
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 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, Terry Kessler, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe and Janice Tripp.

INVOCATION

Pastor Bill Landis of Sycamore United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Swedberg added personnel matters to the Closed Session Consideration and switched the order of items A & B under Presentations, Communication, and Bills.

Motion

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

Voice Vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Chris Nelson, 300 Carpenter Boulevard, Carpentersville, IL, Manager of Government Affairs for Comcast, said there is a planned service outage scheduled for Thursday from 1:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. for all Comcast customers in the City of Sycamore. He said they are putting in a power backup. Mr. Nelson said they will be testing on Monday from 1:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. and there will only be sporadic outages.

Peter Barick, 433 W. High Street, said that 10 years ago trees were removed in order to widen DeKalb Avenue. He said some Sycamore trees were replaced, but were later cut down. Mr. Barick urged the City to plant Sycamore trees along DeKalb Avenue.

Mayor Swedberg said those Sycamore trees died because of lack of care when first planted.

Engineer Brady said Joel Barczak planted those trees and cut them down because they died. He said they were supposedly a hardy, hybrid tree, but did not grow well in this area.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of August 16, 2004;
- B. Payment of the Bills for September 7, 2004 in the amount of \$757,676.13.
- C. Budget Report for the period May 1 through August 27, 2004.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Proclamation Announcing the Start of the Sycamore Historical Society's "Kiss the Pig" Fundraiser, which runs from September 1 to October 30, 2004.

Mayor Swedberg read the proclamation.

Alderson Bauer who is on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society as well as their Treasurer, said that Ken Mundy, Joe Bussone, Tom Ostreicher, and George Beasley will be the "Kiss the Pig" candidates. He thanked Mayor Swedberg for agreeing to hold the pig to be kissed on the Courthouse lawn October 30, 2004.

- B. Presentation by KREP (Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership) Regarding Sycamore's Importance in the Kishwaukee River watershed.

Mr. Nicklas introduced Nathan Hill Watershed Coordinator of KREP (Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership) and is funded by a grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation to assist units of Illinois government in assessing issues relating to their natural resources.

Nathan Hill said the 1257 square mile Kishwaukee River watershed has 3 main branches and Sycamore is located in the south branch area. Mr. Hill said the Partnership used a lot of GIS layered mapping to produce this report. He said the Partnership's main concern is the transition from agricultural land to developed land. He said he would like to see the mentality change from viewing streams and channels to assets rather than as a way to convey waste or water runoffs. Mr. Hill said the Partnership is not opposed to development; they are opposed to some of the ways it is done. He said the information they have collected is available free of charge. Mr. Hill said this information can be viewed as a resource for the natural resources for the community.

Neil Zacks, a member of the McHenry County Defenders of the Kishwaukee River, said they provide tools to protect the Kishwaukee River and resources for planning developments.

Mayor Swedberg said most communities have ordinances regarding retentions and runoffs and asked if that helped cleanse the River. Mr. Hill said those are minimum standards and it is necessary to go above those standards. He said those standards are only looking at flooding and protection of property and do not address the potential impact to the health of the streams.

- C. Presentation of the "Sycamore Mayors Project" by Charles Solar.

Mayor Swedberg introduced Charles Solar a senior at Sycamore High School, a lifelong resident of Sycamore and the son of Pat and Sam Solar. He said Mr. Solar is an Eagle Scout with Troop 16 in Sycamore and will present his Eagle Scout project – Sycamore Mayors. Mayor Swedberg said this project will be incorporated into the City's website.

Charles Solar said he gathered information for the project from the Sycamore Library's Joiner Room and from tombstones at the cemetery. He said he trained Scouts in his troop to use web page design software to create

pages. He said they were able to make detailed pages of the lives of the past mayors. The project contains photographs of the mayors as well as pictures of some homes and other community pictures. He said there is an index page to help the user travel through the site. Mr. Solar said this project will be available to be seen around the world when placed on the City's website.

Aldersperson Kessler asked how long Mr. Solar worked on the project and Mr. Solar said it took about 1 year to gather the information and 2 years to get it ready for the website.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said the City is 1/3 of the way through the fiscal year and hopes to have the audit for last year at the first October meeting. He said at that time he will prepare a revised budget for this year.

Engineer – John Brady said they hope to get started with some underground work on the Bethany Project the week of September 20th and work through December 15 before shutting down for the winter. He said next spring they would excavate the roadway and prepare concrete pavement for curb and gutter to be completed by October 2005. Mr. Brady said that Somonauk Street should be completed, except for incidentals, by September 18, and North and South Maple should be completed by Pumpkin Fest. He said that N. Maple should have sidewalks completed by the Courthouse Celebration September 27th.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty reported he has received plans for Dr. Collins office in Prairie Professional Park and a dental office at the corner of Plank Road and Route 23. He said it is good to see commercial activity arriving with all the new rooftops.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said there would be a 9-11 commemoration ceremony Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at Johnson Junction. Chief Riddle said they have been wrestling with a Fire Department portable radio problem and the 911 Board voted to spend money to change the system by building a tower on Kesslinger Road. He said this will allow portables to hear other portables on the main fire frequency.

Aldersperson Larson asked if there would be any safety issues, like Sandwich being busy when Sycamore is communicating emergency traffic. Chief Riddle said it would actually be better because now they will be able to hear when Sandwich has traffic so they know to get off the main fire frequency and go to another channel.

Aldersperson Kessler asked if this would help the firefighters talk to each other and Chief Riddle said it would.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said the first ordinance on the agenda concerns no parking signs on three streets. He said he has personally contacted most residents and received no objections. He said the ordinance will improve the safety on those streets. Chief Thomas also reported that planning is underway for the Pumpkin Festival events and the Homecoming Parade.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said they were stopping their tree-trimming program for the year after completing 75% of the town. He said they would work into a 4-year rotation system.

Aldersperson Maness asked if they still used an outside company to remove marked trees. She said she was concerned about a tree in the alley on Locust between Lincoln and Home and Superintendent Busse said he would check on that one.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said the Water Department would start flushing hydrants in two weeks. Superintendent Smith said he has been working with a local plumber to get a cross-connection control program started.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Tripp said the Committee met earlier to consider revisions in the Code to accept SDR-26 Plastic pipe be used in the public portion of the streets. She said they recommended bringing this back in ordinance form at the next Council meeting.

Streets & Walks – no report

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2004.35—An Ordinance Amending Title 6-4-12, “No Parking Zones,” to Prohibit Parking on the North Side of Page Street from North Main Street to North Maple Street; the West Side of Donlin Court from West State Street to the South End; and the West Side of Foxpointe Drive from DeKalb Avenue to the First Curb Cut in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Mr. Nicklas said, in reference to Chief Thomas’ report, it is important that the people have been contacted by the Police Department.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2004.35 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 voted aye. Motion carried 8 -0.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2004.35 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

- B. Ordinance No. 2004.36—An Ordinance Declaring Wednesday, October 27, 2004 Through Sunday, October 31, 2004 as Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Mr. Nicklas said that Ordinances 2004.36, 2004.37, 2004.38, and 2004.39 could be taken in omnibus fashion. All of these ordinances relate to the annual Pumpkin Festival and, taken altogether, would accomplish the following:

1. establish the dates for the annual festival;
2. seek IDOT’s approval for the closing of IL Rt. 64 for the Road Run and parade; and

3. authorize the use of the City parking lot at the southeast corner of Sacramento Street and State Street for the carnival.
- C. **Ordinance No. 2004.37—An Ordinance Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Sabin Street to Somonauk Street Between 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, October 31, 2004 for the “Road Run” as Part of Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**
 - D. **Ordinance No. 2004.38—An Ordinance Requesting Permission of the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street From 12:00 Noon and 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 31, 2004 to Allow for the Pumpkin Festival Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**
 - E. **Ordinance No. 2004.39—An Ordinance Authorizing the Use of the City’s Parking Lot at the Corner of Sacramento Street and State Street for a Carnival to be Held from Thursday, October 28, 2004 Through Sunday, October 31, 2004. First and Second Reading.**

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinances 2004.36, 2004.37, 2004.38 and 2004.39 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 voted aye. Motion carried 8 -0.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinances 2004.36, 2004.37, 2004.38 and 2004.39 and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Aldersperson Maness asked Chief Thomas about the hours for trick-or-treating and he said they would be 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2004. He said the Sycamore Chamber was sponsoring limited trick-or-treating downtown on Thursday, October 28th.

- F. **Ordinance No. 2004.40—An Ordinance Requesting Permission from 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 6, 2004 to Allow for the Sycamore High School Homecoming Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Mr. Nicklas said this ordinance requests IDOT’s permission to close a portion of IL. Rt. 64 for the Sycamore High School Homecoming parade on October 6.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2004.40 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 Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 -0.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2004.40 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of Recommendations from the Architectural Review Committee Regarding the 2004 Downtown Façade Grant Program.

Manager Nicklas said the revised application submitted by Mr. Rolczynski for applying a stucco or dryvit surface on the second story façade at 407 W. State Street satisfied the general improvement goals identified in the program guidelines. The Committee voted to recommend a grant of \$3,000 rather than the maximum grant of \$5,000 requested in view of the disharmonious residential look of the third story.

Aldersperson Stowe said they were making some progress.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the grant of \$3,000 to Mr. Rolczynski for 407 W. State Street and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

B. Consideration of an Engineering Department Recommendation Regarding the 2004 Tree Program.

Engineer Brady said two bids were received and Stran’s Garden Center & Landscaping came in low at \$26,070.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked if there is a list of trees and Engineer Brady said there are ten to twelve on the list in 4 categories. He said the packet should be available by next week and they would start planting the first week in October.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to award the bid to Stran’s Garden Center & Landscaping for \$26,070 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Mr. Nicklas said this program is a first come first serve basis because of a limited budget.

C. Consideration of an Engineering Department Recommendation Regarding the 2004 Bituminous Resurfacing Contract.

Engineer Brady said the low bid was from Curran’s Contracting Company in DeKalb \$149,224.50. He said that bid is about 10% below his estimate.

Aldersperson Tripp moved to award the bid to Curran Contracting Company for the amount of \$149,224.50 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

D. Consideration of an Engineering Department Recommendation Regarding the 2004 Crack Sealing Contract.

Engineer Brady said three bids were received and recommended awarding the low bid to Freehill Asphalt for \$26,700.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to award the bid to Freehill Asphalt for \$26,700 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

E. Consideration of a Building and Zoning Department Recommendation Regarding a Used Vehicle for the New Inspector Position.

Manager Nicklas said \$17,000 was allocated in the FY05 budget for a used vehicle. He said the Building department recommends the award of the contract to Countryside Wheels in the amount of \$14,950.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to award the bid to Countryside Wheels for a 2003 Chevy Blazer (22,300 miles) for \$14,950 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Mayor Swedberg said he spoke with Tom Cleveland of DeKalb Airport and there will be training at the Airport September 24 and 25. He said there will be a lot of activity in the sky.

F. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining Matters and Personnel Matters.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to go into Closed Session at 8:25 p.m. and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to return to Open Session at 9:10 p.m. and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith