
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 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, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, and Chuck Stowe. Alderpersons Andrew Larson and Janice Tripp were absent.

INVOCATION

Mayor Swedberg asked for a moment of silent reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Kessler 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

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of August 4, 2003;
- B. Payment of the Bills for August 18, 2003 in the amount of \$585,232.65;
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of July 14, 2003.

Motion

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Kessler 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.

- A. Mayoral Proclamation Honoring the Benson and Swedberg families on the occasion of their 100th family reunion.

Mayor Swedberg read the proclamation and said there had been 250 of his relatives in town over the weekend.

Mayor Swedberg had received complaints concerning loud motorcycles. Chief Thomas asked the public to obtain license plate numbers of the motorcycles so the police can follow up on the complaints.

Mayor Swedberg said he had received an invitation for the 104th Annual Conference of the Israel of God Church. He said that City administration, staff and elected officials were invited to attend the service Sunday August 31, 2003.

Aldersperson Kessler said that because of the recent West Nile concern, she wanted to remind the residents to address any standing water on their property.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked for an update on the traffic signals at Maplewood and Route 23. Engineer Brady said Virgil Cook & Sons got the contract and the project should be completed in three to four months.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reminded Council he would be out of the office Friday and Monday.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty reported that after September 1st his department would require a 12-hour notice for inspections.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported the July financial were within budget and that this was a good time to do capital projects because there was not much to be made on the investment side.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported the classroom project was almost completed and would be ready for Thursday night's class. Chief Riddle also reported that in order to realize a gain in personnel, September 6th the Fire Department would begin a 3-shift schedule. He said that for 18 years they have operated with 4 shifts- 3 scheduled and 1 swing.

Police Chief – Don Thomas – no report

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse – no report

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that Well #5 should be pumping water into the system by the next Council meeting.

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. 2003.42—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Staff Petition to Add a New Section 11.08.01-4(d) to the Zoning Ordinance of 2001, for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas explained the current code allowed one sign per street frontage. He said this restricted the change to automobile dealers and would allow one sign per car manufacturer.

Mayor Swedberg said he had noticed two dealerships with more than one sign and Manager Nicklas said they were placed under a previous code and were the reason for addressing that code in 2001.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.42 on first and second reading 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinances 2003.42 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Bauer said he thought that Section D – New card dealership – should be clarified and Mr. Nicklas said he would strike the word “new.”

Voice Vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2003.43—An Ordinance Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street from 7:00 P.M. Until 8:30 P.M. on October 1, 2003 To Allow for the Sycamore High School Homecoming Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Mayor Swedberg said this was a worthwhile, annual event.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.43 on first and second reading 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinances 2003.43 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.

C. Ordinance No. 2003.44—An Ordinance Authorizing a One-Year Agreement with the Crum-Halsted Agency, Inc. to Act as a Broker in Providing Health Insurance for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas explained each year in advance of the City's renewal period bid requests failed to elicit interest from other insurance carriers. He said that the demographics and the loss ratio were the reason. He said increasing prescription co-pays reduced Blue Cross/Blue Shield's premium increase of 27%. Mr. Nicklas explained the Health Insurance Committee made up of management and union representatives agreed to increase the co-pays. He said this ordinance would authorize an agreement with Crum Halsted to work with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Nicklas said there was one other carrier willing to bid, but needed the health of the organization and they were working on that. Mr. Nicklas thanked Jean Tritle and Christina Bowers for their work.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.44 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 Maness moved to approve Ordinances 2003.44 and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if voting for this ordinance would keep the prescription co-pay at \$5-10-15 and Mr. Nicklas said he wanted to let the record show that the ordinance would increase the co-pay to \$10-\$20-\$35.

Aldersperson Stowe asked if this would cause trouble with union negotiations and Mr. Nicklas said that the unions were represented at the Health Committee Meetings.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation Regarding Proposals From Professional Firms That Could Assist the City in Defining a Uniform Conceptual Design for Future Façade Improvements in the Downtown Business District.

Manager Nicklas recommended awarding the contract to Miniscalco Architects, Ltd, of St. Charles for \$12,000 not only because they had the lowest bid, but also because they had been the most aggressive in extending samples of their work and were the closest in proximity.

Mayor Swedberg said the Miniscalco had been involved in Wasco's downtown.

Aldersperson Leach expressed concern about reimbursable expenses and Mr. Nicklas said he had called each bidder and this was the “drop dead” cost.

Aldersperson Kessler asked how close to a permanent committee the Architectural Review Committee was and Mr. Nicklas said they were a couple of steps from that. He said Council would need to identify the vision desired and how to solicit and enforce it.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to award the contract to Miniscalco Architects, Ltd. for \$12,000 and Aldersperson Kessler 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.

B. Consideration of a Joint Workshop Meeting with the Sycamore Plan Commission on Tuesday, September 2, at 6:00 P.M.

Manager Nicklas said this was on the agenda as a reminder and said the discussion should be limited to members of the Commission and the Council.

Mayor Swedberg said he had scheduled individual meetings with the Park Board President, School Board President and the Plan Commission Chair to discuss the 3000 acres remaining in the development area. Mayor Swedberg said he wanted each taxing body to project out 20 years of financial needs. He said he was going to appoint a committee of the 3 taxing bodies then appoint a sub-group of expertise in the field. He said he thought it was time to look further into the future.

C. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to go into closed session at 8:05p.m. and Aldersperson Kessler 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 return to open session at 8:45 p.m. 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.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. 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.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith