
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 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

Pastor Nancy Weingartner of the Sycamore United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Larson moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Joint City Council and Plan Commission Meeting of September 2, 2003;
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of September 2, 2003;
- C. Payment of the Bills for September 15, 2003 in the amount of \$425,706.73;
- D. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of August 11, 2003.

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 8 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- 1. Proclamation Declaring the Month of October as the Month of the Young Adolescent in Community Unit School District #427.**

Alderperson Kessler said she had attended the 9-11 Memorial Service at the Sycamore Fire Department and thanked them and Public Works for helping set up. She said she appreciated the support from the community and the employees.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas thanked the Police and Public Works Departments for their help with the Downtown Festival. Mr. Nicklas also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for putting together a successful community party.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty – no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that equities in pension funds continued to improve and said that should hopefully ease the tax burden.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle – no report

Police Chief – Don Thomas - no report

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said he was happy to report Public Works Street Division completed the final 34 of 650 sidewalk approaches. He said this completed a 10-year program and now they would periodically repair the approaches.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that Well #5 was running a little each day. He also reported that hydrant flushing would begin Monday and this year they would place barricades identifying the flushing areas.

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. 2003.46—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Ann Busse and James Tucker for a Rezoning of the Property at 1121 Somonauk Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained this was the house purposely left out of the Somonauk Gardens development to preserve it for future renovation. He said they were asking for the downzoning to "R-2" to permit flexibility in the future, but presently their intent was to renovate and occupy the structure as their permanent residence.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2003.46 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler said the concern of some neighbors was the limited parking on Borden Avenue and suggested a resident only parking or parking on both sides of the street. Engineer Brady said that Borden Avenue was federally funded as one-sided.

Aldersperson Maness said she had also received calls about parking on Borden Avenue. She said the extra parking in Somonauk Gardens Townhomes had been used by building trailers which have recently been removed leaving more available parking. Mr. Nicklas said he would have Chief Thomas and Engineer Brady return at the next meeting with a report.

Voice Vote

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

Original Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2003.46 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Maness said that since this was a change of zoning, should they insist the driveways be paved. Zoning Officer Doty said they did not require paving with a change of occupants and the new owners needed to downzone in order to occupy the whole house.

Aldersperson Bauer asked what the Plan Commission objection was with a 6 to 3 vote and Mr. Nicklas said the driveway was an issue.

Aldersperson Tripp said she considered the Somonauk Driveway and new driveway with the new curb cut. She said she had not seen anybody use that driveway for thirty years and it was filled with bushes and had no gravel.

Jim Tucker, petitioner, said there was gravel in the driveway and it was considered a driveway on the plat approved by Council for Somonauk Gardens.

Mayor Swedberg asked Mr. Tucker if he would be willing to pave the driveways. Mr. Tucker asked if the surface had to be concrete or blacktop because he wanted to use bricks. Council said that brick would be fine.

Amended Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to amend the motion to demand both driveways be paved and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Manager Nicklas said there was usually a time frame prescribed.

Amendment to the Amended Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to have the driveways paved by July 1, 2004 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote for the Amendment to the Amended

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

Aldersperson Stowe said he did not understand why they were placing more restrictions on a property being downzoned. He said that currently they could put a 7-11 Store or a gas station in and they were penalizing them for reducing the zoning to "R-2".

Voice Vote for Amended Motion

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. Seven Alderpersons voted aye with Aldersperson Stowe voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 1.

Voice Vote for the Original Motion

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

B. Ordinance No. 2003.47—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of John Kuna for a Special Use Permit for a Subdivision of the Property at 1515/1519 Willow Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Permit the Sale of the Two Units in Fee Simple. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said the newer subdivisions deal with these issues at the administrative level through the Plat Officer, but this subdivision did not have the special use permit required. Mr. Nicklas said this ordinance would allow Mr. Kuna to sell his duplexes in fee simple.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.47 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2003.47 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 8 - 0.

C. Ordinance No. 2003.48—An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of \$2,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003, of the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois, and Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the Payment of the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas explained Council had created a 2003 Bond Fund back in April and identified several purposes for 500,000 dollars. He said they have since agreed to fund the completion of Oakland Drive and help with

installation of some tapers at the east and west ends of the Bethany Road project. Mr. Nicklas said he had been working with Eric Anderson of Harris Bank who helped with the process of obtaining the bond and improving the City's bond rating. He said they met with Moody's Investor Service who visited Sycamore and improved our rating to A-1.

Eric Anderson, Vice-President, Harris Trust and Savings Bank, said Mr. Nicklas had thoroughly and excellently represented the City. Mr. Anderson said the key reasons for the upgrade were the City's improved finances, growing economy, and controlled growth. He said that by purchasing bond insurance for \$8,500 the City will see a savings of \$30,500. He said they would call in and pay out the 1996 Bond with the face amount of \$455,000 and will see a \$12,275 savings by refunding those.

Mayor Swedberg said they were proud of this achievement.

Alderson Kessler said she thought this portrayed the Council and Manager's commitment to being financially educated.

Motion

Alderson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2003.48 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2003.48 and Alderson Stowe seconded the motion.

Alderson Bauer said the nuts and bolts were the economic development effort at Oakland Drive and \$250,000 for sidewalk repair was significant in addition to the yearly sidewalk repair program.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Aldersons Kessler, Larson, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 442—Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for Funding a Portion of Two Construction Contracts for the Well No. 9 Project on Airport Road in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.**

Manager Nicklas said John Brady should be congratulated for his detailed work through the loan, bid, and contract process.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to approve Resolution 442 and Alderson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the City of Sycamore's Financial Statements for FY2002-2003, Including the Independent Auditor's Report.

Manager Nicklas said the independent statements revealed good things. He said the ending balances were all positive and the General Fund reserve was \$3,009,250. He said that cautious spending and raising revenues with fee increases helped to maintain a constant level of services. Mr. Nicklas thanked Water Superintendent Ebe Smith and staff and Deputy Budget Officer Brian Gregory and staff for working together to create a separation of duties.

Carla Paschal, Senior Manager for Clifton Gunderson, said the City had made great strides in financial reporting for the year and Sycamore was an early implementer of GASB 34. Ms. Paschal walked Council through the Audit Report.

Mr. Nicklas stated that Ms. Paschal and her team performed a rigorous and timely investigation.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. 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 8 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith