
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2005**

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 Janice Tripp and Andrew Larson were absent.

INVOCATION

Pastor Don Phelps of St. John's Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING-IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

City Attorney Keith Foster swore in City Clerk Candy Smith. Clerk Smith gave the oath of office to newly elected Mayor Ken Mundy. Former Mayor John Swedberg turned the gavel over to Mayor Ken Mundy. Clerk Smith swore in elected Alderpersons Alan Bauer, Pete Paulsen, Grace Adee, and Darren Knuth.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Leach moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rose Trembl thanked John Swedberg and the outgoing alderpersons for their support and welcomed Ken Mundy and the new officials and said she will look forward to working with them.

Pastor Dan Stovall of the Sycamore Baptist Church said he represented a group of pastors for the transformation of northern DeKalb County that prays for the City every Wednesday. He said to contact them if there is ever a need for a special prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of April 18, 2005;
- B. Payment of the Bills for May 2, 2005 in the amount of \$3,043,895.30.

Manager Nicklas said the bills are higher than normal because of moving some CD money around from one bank to another and had to expense that out. He said that would account for about \$2,000,000.

Motion

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

Voice Vote

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Proclamation Declaring May 2 through May 8, 2005 as Public Service Recognition Week.

Mayor Mundy read the proclamation.

- B. Presentation of Plaque to George Beasley for his service as a member of the Sycamore Fire and Police Commission.

Manager Nicklas and Human Resource Director Jean Tritle presented George Beasley with a plaque thanking him for his years of service.

- C. Presentation of a Plaque to Sgt. Keith Snyder in recognition of his thirty years of service to the City of Sycamore.

Manager Nicklas, Chief Thomas, and HR Director Tritle presented Sergeant Snyder with a plaque thanking him for his years of service.

Sergeant Snyder said it is a privilege and an honor to live and work in Sycamore.

- D. Swearing-In of Rod Swartzendruber, who has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Sycamore Police Department.

Clerk Smith swore in Rod Swartzendruber as sergeant for the Police Department. Sergeant Swartzendruber's wife Nancy pinned on his sergeant badge.

- E. Introduction of John Laskowski, our new Assistant City Engineer.

Engineer John Brady said John Laskowski graduated from the University of Illinois six years ago, worked for Christopher Burke Engineering for 2 years and was Assistant Village Engineer for Hinsdale the past 4 years.

- F. Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Bill Nicklas will introduce Bob and Sue Rozycki, owners of the Sycamore Coin Gallery at 320 West State Street, who will give a brief overview of their firm's products and services.

Bob Rozycki said they have been doing business in downtown Sycamore for that past 30 years. He said they started out in the Ball Card Shop and 20 years ago moved to their current location. He said they buy and sell rare coins and currency for collectors. He said part of their job is traveling all over the world searching for requested items for customers. He said they consider themselves a destination store because they draw people from hundreds of miles away to their unique business. Mr. Rozycki said they have a money museum dating as far back as 400 BC. He said they are happy to be part of the downtown Sycamore.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked for an update on the Maplewood intersection.

Engineer Brady said they need to get the widening done and there is still utility work to be done by Verizon.

Aldersperson Leach said she attended the Elmer Larson Quarry open house and recommended it to everybody for the next year.

Mayor Mundy announced that Senator Obama will be at the Sycamore Public Library Saturday, May 7th at 2:30 p.m. for a town meeting.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reported that interviews to select consultants for the treatment plant expansion and the second firehouse design were completed and recommendations would be on the May 16 agenda.

Engineer – John Brady said he hopes to have a loan agreement for Well #9 at the next Council meeting.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty said building plans continue to roll in and he received a set of plans for a building south of the one going across from Culver's.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said the pumper will be ready and serviceable by May 17 and he will park it outside the Sycamore Center before the next Council meeting.

Treasurer – Brian Gregory thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to serve as Treasurer and thanked Mr. Nicklas for helping him along the way. He said it looks like there will be a healthy general fund surplus for FY05 and that speaks volumes for efficiencies of the City Manager, Department Heads, and City employees. He said that RFP's for the audit are due by June 7 and he will bring a recommendation to Council June 20, 2005.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said they will be working in the Sycamore Center parking lot Wednesday through Friday doing some repair and establishing a refuge dumpster enclosure in the northwest corner.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said the hydrant flushing is completed for this season. He said they are finding that by flushing twice per year they are keeping iron out of the system in the older parts of town. He said they are still pumping at Well #5 to get a specific test. He said beginning next Monday they will be testing for radium, sand, and volume.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said with the help of Morning Star they have a new website at sycamorepd.com.

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. 2005.01—An Ordinance Revising Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 6-4-2, “Yield Streets” in the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said these yield signs are in response to citizens concerns and higher volume of traffic.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2005.01 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2005.01 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2005.02—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$10,000 to the DeKalb County Economic development Corporation for Services to Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this and the next two ordinances may be taken in omnibus fashion.

C. Ordinance No. 2005.03—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$1,000 to the DeKalb County Community Foundation for Services to the Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

D. Ordinance No. 2005.04—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$17,000 to the Voluntary Action Center for Services to Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinances 2005.02, 2005.03 and 2005.04 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinances 2005.02, 2005.03 and 2005.04 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Ellen Rogers, Associate Director of Voluntary Action Center, thanked the City for their long standing support. She thanked the City staff and the elected officials for more than just dollars. She said Chief Riddle is instrumental in having the Fire Department be a part of meals on wheels delivery. She said Police and Fire Departments are incredibly responsive when their volunteers are in harms way. Ms. Rogers thanked John

Brady for his patience when receiving her hysteric phone calls wanting to know what is going on. She thanked Bill Nicklas for all he has done to help advance the agency in the City of Sycamore.

Roger Hopkins, Executive Director of DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation said they work diligently attracting businesses and jobs to the City of Sycamore. He thanked the City for their cooperation with other taxing bodies to create incentive packages. He said Sycamore is open to working collaboratively and collectively with other taxing bodies.

Voice Vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Request for Direction Regarding a Refunding Opportunity for Outstanding 1999 General Obligation Refund Bonds.

Manager Nicklas said Eric Anderson of Harris Bank is in the audience and would like to address the opportunity we have.

Eric Anderson said interest rates on the long end are still very favorable relative to the Series 1999 Bond. He said there is a limited time of 90 days before the call date of October 1, 2005. He said it would make sense to adopt an ordinance at the next meeting that would set forth the new rates and set to close on July 5, 2005. He said there would be a \$140,000 to \$150,000 savings by doing this. He said upon direction of the Council he and Bill Nicklas and Brian Gregory will meet with Moody's Investors Service to see if the City is in position for another bond rating increase. He said assuming Council direction and the interest rates are still favorable they will bring an ordinance for action at the May 16 meeting. He said he is looking for direction to structure the savings in FY06 or FY07.

Mr. Nicklas recommended FY07 because the budget has already been set for FY06.

Alderpersons Bauer and Kessler said they would prefer going with the FY07 option and the rest of the Council concurred.

B. Consideration of an Administration Request for Direction Regarding a Request from Opportunity House to Install Parking Spaces Within the Page Street Right-of-Way.

Manager Nicklas said the Director of the Opportunity House is in the audience to answer questions. Mr. Nicklas explained that Opportunity House has requested permission to install 10 perpendicular parking spaces off Page Street, plus a bus drive and handicap spaces serving a new addition to the Opportunity House complex.

Alderperson Stowe said he would like to see sidewalk extended to the end of the property.

Engineer Brady said it could be done, but he thought when the road is reconstructed sidewalk could be placed on the south side. He said the sidewalk would go to nowhere at this point.

John Kroos, Director of Opportunity House, said the residents from the group home on Maple Street would walk to the facility. He said they were hoping not to have to pave any further and the property to the west is owned by Ms. Knodle and is not developed. He said they would be willing to connect a sidewalk when that piece of property is developed.

Aldersperson Stowe said the argument of sidewalks leading nowhere is a viscous circle and this is a good time to place sidewalk.

Aldersperson Maness said right now the City is funding \$250,000 worth of sidewalks where none exist. She suggested placing sidewalk from property line to property line using the sidewalk already planned right in front of the building.

Aldersperson Kessler agreed and did not think it would be much expense.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the request with the addition of additional sidewalk to the west end of the property line and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler thanked the Opportunity House for the service they provide to this community. She said they focus on the “can do” rather than the “can’t do’s” and we are fortunate to have them as part of Sycamore.

Voice Vote

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

Mr. Nicklas said he would bring this back in ordinance form.

C. Consideration of an Administration Request for Direction Regarding an RFP for Medical Services.

Manager Nicklas said this was the first time in 14 years the City has gone out for proposals for medical providers for testing, physicals, and comp cases. He said three responses were received from Kishwaukee Medical Associates, Kishwaukee Corporate Health, and AIM. Mr. Nicklas said staff recommends Kishwaukee Corporate Health. He said the recommendation is not only about the money, but about the service, as well.

Aldersperson Kessler said that this is her field of expertise and she felt the reasons for the recommendation were sound.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve a 1 year contract with Kishwaukee Corporate Health and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

D. Consideration of a Joint Meeting with the Sycamore Board of Education and Other Stakeholders to Consider the Community Fiscal Impact Study Completed by the Center for Governmental Studies.

Manager Nicklas said Mayor Mundy has called for a special joint meeting of the City Council and the Sycamore Board of Education on Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the National Bank & Trust Company at 230 West State Street. Several purposes are to be served by this meeting:

1. It will provide an opportunity for the Council and the School Board to jointly hear Roger Dahlstrom present his findings from the community fiscal impact study that the Center for Governmental Studies recently completed. The Council and Board will also have an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Dahlstrom and his research associate, Theresa Wittenauer.
2. It will afford an opportunity for other stakeholders to “sit at the table” with the Board and Council, including representatives of the Sycamore Park District, the Sycamore Library, the city’s Plan Commission, the Sycamore Economic Development Commission, the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation, the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, and the DeKalb County Building and Development Association. It is expected that a smaller working group consisting of representatives from each of these public and private entities will be organized to get to work on the policy implications of the fiscal study as soon as possible.
3. It will root any policy analysis in the independent findings of the Center for Governmental Studies, which were based on budgets, audits, and other financial documents provided by the City, the School District, the Park District, and the Sycamore Library.

Mayor Mundy said this is not intended to be a marathon meeting. He said some time after the meeting he will appoint a committee of 2 members from each entity to meet to review the ramifications of the study.

Roger Hopkins said this study was featured at a DCEDC Round Table and he said it is a good document that demonstrates a lot of what they have been trying to say about the balanced development of DeKalb County and managed growth and preserving our economic vitality. He said this will be beneficial for policy setting.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Mundy appointed Council Committees as follows: Finance – Alan Bauer, Chair, Chuck Stowe, Pete Paulsen, and Barbara Leach; Ordinance – Barbara Leach, Chair, Pete Paulsen, Terry Kessler, and Darren Knuth; Fire and Police – Chuck Stowe, Chair, Alan Bauer, Grace Adee, and Darren Knuth; Sewer and Water – Cheryl Maness, Chair, Alan Bauer, Barbara Leach, and Grace Adee; Streets and Walks – Terry Kessler, Chair, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, and Grace Adee. Mayor Mundy appointed Cheryl Maness, Michelle Schulz, Lowell Evans, and School Board Representative Jay Montgomery to the Plan Commission. He reappointed Library Representative Tom Brotcke, Ken George, Cindy Henderson, John Lewis as Chair, William Lorence, and Park District Representative Larry Steczo to the Plan Commission.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the appointments and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Mayor Mundy appointed Andrew Larson to the Fire and Police Commission; Katie Johnson and Bob Keil to the Police Pension Board; Rev. Don Phelps, Jesus Romero, and Valerie Stallworth to the Human Relations Commission; Don Paulsen and Pete Paulsen to the Economic Development Commission; and Ken Campbell, Lisa Valley, Lois Anderson, and Barbara Leach to the Public Library Board.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve the appointments and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor – Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith