
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 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, and Chuck Stowe. Alderperson Janice Tripp was absent.

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 present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Ken Andersen, 680 Hopkins Lane, thanked the Mayor and Council on behalf of the DeKalb County Building and Development Association for allowing them to work with staff and be part of the decision-making process.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of March 3, 2003;
- B. Payment of the Bills for March 17, 2003 in the amount of \$280,811.19;
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of February 24, 2003.

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 present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Mayor Swedberg announced this would be Alderperson Blickem's last Council meeting and congratulated and thanked her for her service to the Community.

Aldersperson Blickem commended Sycamore for its Council and the members respect for each other. Ms. Blickem also noted that the staff and department heads were the Community's best assets.

Mayor Swedberg reminded everybody about the Council/Manager referendum meeting Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at South Prairie Elementary School.

Aldersperson Maness said she received several calls regarding the sensitivity of the stoplights at Coltonville Road and Route 23. She said they would not recognize motorcycles. Mr. Nicklas said those have been problematic and he would have those checked.

Aldersperson Bauer said he was concerned about all the subdivision signs that appear every Saturday morning. Mr. Nicklas said would have that policed. Mr. Nicklas also said he had noticed eleven temporary signs at the strip mall across from True Value Hardware. Mayor Swedberg suggested issuing fines if the problem was getting out of hand. Mr. Bauer asked if flashing arrows were allowed. Aldersperson Blickem suggested charging for subdivision signs for a limited time over the weekend. Mayor Swedberg said he would place this issue in Ordinance Committee at a later date.

Aldersperson Paulsen reported that members of the 2nd Ward had a meeting regarding the County Government Campus. Mr. Paulsen said Thursday the Jail Ad Hoc Committee was meeting.

Mayor Swedberg reported that there was a foreclosure on Park Avenue and the contents were emptied onto the front lawn for 24 hours.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas echoed Mayor Swedberg's thoughts regarding Aldersperson Blickem and said evidence of her contributions were many. He said he was grateful for her dedication and thoughtful and straightforward approach to the business at hand. Mr. Nicklas distributed the Downtown façade program packet and asked the media to announce the program was ready for applicants.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty

Treasurer – Ken Mundy said February financials showed revenue ahead of expenses, but he said March would close that gap.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle announced the birth of his second grandchild. Chief Riddle also reported communication from Firefighter Penn stating that since the Italian Special Forces arrived the food had improved.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported the Dispatch transition was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. March 31st.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse – no report

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Chairperson Blickem reminded Council of the budget meetings March 24 & 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance – Chairperson Cheryl Maness reported the Committee met earlier with the Ad Hoc Committee to review liquor code revisions and hoped to complete the project before licenses were due May 1, 2003.

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks –no report

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 recommended a per-acre fee system for industrial and commercial subdivisions at a fee of \$2,000 per gross acre. Mr. Nicklas recommended giving the residential developer the option of paying a per-acre fee at the time of final platting that allows for the deduction of retention and park or school dedication; or a per-lot fee of \$1,000 at the time of final platting. Mr. Nicklas suggested giving those developers who were already annexed and who have made their investment on the basis of the current system an opportunity to pay in full at the current per-acre price of \$1,000 per acre within six months of the date of the ordinance. He said if the Council agreed he would have an ordinance crafted for the next Council meeting.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if those who paid ahead would have to be final platted and Mr. Nicklas said they would not.

Mr. Nicklas asked if Council would consider giving the Kocher Farm developer the 6-month option since they had submitted a concept plan and been put on hold for the Comprehensive Plan revision. Aldersperson Stowe said that could be included in their annexation agreement.

Aldersperson Stowe expressed concern that a P.U.D. would create one large lot and pay the \$2000 fee for the whole development and Mr. Nicklas said they would craft language in the ordinance to avoid that.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hold over Ordinance 2002.73 until the April 7, 2003 meeting and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion carried 7 - 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 explained the City’s fee was currently more than a review fee, it included the City Engineer’s review of plans and field inspections and the inspections performed by Public Works and Water Department employees for sewer and water lines. Mr. Nicklas and Engineer Brady proposed a \$350 nonrefundable deposit for plan reviews that would be credited if the City Council approved the projects. They also recommended an increase to 2.5% for engineering plan review and inspection fee. Mr. Nicklas said he would bring back a revised ordinance to the April 7 meeting if the Council concurred with the recommendations.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hold over Ordinance 2002.78 until the April 7 meeting and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

C. Ordinance No. 2002.83—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Menard, Inc. for a Second Resubdivision of the Menard’s of Sycamore Subdivision in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas explained that in response to market interest Menard’s was requesting to re-subdivide to create lots 8, 9, and 10. Mr. Nicklas said lots 8 and 9 would be frontage lots along Route 23 and lot 10 included the Menard store, the vacant area between the store and Peace Road, two retention areas south of Mercantile Drive and one retention area at the north end of the frontage along Route 23.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to hear Ordinance 2002.83 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2002.83 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

D. Ordinance No. 2002.84—An Ordinance Amending Title 4, “Public Health and Safety,” Chapter 1, “Fire Department,” Section 4-1-2, “Membership; Appointments and Discharges,” Paragraph C of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Lower the

Entry Age for Paid-On-Call Firefighters From Twenty-One Years to Eighteen Years. First and Second Reading.

Chief Riddle explained that over the past several years the department had experienced trouble recruiting and retaining volunteers. He said this was the first step in implementing a program that would involve a partnership with IAFF local 3046, Sycamore Fire Department, Rock Valley College, and Kishwaukee College that would give experience and leverage to those desiring to become career firefighters. Chief Riddle said he would like to appoint three per year until the eighteen slots were filled.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2002.84 on first and second reading and Alderson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2002.84 and Alderson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

- E. Ordinance No. 2002.85—An Ordinance Amending an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and Ceridian for a Flexible Spending Account Plan for Medical and Child Care Expenses by City Employees to Increase the Maximum Amount of the Flexible Spending Account to \$4,000 Per Employee in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas said this was a good benefit for the employees.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2002.85 on first and second reading and Alderson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2002.85 and Alderson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the Preliminary FY2003-2004 City Budget.

Administrator Nicklas said he had distributed copies of the proposed budget to Council and the media and reminded Council the Finance Committee budget meetings would be March 24, 25, and 26th (if necessary) at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

B. Consideration of a Report from the City Engineer Regarding the FY04 Street Maintenance Program.

Engineer Brady said he had included a memo in the Council packets with his street maintenance recommendations.

Aldersperson Maness asked him to review the one block of Home Street not scheduled for reconstruction. Mr. Brady said he would see how the bids came in.

C. Consideration of an Administration Request for Direction Regarding the Placement of Certain Informational Signs.

Administrator Nicklas explained the state allowed only one special sign for each state-marked route and proposed the following sites for the City to erect signs:

- on IL Rt 64 heading westbound in the right-of-way east of Airport Road;
- on IL Rt. 23 heading northbound in the right-of-way at the north edge of Northland Plaza;
- on Somonauk Street heading north into the city, in the right-of-way just south of Bethany Road;
- on Plank Road heading westbound in the right-of-way at about the intersection of Lindgren Road;
- On Peace Road heading northbound in the right-of-way just south of the intersection with Bethany Road.

Council agreed with all five additional sites.

D. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Closed Session Minutes.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to go into closed session at 8:30 p.m. and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to return to open session at 8:39 p.m. and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith