
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2004

ROLL CALL

Mayor John Swedberg called the meeting to order and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Barbara Leach, Terry Kessler, 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 to think about Veteran's Day and with tomorrow being voting day that the Veteran's preserve the right to vote.

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 voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of October 18, 2004;
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 1, 2004 in the amount of \$334,602.02.
- C. Monthly Budget Report for October, 2004.

Motion

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Introduction of New Firefighter Brian Thompson by Chief Bill Riddle.

Chief Riddle said Firefighter Thompson comes from Burlington, IL with 10 years experience and is a certified paramedic. He had several family members in the audience including his wife, Stephanie, and three children, Carolyn, Jimmy, and Elizabeth.

Clerk Candy Smith gave the oath to Firefighter Brian Thompson.

- B. Consideration of a Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Jim Huntley will introduce Rich Para, co-owner of Ben Franklin Crafts at 341 West State Street in Sycamore. Mr. Para will give a brief overview of the products and services of the business that he and his wife, Roseanne, own and operate.

Rich Para said 10 years ago they started their business as Sweet Earth in the building that now houses Century 21. After a year there they purchased Ben Franklin and modernized the store. He said they offer school gym uniforms and school pride apparel, candy, flowers, jewelry, and unique gifts that set them apart from Wal-Mart and Target. Services they provide are drop-off dry cleaning, jewelry repair and Mr. Para said he recently earned his gemologist degree and added jewelry appraising to their services. Mr. Para said they looked at 3 or 4 towns before deciding to open their business in Sycamore.

Mayor Swedberg urged people to get out and vote.

Aldersperson Leach, as the Council representative on Pumpkin Festival Committee, thanked City Staff for their work and time.

Aldersperson Bauer said a couple of Ear to Ear comments talked about staking off areas along the parade route 10 days prior to the parade and he suggested it might be time to legislate some timelines.

Mayor Swedberg said he would give it to staff and wait for their recommendations.

Aldersperson Bauer suggested not allowing anything out until Saturday before the parade so the Street Division can clean up the leaves along the parade route through Friday.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas thanked the Pumpkin Festival Committee for their efforts and City Departments for their part of the work. He said that he will have options for the beginning of the levy discussion at the next meeting.

Engineer – John Brady said the Fall Tree Program is underway and should be completed by the end of the week.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty reported that to date this year there have been 305 dwelling unit permits issued which is an all-time high. He said there is also a lot of commercial activity which he listed as: the CCI building, Dialysis Center, Day Surgery Center, Goodrich building on Bethany Road, Dr. Blaha's on Aberdeen Court, the Pappas building, a dental clinic on Peace and Route 23 north of town, Cornerstone Christian gymnasium, Portillo's and Lundeen Liquor. He said he was pleased to see all the commercial activity rather than only residential development.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said Firefighter Brian Thompson represents the third of the 3 firefighters authorized May 1, 2005.

Aldersperson Kessler inquired if the 9-11 Board had approved the telecommunication and new towers. He said they approved approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 and the licensing takes the most time. The equipment is ordered and will be installed by the engineer. Ms. Kessler said it is good to know the 9-11 money is going to help out at the local level.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy said he is working with the auditor’s reports and the Fire and Police Pension reports have been filed down state. He said that George Beasley won the Kiss the Pig contest and \$4,500 was raised for the History Museum.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said Public Works cleaned up limbs on Saturday from Friday’s storm and set-up for the parade on Sunday. He said Bob Ray, Justine Fleetwood, and Roger Haeffner spent the past two weeks planning and preparing for blockade and sign placement.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said that the motor for Well #5 was taken out of service because of sand. He said he and Engineer Brady met with a company to look at a piece of equipment call the “aqua stream” that proposes to eliminate the sand from getting into the motor and might possibly reduce the radium level. He said they are waiting for more information to make a decision.

Father Timar of St. Mary Catholic Church arrived and gave the invocation.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said the polls open at 6:00 a.m. tomorrow. He checked with County Clerk Sharon Holmes and they don’t anticipate any problems that other states are experiencing, but they will have officers ready to respond. Chief Thomas said from 6:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. yesterday there were 130 people working with 40 on the payroll. He thanked them all and specifically thanked Lt. Cary Singer, their point man. He said the department handled 86 calls, 2 accidents, 14 reports, and 3 arrests.

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. 2004.53—An Ordinance Conveying the Deed for Lot 2 of Sycamore Well No. 7 Resubdivision of Lot 2 of the Stonehenge Subdivision in the City of Sycamore to the Sycamore Park District. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said that mid-summer Council approved the resubidivision of this site into Lots 1 & 2 and this ordinance officially deeds Lot 2 to the Sycamore Park District.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2004.53 on first and second reading 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2004.53 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2004.54—Approving the Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore, Illinois and the IMLRMA for Worker’s Compensation and Liability Coverage for City Employees. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas explained that the Risk Management Arm of the Illinois Municipal League, because of its size, offers the best terms for Worker’s Comp and Liability coverage. As in previous years, the IMLRMA has offered a two-percent discount if the City commits to a renewal prior to November 19. The IMLRMA also offers a “Minimum/Maximum program in which the City has participated for the past seven years. In this program, if the City’s actual paid claims are between 80 percent and 100 percent of the loss fund established by the IMLRMA based on the average of claims over recent years, the City pays a minimum amount that is less than a standard premium. However, if the City’s actual paid claims exceed 100 percent of the loss fund estimate, the City is obliged to pay all claim dollars up to a maximum amount (i.e. 120 percent of the average claims of recent years). As the attached chart shows, in the past two years the City’s claim experience has been substantially in excess of the maximum loss amount. Assuming a similar experience will unfold over the next year, based on the prior twelve-months of claims, it would be less expensive for the City to opt out of the “Min/Max” program and pay a straight premium to IMLRMA. Mr. Nicklas said there are things they can do such as teaching how to lift and integrating workers back into the work force, and alternate productive duty. He said the City will continue to work with IMLRMA to find ways to lower claims and anticipate situations at work. Mr. Nicklas recommended a one-time payment of \$263,627.84, which includes the two percent discount.

Alderperson Kessler said that some things are out of the City’s control. She said her experience with the Industrial Commission is that settlement awards have been very generous. She said going with the max approach was the appropriate way to go.

Mr. Nicklas said the Industrial Commission unfolds with a practice that is out of our control. He said that sometimes a judgment takes over a year and the City has to do without that employee. He said the City may some day have to work with the bargaining units to draw a line regarding how long a job will be held open.

Motion

Alderperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2004.54 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 voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2004.54 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 6 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 454—Adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Chief Riddle said that NIMS is the Federal version of a system the Fire Department has used for a long time, Incident Command. He said the language addresses other city departments and state agencies and all communities in the country will eventually adopt this system and use it as a uniform procedure for fires and disasters. Chief Riddle said NIMS will also be a benchmark used for grants and federal aid in the future.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 454 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 6 - 0.

CONSIDERATIONS

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

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to go into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m. 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to return to Open Session at 8:30 p.m. 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 6 - 0.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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 6 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith