
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 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, Chuck Stowe and Janice Tripp. Alderperson Andrew Larson was absent.

INVOCATION

Mayor Swedberg asked for a moment of silent reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Swedberg changed the request for the Closed Session to the Mayor's request to discuss personnel issues.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the agenda with the change 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 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Steve Kuhn, 430 S. Main Street, said that the City was focusing on the new development and not focusing on maintaining the existing part of town.

Ed Johnson, 706 Fox Avenue, said an attitude of with or against developing and he did not think it had to be that way. Mr. Johnson said growth would happen, but the Council did not need to support every developer. He said they should see what the developers were willing to offer. Mr. Johnson said that developers were not humanitarians; they were in the business to make money.

Doug Moore, 541 Cloverlane Drive, expressed concern about maintaining the quality of the schools and suggested passing the referendums before accepting the growth.

Sarah Tobias, Sycamore Public Library Director, asked that the library be included in the planning process. She said she was concerned that the developers would develop outside the City limits.

Michelle Schulz, 1125 E. State Street, said she was speaking as a businessperson and said her business had grown in the past 32 years and without growth she could not support the City with tax dollars.

Pat Kevin, 1309 Larson, said he thought the City was growing too fast. He said that previously Mr. Nicklas had said the property tax rate was decreasing. Mr. Kevin said that the Home Rule tax had increased by .25%, Restaurant & Bar Tax was established at 2%, a 5% Telecommunication Tax was established, garbage rate had increased 19% in the past 9 years, water & sewer rates had increased 131% in the past 5 years. He said his

point was that growth was not being paid for and the tax burden was being shifted. Mr. Kevin said the City Manager was controlling the meetings and he would like to see the elected officials take control.

Ray Baker, 1591 Bethany Road, said the City was growing too fast and he wanted to see Council work to attract industry.

Jan Torrence, 520 S. Main, said there were needs of existing residents not being met. She wondered why the City needed to raise water rates for a well they knew was needed for many years when the coffers should be full having collected monies needed. She feared the City was not prepared for future water needs with the growth.

Tom Meyer, 1308 John Street, said people move to Sycamore because of the atmosphere and the education. He said that overcrowding the schools would deteriorate the quality education currently offered. Mr. Meyer said that big box stores do not give back to the community.

Grace Adee, 1469 Longwood Drive, said the City was growing too fast and stressed that they were ripping up the farmland and destroying the natural resources.

Bob Wildenradt, Somonauk Street, said he had lived in Sycamore 70 years and the population was 3,800 and it was a great community then and a greater one today. Mr. Wildenradt said the changes are Foxpointe, Heron Creek, Farm & Fleet, Walgreen's, Country Inn Suites, and Routes 23 & 64 improvements and asked which of those changes were not wanted. He said the caring and leadership of the Council, Plan Commission, Mayor, and City Manager, have worked to make these things happen. He encouraged them to implement the Comprehensive Plan to continue good growth.

Ann Hawkins, 603 W. State Street, said she lived here for 40 years and was not opposed to growth, but wanted controlled growth.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of August 18, 2003;
- B. Payment of the Bills for September 2, 2003 in the amount of \$166,928.81.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Mayor Swedberg reported he had received ok's from IDOT to close Route 64 for the Homecoming Parade, Pumpkin Parade, and the 10K Race.

Aldersperson Paulsen expressed appreciation from the residents on Exchange Street for the alley improvements between Maple and Main.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said he was disappointed that so many people left the meeting before it was over. He said in his defense he wanted to keep the record straight. Mr. Nicklas said the City had spent \$120,000 upsizing the sewer extension to Heron Creek and \$50,000 to extend the water main south of Bethany Road. He said that the facts were important and in answer to not spending money on existing areas he said the City had spent more than \$10 million over the past three years. He listed some of the projects as

- \$800,000 for sidewalk and street maintenance
- \$2 million for the downtown streetscape
- \$2 million for Well #9
- \$1.8 million purchasing and renovating the Sycamore Center
- \$4 million for street projects

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty – no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported the IAFF had collected \$2,600 for Muscular Dystrophy through Fill the Boot campaign. Chief Riddle said there would be a 911 remembrance ceremony at 8:00 a.m. at Johnson Corner. Mayor Swedberg reported that Chief Riddle would be attending the National Fire Academy in Maryland which was an honor to attend.

Manager Nicklas asked Chamber of Commerce Director Rose Trembl to introduce the new Sycamore Discover Coordinator. Director Trembl said that Beth Helton had 9 years of marketing experience and had worked with Chambers and Downtowns before. Ms. Trembl said the job description had changed to include marketing the downtown. Beth Helton said she was looking forward to working with the businesses in Sycamore.

Aldersperson Maness said she wanted to address the comment about the City not spending money on the existing town by stating that Home Street was being reconstructed and a new well built. Aldersperson Bauer added that \$2 million was spent for sidewalks, sewer and water during the Route 23 & 64 projects

Police Chief – Don Thomas invited the public to visit the Police Department to see where tax dollars were being spent.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse – no report

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that Well #5 would be pumping into the system by the end of the week. He said because of the change of direction of water flow, residents near the water tower might experience rusty water temporarily. Aldersperson Tripp asked if they would flush hydrants to eliminate the rust and Superintendent Smith said they would if the problem was persistent.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Aldersperson Stowe said he had no Finance report, but wanted to follow up on a comment about development occurring outside the City limits. He said the County strongly did not want development happening outside municipalities.

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire - Aldersperson Bauer said he had no report, but said he had received a call concerning a sewer problem on Albert Avenue and asked if the Alderspersons had been notified. Aldersperson Tripp said she received a call and it was being addressed.

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Tripp said she wanted to review water rates in September or October.

Streets & Walks –Chairperson Paulsen reported there was a new park in Maple Terrace. He said about one mile of trails had been made at the south end of Larson Street and he wanted to publicly thank the Park District.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2003.45—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 3, “Parking Meters and Parking Lots,” Section 1, “Parking Permits,” to Add a New Paragraph D, “City Lot Number One,” in the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained this ordinance would restrict the west side of the Sycamore Center Parking Lot #1 for tenant and employee parking by permit only.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.45 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Tripp 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 approve Ordinances 2003.45 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.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 440—Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation For the Dedication of Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Phase II Engineering to Be Performed by Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick for the Bethany Road Reconstruction Project.**

Manager Nicklas said this resolution would authorize the allocation of motor fuel tax funds for the second and final phase of the engineering for the Bethany Road reconstruction project.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 440 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 7 - 0.

B. Resolution No. 441—Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick to Prepare Right-of-Way Plats for the Bethany Road Project.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Resolution 441 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.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Award the Contract for the Purchase of a One-Ton Dump to Sycamore Ford Mazda in the Amount of \$27,615.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to accept the bid of Sycamore Ford Mazda for the amount of \$27,615 for a one-ton dump truck and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Stowe said this truck would replace a 1982 model. Aldersperson Paulsen commented that it was good to keep the dollars in the City.

Voice Vote

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

B. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Award the Contract for the Purchase of a 10-Foot Snowplow and Spreader to Mark's Machine Shop in the Amount of \$23,275.

Manager Nicklas explained this was the lowest bid for a 10-foot snowplow.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to accept Mark's Machines Shop's bid of \$23,275 for the 10-foot snowplow 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.

C. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Award the Contract for a Cold Planer Attachment to CSR Bobcat in the Amount of \$10,990.

Manager Nicklas explained the cold planer would result in better repair of the streets.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to accept CSR Bobcat's bid of \$10,990 for the cold planer and Aldersperson Tripp 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.

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

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to go into closed session at 8:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Leach 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to return to open session at 8:40 p.m. and Aldersperson Leach 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.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Swedberg appointed members to the Future Growth Forum committee as follows: School Board members Jim Dombeck and John McBride, Park Board members Larry Steczo and Marty Jahnel, and City Council members Pete Paulsen and Mayor Swedberg.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the appointments and Aldersperson Leach 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and Aldersperson Kessler 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.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith