

**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL**  
**AGENDA**  
September 6, 2005

**City Council Committee Meetings**

No Meetings are Scheduled

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**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**7:00 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of August 22, 2005.
  - B. Payment of the Bills for September 6, 2005.
7. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.**
  - A. Presentation by Chuck Criswell of the Turning Back Time Car Show steering committee.
  - B. Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Rod Schairer will introduce Rob Wilkerson, executive director of the Kishwaukee Family YMCA, who will give a brief overview of the agency's range of services and programs.

- 8. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**
- 9. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
- 10. **PUBLIC HEARINGS--None**
- 11. **ORDINANCES**

**A. Ordinance No. 2005.35—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 Wednesday, October 5, 2005, to Allow for the Sycamore High School Homecoming Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

The attached ordinance requests IDOT's permission to close a portion of IL Rt. 64 for the Sycamore High School Homecoming parade on October 5. City Council approval is recommended.

**B. Ordinance No. 2005.36—An Ordinance Declaring Wednesday, October 26, 2005 Through Sunday, October 30, 2005 as Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Ordinances 2005.36, 2005.37, 2005.38 and 2005.39 can be taken in omnibus fashion. All relate to the annual Pumpkin Festival and, taken together, would accomplish the following:

- a) establish the dates for the annual festival (October 27-October 30, 2005);
- b) seek IDOT's approval for the closing of IL Rt. 64 for the Road Run and the Pumpkin Parade;
- c) authorize the use of the City parking lot at the southeast corner of Sacramento Street and State Street for the carnival.

City Council approval is recommended.

**C. Ordinance No. 2005.37—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 30, 2005 for the "Road Run" as Part of Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

See Ordinance 2005.36.

**D. Ordinance No. 2005.38—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 to 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 30, 2005 to Allow for the Pumpkin Festival Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

See Ordinance 2005.36.

**E. Ordinance No. 2005.39—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 27, 2005 Through Sunday, October 30, 2005. First and Second Reading.**

See Ordinance 2005.36.

**F. Ordinance No. 2005.40—An Ordinance Revising an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the County of DeKalb Regarding Access to Peace Road. First and Second Reading.**

As the City Council is aware, the DeKalb County Board agreed to a revision to the City/County agreement on Peace Road on Wednesday, August 17 (see Resolution R2005.48, attached). The revision had been requested by the City of Sycamore to afford a “second way out” for the Artery Farm, which both the City and County plans have long-identified as a prime location for commercial retail business. The location of the new access point is approximately one-quarter mile north of the centerline of the intersection of Peace Road and IL Rt. 23. The parcel would also be served by an access point at Sarah Drive, which was approved by the agreement reached by the City and County in 1999.

The Artery farm is not presently annexed to the City of Sycamore. The Council is aware that the First Rockford Group has the property under contract and is performing “due diligence” on the prospect of annexing and successfully developing the parcel for a large regional retail center. A concept plan for their development was presented to the Plan Commission on July 11. A copy of that plan is attached. The plan depicted the following general features:

- 410,000 square feet of commercial retail space in a power strip with five “big box” footprints;
- Up to 92,000 square feet of outlot uses. The ultimate configuration of outlots is likely to change; the developer wanted to depict the maximum buildout in light of City parking and landscaping requirements.
- 47 condo lots to serve as a buffer between the intense commercial uses and the residential uses that may one day develop to the west of the Artery Farm, as represented on the City’s 2003 Land Use Map.

City Council approval of the proposed revision to the Peace Road access agreement is recommended.

**G. Ordinance No. 2005.41—An Ordinance Revising Title 9, “Building Regulation,” Chapter 4, “Electricity and Fire Protection,” Section 9-4-2,A, “Electrical Code Adopted,” in the City Code of Sycamore, Illinois to Adopt the National Electrical Code of 2002, With Revisions, as the Electrical Code in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Building Commissioner Lyle Doty and Electrical Inspector Dennis Winclawski have reviewed the latest revisions to the National Electrical Code, which is a model of national electrical standards that is used by most American municipalities, and has been the City’s model for decades. Recently, Mr. Doty and Mr. Winclawski met with local electrical contractors through the auspices of the DeKalb County Building and Development Association to answer questions and to ascertain whether any local revisions are in order.

Mr. Doty reports that no substantive objections were raised to the proposed changes.

When the City adopts a new building code, it is not uncommon to note some local amendments in the City Code. Such amendments do not diminish the adopted model's emphasis on safety, and sometimes require a higher standard for certain methods and materials. For example, the City does not allow electricians to ground service cable to City water piping, although the national code might allow it under certain circumstances.

The text in question is the 2002 National Electrical Code. Presently, the 1999 edition is enforced. The proposed changes are detailed in the attached memorandum from Lyle Doty. Two particular changes are of note and will slightly increase the cost of new construction or remodeling. The first is a requirement to install rigid or IMC conduit for all overhead electrical services, whether new or upgraded. The second is a requirement for "arc fault" circuit breakers to provide branch circuit protection for all 15 amp and 20 amp circuits in dwelling unit bedrooms. Both changes are aimed at greater protection for local residents.

Mr. Doty will be prepared to answer any questions the Council may have about the proposed code changes and amendments. City Council approval is recommended.

**12. RESOLUTIONS--None**

**13. CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of an Engineering Department Report on the Bids for the Extension of Oakland Drive, Dosen Drive and Wirsing Parkway in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.**

The Engineering department went to bid on August 16 for the construction of a roadway that would link the present terminus of Oakland Drive with the present terminus of Wirsing Parkway. This link will open about 60 acres of industrially-zoned land in Krpan's "Thanks America" subdivision to future industrial development, and will provide a new east-west route to move shoppers and commercial traffic between the busy Rt. 23 and Peace Road corridors (see the attached graphic). City Engineer John Brady will open the bids at 4:00 p.m. on September 6 and prepare a bid sheet for the Council's review and action Tuesday evening.

**B. Consideration of a Seminar Sponsored by the DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission.**

On Saturday, October 1, 2005 the DeKalb County Regional Planning Commission will sponsor a seminar to highlight the different steps in the review of developments by municipal bodies. The seminar will be interactive, with members of the Commission playing the various roles of developer, city officials, and interested citizens. The seminar will be held at the Legislative Center at 200 N. Main Street, in the Gathertorium, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Members of the City Council and Plan Commission may find the seminar informative, as it will focus on the process by which a proposed residential subdivision can be evaluated and approved, or denied.

An approximate count of attendees is expected no later than September 23. Please notify the City Manager if you are interested in attending and participating.

**C. Consideration of an Administration Request to Hire a New Laborer for the Public Works Department.**

The City Manager is seeking the Council's authorization to hire a new laborer, effective October 1. This hire would be a new permanent, full-time position. Several factors prompt this request. First, the City has been unable to attract local contractors to perform tuckpointing on the former Street Division garages behind the Public Safety Building and we will need to assign a laborer full-time to complete the repairs before winter. The present City Budget (06-8625) allocates \$30,000 for this extensive tuckpointing and painting work. That amount is equivalent to the cost of a new, entry-level hire for the last seven months of the fiscal year. If the Council is agreeable, some cost-shifting can be accomplished when the fiscal budget is revised this fall, with the following objectives:

- a) one of the Public Works department's laborers can be re-assigned to complete the masonry repairs. However, such re-assignment would remove a key employee from an already thin general workforce in that department.
- b) The hiring of a new laborer for the balance of the fiscal year (October 1 through April 30) would allow the department to maintain its full schedule of fall operations which include leaf pickup and a variety of street repairs, and would not impose an additional cost on the overall City Budget..

Does the net increase in the overall staffing of the Public Works department create a budget challenge for FY07? The City Manager does not believe so. The Council is aware that the hiring of a new laborer for the Public Works department was the number one unfunded priority in the current FY05-06 Budget, and will be an administration priority when the FY07 Budget is prepared this winter. The pace of revenues so far in FY06 indicates that we will have the means in FY07 to hire the additional laborer and address some of the other staffing needs identified in recent budget reviews.

City Council approval is recommended.

**14. APPOINTMENTS**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**