swedberg said he and the Administrator and Mr. Doty would meet to set procedure.

Aldersperson Paulsen announced the 2nd Ward residents were conducting an informal meeting Tuesday, March 4, at the Library regarding the County Campus' impact on the neighborhood.

Mayor Swedberg announced the first of four meetings regarding the Council/Manager referendum issue would be held Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at North School. Mayor Swedberg said Rochelle's Mayor Gingrich would be a guest speaker at the March 13 meeting at Southeast School.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas reported work was proceeding at the Sycamore Center. He said the windows were uncovered and glass and framework would be accomplished the following week. Mr. Nicklas reported sad news that AGCO, formerly known as Caterpillar was closing operations in late May. He said they had 186 employees and sent heartfelt regards to the workers and families.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty wanted to set the record straight regarding an article in the newspaper intimating that the City never addressed the occupancy issue. Mr. Doty said the City would respond to occupancy issues.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – no report.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle – no report.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported the 911 Center transition was targeted for March 28, 2003 and the fiber optic was completed between the Municipal Building and the Sycamore Center and the County.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse thanked Joel Barczak for training Mike March and Gary Egler to prune trees. They completed the downtown pruning project and Mr. Barczak offered to train the rest of the department regarding the care of trees.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported they were in the fourth week of radium removal testing and should get results the following week.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – Chairperson Cheryl Maness reported the Committee met earlier to discuss liquor license classifications. Ms. Maness scheduled the next meeting for 6:30 p.m. March 17, 2003 and Mayor Swedberg said since that might be a busy day for liquor establishments, she should solicit written comments from license holders.

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – Chairperson Paulsen said his committee met earlier to approve minutes from the November 11, 2002 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2002.73—An Ordinance Amending Title 8, “Water and Sewer,” Chapter 4, “Sewer Use and Service,” Section 8-4-2, “Additional City Fees,” Paragraphs F(2) and F(3) of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas said City staff met with the DeKalb County Building and Development Association representatives February 21 for a constructive exchange of views. Mr. Nicklas asked Council to hold over this matter for a second reading at the March 17, 2003 Council meeting.

Aldersperson Bauer said it sounded like their primary purpose was to reduce the increase and since the consensus of Council was for \$3,000 per acre annexation fee he thought more discussion would only lead to softening of staff to soften Council. Mr. Nicklas said the Association was concerned about a fairness issue regarding developers allowing for bike paths and open space to get a break.

Aldersperson Tripp said she would be absent March 17 but suggested a time limit be placed on the payment of the annexation fees.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hold over Ordinance 2002.73 until the next meeting and Aldersperson Stowe 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. 2002.78—An Ordinance Amending Title 10, “Subdivision Regulations,” Chapter 5, “Subdivision Administration and Enforcement,” Section 10-5-4, “Payment of Fees on Annexation, Planned Unit Development, or Subdivision,” Paragraph B of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas asked to hold over this ordinance for more discussion with the DeKalb County Building and Development Association. Mr. Nicklas said they did not realize that this was a plan review and inspection fee and asked for the possibility of breaking out the fee and looking at other communities' fees.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hold over Ordinance 2002.78 until the next meeting and Aldersperson Blickem 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. Ordinance No. 2002.81—An Ordinance Prohibiting the Connection of Sanitary or Industrial Waste Sewers to Storm Water Drainage Systems. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that IDOT required ordinances confirming commitment to prohibiting discharge of sanitary or industrial waste water in channels when partnering with the state on public works projects involving storm water channels. Mr. Nicklas said the project was the replacement of the bridge

that crosses the east branch of the Kishwaukee River on North Main Street (IL Route 23). He said the engineering and construction costs would be covered by the state and the City's obligation was to maintain the bridge surface and its appurtenances. Mr. Nicklas stated the road would not be closed, but would be one-way through some of the construction.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2002.81 on first and second reading and Alderson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Alderson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2002.81 and Alderson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

D. Ordinance No. 2002.82—An Ordinance Regulating Encroachment on Illinois Route 23, Section 26BR-1, in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas said this related to the state-sponsored replacement of the IL Route 23 Bridge by prohibiting any encroachments within the project right-of-way.

Motion

Alderson Blickem moved to hear Ordinance 2002.82 on first and second reading and Alderson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2002.82 and Alderson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 431—Approving Plans and Specifications as Proposed by the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation, for the Improvement of Illinois Route 23, State Section 26BR-1, in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois.

Administrator Nicklas explained this resolution obliged the City to provide written approval of the plans and specs for the portions of the IL Route 23 bridge project that will fall to the City to maintain over time.

Aldersperson Bauer inquired if the state would always be responsible for replacing the deck and Mr. Nicklas said they would, but the City was responsible for anything in the right-of-way.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Resolution 431 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. Resolution No. 432—Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and Milan Krpan Granting an Easement for Water and Sewer Lines in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Administrator Nicklas explained this resolution would grant an easement to the City for the purpose of looping the water main extended from the well through the park District property to the Parkside Estates water main and for the purpose of extending a storm sewer collecting discharge from the well site.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 432 and Aldersperson Blickem 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. Resolution No. 433— Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the National Bank & Trust Company of Sycamore’s Trust No. 1210538309, Granting an Easement for a Roadway and Public Utilities in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Administrator Nicklas explained this resolution would permit the construction and maintenance of a water main on the east side of Airport Road across for the new well site.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Resolution 433 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.

D. Resolution No. 434—Transferring the Ownership of the City Property Known as 425 West State Street to the Sycamore Park District.

Administrator Nicklas said this resolution compared to a letter of intent of transferring ownership of the Community Center upon satisfactory completion of the conversion, issuance of an occupancy certificate and with the approval of a long-term lease between the Park District and the Midwest Museum of Natural History. Mr. Nicklas said an ordinance would need to be passed closer to the time of completion.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 434 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Leach said she was still concerned that turning the building over to another taxing body might still cost the taxpayers money.

Aldersperson Paulsen questioned the Park District's willingness to accept the building and inquired if the staff would be Park District employees.

Administrator Nicklas said he attended the Park District Board Meeting where all five Commissioners embraced the Museum as part of their recreational package.

Aldersperson Leach asked if only being a tenant would qualify as part of the Park District.

Mr. Nicklas said Chicago Park District owned the land the Field Museum was on and Aldersperson Blickem said the Ellwood House was part of DeKalb's Park District.

Voice Vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Report from the Discover Sycamore Group of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce Concerning Recent Tourism-Related Activities.

Rich Para, owner of Ben Franklin, spoke in favor of the Chamber, Discover, and Tourism. Mr. Para said his store was financially stable as a result of an organized Chamber and Discover Sycamore Group.

Rose Treml, Executive Director of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, recapped the past two years of tourism activities as two high-quality brochures, a visitor kiosk with posters, maps, and brochures, the historical walking tour, and the advertising of events. Director Treml said that advertising for the downtown was the future project and they needed City funding. She said, "you have to tell them you built it" in order for people to come. Ms. Treml said the streetscape was complete so the next step was to advertise to let outside areas know about it. Ms. Treml said they were asking the City for a grant of \$45,000.

Aldersperson Leach said she has been a member of the Sycamore Visitors Bureau for the past two years and recently became the President. Ms. Leach said the Bureau has restructured with a stronger sense of purpose.

Aldersperson Maness asked Michelle LaPage, Downtown Coordinator if she kept a list of available buildings with their specs. Ms. LaPage said a list was available and she has partnered with the DeKalb Area Realtors Association to disburse that list. Aldersperson Bauer asked of the frequency of calls and Ms. LaPage said she faxes the lists routinely to the realtors.

Aldersperson Blickem said she thought the City's grant was for the promotion of the downtown and said the flyers and advertising were promoting events within the community. Director Treml said they tried to make the ads well rounded to include shopping and other events or attractions.

Aldersperson Maness said the Council agreed to help fund the Downtown Coordinator position for three years then it would be totally funded by Discover Sycamore. Ms. LaPage requested the City to continue their financial support of that position as an investment in the downtown.

Aldersperson Blickem said the three-year support stemmed from the Mainstreet guidelines and said she would like to see Discover become more self-sufficient. She said it was time for them to pick up the pace because the City had supported the downtown with streetscape and more recently with support for the conversion of the Museum.

Ms. Treml said they would need more time to fund the position and they were conducting a membership drive this year.

Motion

Aldersperson Leach moved to authorize a grant of \$45,000 to the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Maness said she does not oppose the Downtown Coordinator position, but thinks the businesses should support it.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he viewed the grant as similar to a tax rebate and as insurance to continue to have a downtown.

Aldersperson Tripp said she was willing to fund the Coordinator position one extra year in place of the construction year.

Voice Vote

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

B. Consideration of a Revised Employment Agreement with Fire Chief William Riddle.

Administrator Nicklas said that Fire Chief Riddle was a blessing to Sycamore and there existed mutual respect between Chief Riddle and the Firefighters.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve a five-year contract with Fire Chief William Riddle 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.

Chief Riddle said it was his honor to lead the Firefighters in the Community.

C. Consideration of a Police Department Recommendation to Hire a Replacement Police Officer.

Administrator Nicklas said this consideration was asking for authorization to hire an additional Police Officer that would increase the department's force level from 22 to 23 sworn officers. Mr. Nicklas explained this position would replace Officer Richter, a reservist who has been called up under a presidential order, but must be re-hired when his active duty ends.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve the hiring of one additional police officer and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

D. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Works Superintendent for the Purchase of Two Pickup Trucks.

Administrator Nicklas explained the lowest bid was submitted by Riding Ford of Taylorville in the amount of \$30,420 which reflected the state purchase price.

Aldersperson Paulsen inquired why the local dealership could not meet state bid and Aldersperson Tripp said the manufacturer gave those who won the state bid an added discount.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to accept the low bid from Riding Ford, Taylorville for the amount of \$30,420 and Aldersperson Blickem 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 Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 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.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith