
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2004

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Mayor Swedberg asked for a moment of silent reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

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

Voice Vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of June 21, 2004;
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the Special City Council Meeting of June 28, 2004;
- C. Payment of the Bills for July 6, 2004 in the amount of \$838,130.08;

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 voted aye. Motion carried 7 -0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Consideration of a Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission.

Sycamore Economic Development Commission member Dean Copple introduced Tim Suter, President of Suter Foods, to give a brief overview of his firm's products and services. Mr. Copple said Tim is the 3rd generation of leadership at Suter's.

Tim Suter said his grandfather, Charles Suter established the company in 1925. He said they are a manufacturer of prepared food products and employ 150 people making them the 3rd largest private employer in Sycamore. Mr. Suter said that half of their products are sold under someone else's brand. He said 70% of their product is canned and 30% refrigerated. He said that a lot of their product is in Iraq right now and much of it at no charge to help support the troops. The Plant has been located on May Street since 1947 and they are USDA

inspected since 1956. The packaging is now done at Sycamore Industrial Park since 2000. Mr. Suter said their products range from refrigerated salads, dips, and spreads to snack and lunch kits to deviled egg kits. Mr. Suter said their largest contribution to the local community is that they employ 150 people with a unique blend of qualifications. He said they offer health insurance and ongoing education reimbursement. Mr. Suter said they utilize local suppliers when possible and take responsibility to support local organizations and agencies.

Aldersperson Maness said she had a request from a resident for traffic signs at Fairway, Parkside and Cloverlane. She recommended yield signs for traffic entering Parkside. She said some evergreens also needed trimming to ensure visibility at the intersections. Mr. Nicklas said he would have staff review and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked for an update on the Maplewood traffic signals and Engineer Brady said the permit has been issued and Mr. Dahl has authorized Virgil Cook & Sons to begin work. Mr. Brady said bids are coming in on the paving work acquiring right-of-ways is in the works.

Mayor Swedberg said he has noticed engine braking by large trucks and asked staff to review and return with an ordinance banning that activity.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said there will be a second edition of Zoning 101 July, 22 at 7:00 p.m. presented by the County and held at the Gatheratorium focusing on the topic of annexation.

Engineer – John Brady said he received a call from a resident at 311 ½ North Avenue regarding issues with the Church Only parking signs. Aldersperson Paulsen said he spoke with that resident who would like to see the sign be changed to a Residents Only parking sign. Engineer Brady gave a brief presentation of the Downtown Streetscape project and its timeline. He said North Maple would have watermain work and no parking on the west side and diagonal parking on the east side with 2-way traffic. He said South Maple from State to Elm will be total reconstruction with new watermain, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, curb and gutter, and sidewalks. He said that will be a one-way street going southbound and the popcorn stand will remain. Mr. Brady said Somonauk south to Elm would have some storm sewer and sidewalks and curb and gutter. Mr. Nicklas said the City will do some improvements in the City parking lot at Somonauk and Elm in conjunction with the street projects. Engineer Brady said the project will begin on Somonauk July 26th after the Car Show and completed by September 16th for the Block Party. He said all three sections will be completed by October 22, 2004.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty reported that CCI is putting in footings after many rain delays.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy said he had attended the State Treasurers Conference in Quincy and the trend is moving toward paperless finance with electronic mail. He said the City has taken steps toward this and saved \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year. He said it speeds up the process and provides an audit trail that is hard to beat. He said the City should consider a special census in the next couple of years in order to collect the per capita dollars available. Treasurer Mundy said Pension Bill 599 passed and will increase survivor benefits. He said 5 pension funds in the state, Judges & Legislature, University Retirement System, State Employees Retirement System, and Teacher's Retirement System are all underfunded by \$43 billion. Mr. Mundy said St. John's congregation will vote on a new church site as well as the disposition of the old site on July 25.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle distributed a memo regarding the fire testing process and said the local applications have increased. He said the new living quarters are in use and the renovation project is complete. Chief Riddle said his son Zack is back from Iraq after 16 months and is now a resident of Sycamore.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported that Officers Marshall Flynn and Daniel Wojcik have successfully completed their one-year probation. He said that Scott Mayeda celebrated 25 years with the department and Tom Scott completed 23 years. Chief Thomas asked that weed complaints be directed to himself or Tom Scott. Chief Thomas said over the July 4th weekend the department responded to 269 calls for service or self-initiated activities. He said most of the incidents were minor.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse was absent.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said he and Engineer Brady are reviewing the plans and drawing for Well #9. He said the inadequate power source at Well #5 is being rectified the next couple of days. He said it will mean refueling generators for 48 straight hours in order to keep electricity at the water tower. Superintendent Smith reported that his former boss Syd Albrecht passed away this morning.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – Chairperson Maness said they met earlier and recommended sending an ordinance to Council at the next meeting to address the appointment of a City Treasurer.

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – Chairperson Paulsen asked Council to finish walking their wards and turn in their reports to Manager Nicklas for the July 19 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2004.21—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Norman Adshade for a Preliminary Plat for the Brickville Estates Subdivision in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this matter was introduced at the last meeting and heard on first reading because the petitioner was not present or represented. He said tonight CES Engineering represents Mr. Adshade. Mr. Nicklas said the current preliminary plat is more compatible with housing in that vicinity. He said Mr. Adshade has addressed with neighboring property owners the issue of disruption to their property.

Mayor Swedberg asked if lots 1 and 11 have access to Freed Road and Mr. Nicklas said they would not.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2004.21 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked if Freed and Brickville would be widened and improved with curb and gutter.

Kevin Bungy, CES Engineering, Clare, IL, said Mr. Adshade hopes to complete the road improvements yet this year. Alderperson Paulsen said he is concerned that projects at Peace and Freed and Brickville and Freed might occur at the same time and close both entrances to Maple Terrace and surrounding neighborhoods.

Alderperson Paulsen asked if there would be an alternative walking path during construction and Mr. Bungy said they would consider that.

Alderperson Paulsen asked if the retention was dry or wet and Mr. Bungy said it was dry.

Alderperson Paulsen asked about contributions to the School District and Mr. Nicklas said impact fees would be paid.

Alderperson Paulsen asked if there would be drainage between the proposed development and Heron Creek and Mr. Bungy said it would go all the way to Heron Creek.

Voice Vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2004.25—An Ordinance Approving the Execution of an Employment Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and Donald M. Thomas for Service as Police Chief, Effective July 6, 2004 and Ending July 5, 2009, in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said he is pleased with Chief Thomas' accomplishments since he has been with the City and his leadership in taking the Department forward. He said this contract would parallel the long-term labor contract approved by the Council on June 7, 2004 and would provide consistent direction and management for the department.

Mayor Swedberg said he is glad Chief Thomas is here and said he is the right man for the job.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2004.25 on first and second reading 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 7 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2004.25 and Alderperson Larson 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.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 452—Releasing Closed Session Minutes.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 452 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 7 - 0.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Recommendation from the City Engineer Concerning the Contract for the 2004 Downtown Streetscape Project.

Engineer Brady said four bids were received and recommended accepting the low bid from Stenstrom's of Rockford in the amount of \$1,240,457.81.

Manager Nicklas said this bid is right at the engineer's estimate. He said the City has the ability to pay for all of this and still have reserve left in the Bond proceeds for a couple of small projects. Mr. Nicklas suggested next year they should use MFT dollars for the Locust Street project.

Mayor Swedberg asked Engineer Brady if he knew what drove the price up and Mr. Brady said there were 150 pay items.

Motion

Alderson Larson moved to accept Stenstrom's bid of \$1,240,457.81 and Alderson Bauer seconded the motion.

Alderson Bauer asked if they should address the additional costs separately and Mr. Nicklas said they are buying street lamps separately and need Council direction to proceed with the additional costs.

Alderson Tripp asked Engineer Brady if he wanted a contingency in order to review the pay items and Mr. Brady said he had calculated them and was comfortable with the motion as is.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Alderson Bauer moved to proceed with the additional costs of \$203,365 and Alderson Maness seconded the motion.

Alderson Tripp asked if ComEd would be willing to waive the fees for their poles because we give them easements and Engineer Brady said because they were going underground the fee is firm.

Voice Vote

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

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 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 7 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith