
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2003

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Elder William Bridgewater of the Israel of God Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Swedberg added swearing in of Alderperson Stowe right after approval of the agenda.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the agenda with the change 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.

Clerk Smith gave the oath of office to Alderperson Stowe.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 21, 2003;
- B. Payment of the Bills for May 5, 2003 in the amount of \$702,289.41
- C. Plan Commission minutes for the meeting of April 14, 2003.

Alderperson Kessler asked Clerk Smith to change the person making the motion to approve Ordinance 2001.96 to Alderperson Tripp.

Motion

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the change to the minutes 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Proclamation Declaring the Week of May 5-9, 2003 as Public Service Recognition Week in Sycamore, Illinois.

Mayor Swedberg read the proclamation.

- B. Recognizing Brian Gregory, Deputy Finance Director, for his achievement as "Intern of the Year" in NIU's Public Administration Program, and his induction into the Pi Alpha Alpha Honorary Society.

Manager Nicklas introduced the Administration Department consisting of Brian Gregory, Sandy Wright, Julie Rhodes, and Jean Tritle. Mr. Nicklas commended Mr. Gregory for his work as the City's Intern working on the web site, conducting surveys, helping with the financial operations and progressing to Deputy Budget Officer in January 2003 and to Deputy Finance Director in May 2003. Mr. Nicklas said along the way he had kept up with his academic work and maintained his position as resident advisor of Stevenson Dormitory.

Brian Gregory thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity and commended them for hiring Mr. Nicklas who had been a great inspiration to him. Mr. Gregory also thanked the Mayor for his kind words.

- C. Introduction of the Fire Department's new paid-on-call firefighters Adam Honiotes and John Pink.

Chief Riddle introduced paid-on-call firefighters Adam Honiotes and John Pink as the first intensive college intern paid-on-call's. He said they would be traditional POC's with a full academic load and become paramedics over three years. Chief Riddle said they would go to Fire Academy for seven weeks, then would ride shifts with the Department and respond as POC's.

Clerk Smith swore-in Adam Honiotes and John Pink as paid-on-call firefighters.

Aldersperson Maness reported she received communication from a Foxpointe resident requesting a stop sign at Devonshire North and Foxpointe Drive. Ms. Maness said she had discussed it with staff and they agreed to place a stop sign at Devonshire North and Mr. Nicklas said this would need to be put in ordinance form.

Aldersperson Kessler reported that she and Aldersperson Tripp were holding meetings for Ward 4 on the 4th Saturday of each month 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Municipal Building. Ms. Kessler also said she had met with Human Resource Director Jean Tritle, Mr. Nicklas, and the health insurance representative and thanked them for their time.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reported that property tax bills were out and the City's portion was down and the bills from Cortland and Sycamore Townships were overall down. Mr. Nicklas said the gap with DeKalb's tax rate has been narrowed to 30 cents. Mr. Nicklas reported the first ads were out for retail space at the Sycamore Center and the building should be ready by the first of July.

Engineer – John Brady said there would be an informative meeting to discuss the Bethany Road project May 15, 2003 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty – no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported the final activity of FY03 in the Fire and Pension funds had shown some appreciation which was better than the past two years.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported that Firefighter Sean Penn was back in the United States at Fort Bragg North Carolina and should be bound for Illinois Wednesday. Chief Riddle said his department would have an open house to welcome his return. Chief Riddle reported that he and the lieutenants had attended intensive training for incident command over the weekend in St. Charles, IL. Chief Riddle also reported that the department had

received a \$400 donation from the Dora Perry family that they would use to purchase digital combustion software.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said the speed cart was back in operation and they would take suggestions regarding street placements. Chief Thomas also said the department would loan out a radar gun for the public to record traffic speeds on their streets. Chief Thomas reported that ads were in the newspapers and on the Internet for police officers.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse – no report

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks –no report

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on the City's Plan to Construct Radium Treatment Facilities at Well #6 (Maertz Drive) and Well #8 (Bethany Road), and the City's Plan to Construct a New Well #9 With Radium Treatment Equipment on Airport Road.

Manager Nicklas said this hearing addressed two plans – one to construct radium treatment facilities at Wells 6 and 8 and the other was the construction of Well #9 at Airport Road with radium treatment equipment. Mr. Nicklas said the plans had been forwarded to the Illinois EPA for review and the hearing was a step in the mandated procedure for approval of the EPA loan. Mr. Nicklas said the cost to a resident would be about \$108 per year and the hearing was to establish that there would be a cost and to help prove the need for a low-interest IEPA loan. Mr. Nicklas said he would return to Council at a later date to discuss increased user fees.

Aldersperson Tripp asked if when they looked at rates could they eliminate the tiered-rate system. Mr. Nicklas said they needed to get make the immediate decision of a rate increase to satisfy the IEPA requirements and the tiered-rate discussion could be done at a later time.

Mayor Swedberg opened the discussion to the public and with no discussion, closed the meeting.

Mayor Swedberg backed up the agenda to allow a late arrival to speak to the Council under Audience to Visitor.

Jackie Brown, owner of Cruiser Taxi, 8 Marine Terrace, DeKalb, requested an extension on her Taxicab License and asked Council to consider reducing the fees. Ms. Brown said that Sycamore's fees were 2 and 3 times higher than surrounding communities. Mayor Swedberg suggested extending the license for 30 days, one time only, and asked staff to review the fees.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to extend the license for 30 days and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote and all Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 – 0.

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2003.01—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 1, “General Traffic Provisions,” Section 5, “Vehicles on Sidewalks and Safety Zones,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained that both ordinances on the agenda were related to safety and enforcement. He said the ordinances would remove any ambiguity in the language to the police officers could effectively enforce the law.

- B. Ordinance No. 2003.02—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 9, “School Speed Zones,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois To Add Locations to the School Speed Zones.**

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2003.01 and Ordinance 2003.02 on first and second reading 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.

Motion

Alderperson Larson moved to approve Ordinances 2003.01 and 2003.02 and Alderperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Alderperson Paulsen inquired if the Ordinance 2003.01 included skateboards and Mr. Nicklas said it did. Also, Mr. Paulsen said Larson was misspelled in Ordinance 2003.02 and should be corrected.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution No. 437—Consenting to Participate in the State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program.**

Manager Nicklas said this resolution authorized the City to get on the roster to participate in the Illinois Department of Central Management Services program and to receive federal surplus property.

Motion

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 437 and Alderperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Request From the City Engineer to Waive the Bidding for an Extension of Water Main Along Bethany Road, East of Somonauk Street.

Manager Nicklas said the City had the opportunity to extend the water main along the north side of Bethany Road to provide access to the City's system in the developing southeast quadrant. Mr. Nicklas said that since two excavation companies were currently working for the Reston Ponds and Krpan Parkside developments, the City did not want to introduce a third contractor into the tight space. Mr. Nicklas recommended hiring Dempsey Ing to install the 1,260 feet of water main that runs within the frontage area abutting the Reston Ponds project for \$41,002 and hiring Bish Excavating to do the remaining 1,320 running feet of water main for \$38,195.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to waive the bidding and award Dempsey Ing a contract for \$41,002 and Bish Excavating a contract for \$38,195 and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Alderperson Bauer said he was in favor of waiving the bids, but he felt the water main extension should have been in the annexation agreement. He said he was not very inclined to do any favors for Reston Ponds because of the sign issue. Mr. Nicklas said the City was obliged to spend impact fees for new areas.

Voice Vote

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

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Swedberg reappointed Tom Brotcke, Pat David, Dave Hamilton, Cindy Henderson, John Lewis – Chairperson, William Lorence, John McBride and Dick Wagley to two-year terms on the Plan Commission. Mayor Swedberg appointed Dick Ubl to the Fire & Police Commission, reappointed Beth Krogman to the Zoning Board of Appeals, reappointed Tom Brotcke to the Library Board, and appointed Doug Moore and Paul Crawford to the Library Board. Mayor Swedberg appointed Katie Johnson for 2 years and Bob Keil for 1 year to the Police Pension Board. Mr. Nicklas said at the next Park Board meeting the new Park Board Director was going to consider selecting a representative to Plan Commission, so the Mayor may want to hold back on appointing Dick Wagley. Mayor Swedberg removed the appointment of Dick Wagley to the Plan Commission.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the appointments 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 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 8 -0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith