
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2003

ROLL CALL

Mayor John Swedberg called the meeting to order and said he was proud to open the first Council meeting in the Sycamore Center. Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, and Janice Tripp. Alderpersons Terry Kessler and Andrew Larson were absent.

INVOCATION

Pastor Brad Reardon of the Evangelical Free Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

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

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Gregory Taylor, 1239 Yorkshire Dr. South, thanked Chief Thomas, Superintendent Busse, Engineer Brady and Alderperson Leach for their time spent meeting with the Foxpointe neighborhood.

Steve Kuhn, 430 S. Main Street, inquired about the status of the new well and sewer surveying. Manager Nicklas said they would address that during the item on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 16, 2003;
- B. Payment of the Bills for July 7, 2003 in the amount of \$669,724.05

Motion

Alderperson Stowe 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 present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Bauer said he and Alderperson Maness welcomed City Hall to the First Ward and he hoped this would be encouragement for more citizens to get involved in City government.

Aldersperson Stowe expressed his concern regarding the lack of visibility at the junction of Bill Johnson Alley and California Street. Mr. Stowe suggested eliminating some parking spaces or making the alley a one-way entrance. Manager Nicklas said he would have a staff report at the next meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas welcomed everyone to the first meeting at 308 W. State Street and went over some building features. Mr. Nicklas said that an anonymous businessperson donated trees to Council as a symbol to note the occasion of the opening of Sycamore Center.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty - no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy said he was glad to be in the building that he worked at when he was 14 years old.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said he had just completed three years of service in Sycamore and was proud of the department and the changes they had made.

Police Chief – Don Thomas introduced three new officers. Marshall Flynn graduated from Western Illinois University with a law enforcement degree, served in the Marines for 6 years, and was a police officer for Macomb for 4 years. Patrick Lozeau recently graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy and lives in Freeport with his wife and son and will be relocating to Sycamore. Dan Wojcik, graduated from Sycamore High School, graduated from St. Ambrose with a Criminal Justice degree, and was a Police Officer in Chicago for two years. Chief Thomas said that Officer Wojcik would be living in the Public Housing Complex on Mason Court as part of the Community Policing project.

Clerk Candy Smith swore in the new officers.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse reported an unexpected expense of \$18,000 for a newly instated permit fee for the Treatment Plant. Superintendent Busse said the fee would be taken out of the fund for major sewer repair and would need to be paid annually. Superintendent Busse thanked John Kocher with the City of Cortland for the use of his mini-excavator to get into a backyard to repair a collapsed sewer. Superintendent Busse said the Street Division was demoing a chipper and it was proving to be a savings of time and effort cleaning up branches.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported since the hot weather arrived and people were watering lawns the wells were pumping an average of 2.2 million gallons per day which was over the otherwise average of 1.6 millions gallons per day. Superintendent Smith said parts were still holding up the motor repair for Well #5.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks –no report

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2003.08—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Dahlco, LLC for an Amendment to the Annexation Agreement Dated March 27, 1996 and for the Annexation and Rezoning of the Property Along the West Side of Hopkins Lane, South of Mt. Hunger Road. Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said Mr. Dahl was in the audience with his attorney and engineer to address the Council. Mr. Nicklas said the issue was the variation to the original preliminary plat concerning a parcel just west of Hopkins Lane near Townsend Woods. He said the Council had deferred action because of the pace of improvements to Mt. Hunger and Route 23.

Jim Stoddard, 122 S. Locust, Attorney representing the petitioner, said the intersection improvement process was a lengthy one. Mr. Stoddard said the plans were ready and bids were out and they were moving as fast as they could with IDOT. He said they would like to see action taken on the request; they were not asking for a final plat.

Don Krizan, CES Engineers in Belvidere, said that IDOT recently approved plans for the traffic signal installation at Maplewood and Route 23. He said the bids were out until mid-July, and then they would order equipment which would take about 3 months. Mr. Krizan said in the meantime, the intersection improvements were at IDOT including the traffic signals.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he thought it was interesting that activity increased in the last couple of months. He said he had been dealing with residents concerned with incomplete roads and weeds and asked to see concrete dates.

Aldersperson Bauer said this property would still have to return for final platting.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2003.08 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Amended Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to amend the motion to included stipulations that the signals be permitted and construction started, all streets in Landahl subdivision be completed, and the first lift placed on Mount Hunger Road before any permits would be issued.

Keven Dahl, petitioner, said the bid went out and work is behind because of the weather. He said they would do the first lift on Mt. Hunger then move into Phase IV of Townsend Woods.

Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a vote to approve the amended motion. Alderspersons Paulsen, Stowe, and Leach voted aye. Alderspersons Maness, Tripp, and Bauer voted nay. Mayor Swedberg voted aye to break the tie. Motion carried 4 – 3.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the original motion. Alderspersons Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, Bauer, Leach, and Mayor Swedberg voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

B. Ordinance No. 2003.20—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Dahlco, LLC for Approval of the Annexation of Property West of Hopkins Lane in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this ordinance was needed for proper filing with DeKalb County Recorder.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2003.20 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

C. Ordinance No. 2003.29—An Ordinance Establishing the Bank Depositories for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas explained this ordinance annually identified the listing of financial institutions used by the City.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2003.29 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinances 2003.29 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

D. Ordinance No. 2003.30—An Ordinance Amending Title 3, "Business and License Regulations," Chapter 7, "Electrical Contractors," Section 3-7-5, "Out of Town Contractors," by Requiring an Annual Fee for Registration in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said the ordinance imposed the electric license fee on out-of-town electricians.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to hear Ordinance 2003.30 on first and second reading 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Ordinances 2003.30 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

E. Ordinance No. 2003.31—An Ordinance Amending Title 1, “Administration,” Chapter 11, Miscellaneous,” by Adding Section 1-11-9, “Hearing Procedures” in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said that recent Illinois Supreme Court rulings rewrote public hearing procedures.

Attorney Peter Smith said the ruling reversed 40 years of history that said that municipal hearings were legislative matters and did not require a full procedure for presentation of evidence by financially interested parties. Mr. Smith said that historically the City has held such open hearings that did not deny anyone the ability to question or comment. He said this ordinance set hearings into a definite format where genuine procedures and rights were set forth. Mr. Smith recommended passing the ordinance.

Motion

Alderman Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.31 on first and second reading and Alderman Paulsen seconded the motion.

Alderman Stowe inquired which bodies this applied to and Mr. Smith said it would apply to Council, Plan Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Stowe asked if the Chair of those bodies should be versed in the procedure and Attorney Smith suggested turning the hearings over to the attorney during the proceedings.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. Five Alderman voted aye with Alderman Bauer voting nay. Motion carried 5 - 1.

Motion

Alderman Maness moved to approve Ordinances 2003.31 and Alderman Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

F. Ordinance No. 2003.32—An Ordinance Approving a Contract Between the City of Sycamore and the Kishwaukee Education Consortium. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this ordinance concerned a contract that offered a promising relationship between KEC and the Sycamore Fire Department. He said this would establish an annual high school curriculum of fire science that would lead to an academic path of a 4-year degree. Mr. Nicklas said the Firefighters would be part-time instructors paid through a grant of \$12,000 from KEC. Mr. Nicklas said that Chief Riddle, along with the IAFF, worked with KEC Coordinator Bruce Griffith to develop the program.

Mr. Griffith said that KEC has 550 tech prep students in 13 different curriculums. He said he was looking forward to a good relationship with the City.

Chief Riddle said the vacated Council Chambers would serve as a classroom beginning August 20 with 18 students enrolled to date. Chief Riddle said this program would teach knowledge and values of firefighting.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2003.32 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinances 2003.32 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 6 - 0.

G. Ordinance No. 2003.33—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 6-4-4, “Yield Streets,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois, to Add Yield Signs at Two Locations. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2003.33 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinances 2003.33 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

H. Ordinance No. 2003.34—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 6-4-1, “Stop Intersections,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois, to Add Stop Signs at Two Locations. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2003.34 on first and second reading 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 6 - 0.

Aldersperson Maness asked if a traffic study was warranted and Engineer Brady said no study was needed because they were a major and minor street.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinances 2003.34 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Report from the Ad Hoc Architectural Review Committee.

Manager Nicklas explained there were two applications received and reviewed for the loan program. He said the committee recommended one application for approval. Mr. Nicklas suggested voting on the requests then considering scheduling a workshop to discuss more specific guidelines and ranking priorities for the loans.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the loan to the Hopper's for the preservation of brickwork at the Sycamore Theatre and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Manager Nicklas explained the Committee did not recommend Don and Dawn Sukach's application for a sign for Cooper's Diamond Jewelers because they did not think a modern, backlit awning would substantially improve the building façade.

Manager Nicklas said Council might direct him to return with some options for "looks" and priorities for the Revolving Loan Program.

Mayor Swedberg said that he thought the intent was to look at structural values and façade values before considering signage. He said the idea was to protect the buildings.

Alderperson Stowe said he thought they were looking for a more permanent use for the money.

Alderperson Bauer said that historic preservation was the highest priority.

Michelle Schulz, Architectural Review Committee member, said the Committee needed more specifics and she thought the intent was for the betterment of Sycamore as a whole rather than for individual businesses.

Kevin Mathey, Architectural Review Committee member, said if the emphasis was on maintenance and structural improvements they needed clearer guidelines.

Mayor Swedberg said he had selected people with artistic and construction backgrounds as members of the Committee.

Alderperson Paulsen said replacing a sign did not change anything.

Mayor Swedberg said the City had just signed a new agreement with U.A.F. for more money and suggested using some of that to create a matching grant program for long term improvements.

Alderson Maness said she thought the U.A.F. funds should be reserved for unexpected expenses. She said the loan program was new and wanted to wait to see how it worked before making changes.

Alderson Tripp said that she agreed that they should see how the program worked.

Alderson Bauer said let the entire amount set aside for the loan program be totally consumed and then talk about creating another program. He suggested that if the money was not utilized they could extend the offer beyond the downtown area.

Manager Nicklas scheduled a workshop at 6:00 p.m. before the July 21st Council meeting, Mayor Swedberg asked the Committee to join the workshop session.

Manager Nicklas said Jerry Henderson had panoramic views of the downtown during the 1940's and said they might be helpful though the City may want to go further back in history.

B. Consideration of an Engineering Department Recommendation Regarding the Award of the Annual Street Maintenance Contract.

Engineer Brady submitted summaries of the bids received July 1, 2003 and recommended awarding the Micro-Surfacing bid to Fahrner's Asphalt Sealers for the amount of \$78,638.72, the Crack-Sealing bid to SKC Construction for the amount of \$23,676.00, and the Bituminous Resurfacing bid to Curran Contracting for the amount of \$51,870.00.

Mayor Swedberg asked Mr. Brady if he had worked with the companies and he said he had not worked with SKC, but he understood they did decent work.

Alderson Maness asked Mr. Brady about extending the resurfacing to Main Street and Mr. Brady said they would do that block next year.

Motion

Alderson Bauer moved to award the micro-surfacing contract to Fahrner Asphalt for \$78,638.72 and Alderson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to award the crack-sealing contract to SKC Construction for \$23,676.00 and Alderson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to award the bituminous resurfacing contract to Curran contracting for \$51,870.00 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 6 - 0.

C. Consideration of an Administration Report on Various Options for Funding Certain FY04 Capital Projects.

Manager Nicklas said the report would be focused on water system improvement and the new equipment purchased for all underground piping. Mr. Nicklas asked Superintendent Busse to summarize the televising equipment.

Superintendent Busse said they televise 6 to 7 miles of sewer per year and use the camera as a tool for trouble shooting. He said they verified the main laterals during the downtown project. Superintendent Busse said they have not televised the whole town, but have taken care of chronic problems.

Mr. Nicklas said that before they had the equipment they hired private contractors to televise. Mr. Nicklas said that the water improvements were promised in 1998. He said the water rates were raised in 1999 and 2000 to make the water fund solvent and were raised again this year to resolve the radium issue. Mr. Nicklas said they were looking for solutions and would have to chose a solution and pay for it. Mr. Nicklas said they were working with the IEPA for low interest loans and had been approved for \$600,000 for Well #9 and he felt reasonably certain the City would qualify for the other two pieces of loan money needed.

Engineer Brady said the drilling for Well #9 would begin late August or early September.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 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 6 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith