
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2005

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 Mike Massey of Glad Tidings Assembly of God 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 voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Nancy Crow, Maple Park, said she was seeking Council approval to drive an ice cream truck in Sycamore. She said she bought a short school bus to convert and the bus has many features that will address the safety issues. She said she would travel in the neighborhoods and not on major streets.

Mayor Swedberg said he would put the ice cream truck license issue into the Streets and Walks Committee to convene March 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Crow said she has been approved in DeKalb, Cortland, Maple Park and Elburn.

Rose Treml, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, said she was speaking on behalf of Tourism and Discover Sycamore group who together with the Chamber are planning to have a French Market this summer and fall. She said the French Market will take place Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Sycamore Center parking lot. Ms. Treml said they would like to start June 26, 2005 through October 16, 2005 weather permitting. She said they have met and received advice from the DeKalb Health Department, State Health Department, Department of Illinois, Illinois Ag Department, DeKalb County Farm Bureau, and local farmers. She said they want this to be a local event and will work with Sycamore High School FFA and 4H. She said they will only allow produce in season that is grown within a 100-mile radius. Ms. Treml said the objectives of the French Market are to promote Sycamore, to provide a community social activity, to preserve and promote Illinois' unique agricultural heritage, and to give Sycamore residents the chance to buy locally grown and made products.

Mayor Swedberg said some of the locally grown products are wine and Ms. Treml is looking for permission to sell wine and permission to use the parking lot.

Ms. Treml said the wine vendors have been involved with other Farmer's Markets and will know they are responsible for state and local laws.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he broadcast the idea on his email and the only concern was that this not turn into a flea market.

Ms. Trembl said they are calling it a French Market to keep it upscale and they are asking vendors to submit photographs of their booths for approval.

Ms. Trembl also reminded Council about Candidates' Night to be held March 31, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Farm Bureau.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve permission for use of the Sycamore Center parking lot for a French Market and Aldersperson Tripp 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 the sale of wine on City property at the French Market 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of February 21, 2005;
- B. Payment of the Bills for March 7, 2005 in the amount of \$401,969.75.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Introduction of Firefighter Charles "Chuck" Lorenz, Jr.

Chief Riddle introduced Firefighter Charles Lorenz as a firefighter II and paramedic and said he was a POC on the Huntley Fire Department. Clerk Candy Smith gave him the oath of office.

Firefighter Lorenz introduced his girlfriend, Grandfather and parents who were in the audience. He said he looked forward to working in Sycamore.

- B. Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Bill Nicklas will introduce Chris Puentes of Soft Water City, located at 440 DeKalb Avenue, who will give a brief overview of the programs and services offered by the firm.

Chris Puentes said his father and mother started Soft Water City as a full service water treatment corporation in 1972. He said in mid 1980 they reached their 1000th customer, in the mid 1990's they reached their 2000th customer and today they have about 4,000 leased customers. Soft Water City now handles bottled water and employs 8 full-time and 2 part-time employees and are looking for more help. Mr. Puentes said he is in charge of sales and his sister, Lisa, runs the administrative part of the business. He said in 2000 they outgrew there building and built new larger buildings after buying up the surrounding properties. Mr. Puentes said the Community has been very kind to them and thanked the City for their cooperation with their business.

Aldersperson Leach said she received a call from a resident on Albert Avenue about needing more street lights. Engineer Brady said he would look into that.

Aldersperson Kessler commented that the windows in Sycamore Center always look nice and asked who was responsible.

Manager Nicklas said the City does the windows with the help of Julie Rhodes, Sandy Wright, Linda Gilbreth and Jean Tritle.

Aldersperson Paulsen thanked Mr. Nicklas and Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer Lyle Doty for resolving the problem on North Avenue. He said the neighbors were appreciative.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reported that Assistant to the City Manager Brian Gregory is the proud father of a baby boy and congratulated Brian and his wife. Mr. Nicklas also reported that he met with Roger Dahlstrom who presented the first full draft of the fiscal impact study. He said he hoped to present the document to Council on March 21.

Engineer – John Brady reported the bids for Well #9 should be in March 30, 2005.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty said that 315 North Avenue has been sold to a contractor who wants to fix it up. Mr. Doty said building will begin at North Grove Crossing.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said Thursday he and Firefighter Marcinkowski traveled to South Dakota to inspect and pick up the new fire truck. He said it should be in use the first of April. Chief Riddle said he attended a MABAS conference in Peoria last week.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy said the financial report for February will be ready for the next Council meeting.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said when street lights are out or flickering or cycling on and off the public should contact the Public Works Department with a pole number or an address.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith read a letter from the Illinois Department of Public Health recognizing Sycamore for perfect compliance with the Illinois fluoridation law.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported that Officer Dan Hoffman has completed his State of Illinois certification and training and is now on solo patrol.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water –no report

Streets & Walks – Chairperson Pete Paulsen reported a meeting scheduled for March 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

Aldersperson Bauer thanked the staff for their time during the Candidate tour of City facilities.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2004.74—An Ordinance Authorizing the Partial Abatement of Future City Property Taxes for Fullco Industries in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this was heard as a Consideration at the last reading. He said this ordinance establishes an incentive agreement for Fullco Industries with the following terms:

- A 90% property tax abatement in the first full year of assessment (presumably 2006, with taxes payable in 2007);
- A 75% property tax abatement in the second full year of assessment;
- A 50% property tax abatement in the third full year of assessment; and
- A “clawback” requiring indemnification for all abated taxes if the company should move out of Sycamore or sells to another entity that moves the enterprise and its jobs from the community within ten years.

Motion

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2004.74 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Ordinance 2004.74 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler said she thought this was an example of how the City and other governing bodies are working to bring industry to Sycamore. She said she is encouraged that the other boards have agreed to a package and discouraged that the School District has chosen to go with their own package. She said they need to work together to create a unified agreement.

Aldersperson Paulsen welcomed Fullco to the community.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 455—Authorizing a Representative to Sign Documents for Project L172475.

Manager Nicklas said Resolution 455 & 456 could be taken in omnibus fashion. He said Res. 455 identifies Well #9 with a project number and authorizes a signature for the paperwork.

B. Resolution No. 456—Expressing the Intent of the Sycamore City Council Regarding the National Flood Insurance for Project L172475.

Mr. Nicklas said this resolution is a formality confirming the City's intent to follow the requirements of the National Flood Insurance program as they may apply to Well #9.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Resolutions 455 and 456 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.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Boundary Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the Village of Burlington.

Manager Nicklas said it is not Sycamore's current planning intent to grow beyond the "yellow" fringe, but we also do not want another community to grow adjacent to that fringe. Mr. Nicklas said the agreement shows that green space could be preserved all along the City's eastern edge by legislating a line along the County boundary from Burlington Township to Cortland Township.

Mayor Swedberg said at the initial meeting with the Village President and Engineer they discussed the possibility of allowing the Prairie Parkway through the green space between Sycamore and Burlington.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to bring this back in ordinance form and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Bill Lenschow said he has three properties involved with this boundary line. He questioned why there has been no input from the people who own the properties since this agreement could have tremendous affect on the value of property. Mr. Lenschow said he would be back to Council to talk about another subject; the Sycamore Farmer's Club.

Mayor Swedberg said he was under the impression there is a preservation effort with the Farm Bureau and County.

Mr. Lenschow said the challenge is whether a farmer wants to expand or sell.

Mr. Nicklas said that the boundary on the east side is not a hard planning line, but a defensive posture so that Burlington cannot bring in a 1000-home development next to the line. He said this is not the same as the green space between Genoa and Sycamore.

Voice Vote

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

B. Consideration of a Preliminary Report on the City's Street Maintenance Program for 2005.

Manager Nicklas reviewed the Street Maintenance Program which exceeds the funds available, but he thought they should bid the entire list to see how the bid prices come in before reducing the number of possible projects.

Mayor Swedberg asked if there would be any curb replacements. He said that areas on South Main and on Park Avenue are missing curbs.

Alderperson Tripp said she would like this money to be spent on micro-surfacing.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to direct the City Engineer to prepare the list of streets for bid 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 8 - 0.

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

Motion

Alderperson Larson moved to go into Closed Session at 8:15p.m. 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.

Motion

Alderperson Larson moved to return to Open Session at 8:35 p.m. 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 8 - 0.

APPOINTMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. 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.

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith