
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2005**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Grace Adee, Alan Bauer, Terry Kessler, Darren Knuth, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen and Chuck Stowe. Alderperson Barbara Leach was absent.

INVOCATION

Deacon Chuck Ridulph of St. John's Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Maness requested a Closed Session for Personnel Discussion be added to the agenda.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a Closed Session and Alderperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Peter Smith, Attorney for Naupaktos L.L.C., said he would like to speak to the annexation of 3.479 acres during the hearing and consideration of that item on the agenda or be available for questions.

Martha Wetzel, 839 Vaughn Ct., expressed concern about approving new residential development and said the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee members are not truly representative of the people of Sycamore.

Brad Dewey, 346 Pleasant, said he is the receiver of the alley vacation on the agenda and explained that he wants to build a garage on the property.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of August 1, 2005.
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the Special City Council Meeting of August 5, 2005.
- C. Payment of the Bills for August 22, 2005 in the amount of \$456,224.05.
- D. Plan Commission Minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2005.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer 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 present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Presentation by Chuck Criswell of the Turning Back Time Car Show steering committee.

Manager Nicklas explained that Mr. Criswell had to attend to the death of his brother last week in Iowa and hoped to reschedule this presentation in September.

- B. Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Dean Copple will introduce Brad Copple, Administrator of Kishwaukee Community Hospital, who will give a brief overview of the hospital's expansion project.

Commissioner Dean Copple introduced Kevin Poorten, CEO of Kishwaukee Health System; Brad Copple, Administrator of Kishwaukee Hospital; and Mike Kokott, Assistant Vice-President of Marketing.

Kevin Poorten said that Kishwaukee Health Systems is a not for profit 501C3 corporation serving DeKalb County for over 30 years. He listed some of the facilities that are part of the Health System as Kishwaukee Community Hospital, Valley West, Hauser Ross, Hospice, Unlimited Performance, as well as facilities in Hampshire, Elburn, and Genoa. He said the Health System has over 1100 employees second only to NIU in DeKalb County. He said their payroll is over \$50,000,000 with an average hourly wage of over \$21 per hour. He said they are generating about \$130,000,000 net in patient revenue and there is an economic impact by their organization close to \$140,000,000 annually according to the University. He said there is a medical staff of 225.

Brad Copple said they are now moving dirt and implementing the planning of the past 2 ½ years for the new facility. He said they purchased the property 10 years ago for the 230,000 square-foot 3-story hospital on 23 acres. He said there will also be a 40,000 square-foot attached medical office building. He said there will be 100 private beds in this \$102,000,000 project. He said they received the permit from the State for approval of need June 23, 2005.

Kevin Poorten said the medical office building will enhance their ability to recruit and retain quality physicians for our ever-growing market. He said the project will be paid for by borrowing \$60,000,000 from the tax exempt bond market, using \$35,000,000 of existing cash reserves and income generated, and raising \$7,000,000 through a community wide capital campaign. Mr. Poorten said they are working with a general contractor out of Chicago, but the Board of Directors is adamant about using local sub-contractors, labor, and material.

Brad Copple said they expect to open the doors in the fall of 2007.

Mr. Poorten said the existing hospital building will be utilized by some existing programs and perhaps some partnerships with the YMCA and Kishwaukee College.

Brad Copple said the single rooms will be priced at a blended rate. He said that research has proven that single rooms are better for the patient, the care givers, and the patient's family.

Alderson Kessler said there is an OR and surgical wing and asked what additional services they are planning.

Brad Copple said the facility is designed with recruiting of cardiologists in mind plus they look to be a little more aggressive in the vascular arena.

Alderson Maness commented that the growth the community is seeing is a major contributing factor for this lovely facility that is being provided for us to bring the doctors here so we can have that health care right here in our own community.

Brad Copple said they have the ability to expand this facility to a 200-bed facility.

Alderson Stowe asked how many beds the existing hospital has.

Brad Copple said they are licensed for 172 and the average daily census is 55 to 60 and when there are 80 patients they are getting full because many times the 2-bed rooms are reduced to private because of male/female issues or infection control.

Kevin Poorten said the State does not allow for projecting future growth and 100 beds was what they felt they could get through the State's regulation.

Mayor Mundy thanked the Kishwaukee Health System representatives for their presentation.

Mayor Mundy announced that Sycamore Boy Scout Troop 2 was in the audience.

Alderson Kessler reported that the County Board made an important decision at their last meeting regarding partial access on Peace Road for commercial development for Sycamore. She said she called all 24 Board members to ask for support. She asked that those Board members voting in favor of the access be recognized in the minutes. Those voting for the access were Marlene Allen, Jerry Augsbarger, Eileen Dubin, Steve Faivre, Eric Johnson, Pat LaVigne, Sue Leifheit, Steve Slack, Ruth Ann Tobias, Anita Turner, Jeff Whelan, Eric Johnson, Sally DeFauw, Richard Osborne, and those absent but in favor were Pat Very and Jeff Metzger.

Alderson Paulsen expressed concern that the sidewalk installation promised near the Middle School would not be completed by the first day of school. He also inquired about a large pothole in the parkway at apartments houses at 471-477 E. State Street and asked if the City would work with the owner to fill that hole.

Engineer Brady said some of the sidewalk at Maplewood and Rte. 23 was poured last week and the rest will be poured tomorrow. He said there has been a change in alignment that is delaying some of the sidewalk on North Main.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas thanked Alderson Kessler for her efforts with the County Board last week. He thanked Engineer Brady for getting Oakland Drive out to bid and will have the bid tab at the next meeting.

He said the French Market has been very successful and Discover Sycamore is looking to extend the stay of some of the vendors through October. He said they will use the retail space in the Sycamore Center over Pumpkin Fest.

Engineer – John Brady said Rockford Blacktop completed Phase I of the Oakland-Wirsing project. He said that 3 lanes are completed in the Bethany Road project with only center turn lanes left. He said the concrete work should be completed by Labor Day.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said he has just received the plan review for improvements at Lake Sycamore which will be an enhancement for the community. He also said he had recently talked with Tom Weaver about the need to complete the sidewalk on North Main.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported there would be a 9-11 ceremony at 7:30 a.m. at the Fire Station on September 11, 2005. He said the silent parade throughout the County would start at 1:00 p.m.

Treasurer – Brian Gregory said July financials are at the 25% benchmark and revenues are running at 28.5% and expenses are tracking just over 20%. He said this week he is expecting a management letter from the auditor.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said regarding the facility plan for the wastewater treatment plant, the engineers have reviewed all the data provided to them. He said right now the ecological study is being performed by a team of biologists walking up and down the Kishwaukee River. He said his staff is running some tests to save some money. He said once data is submitted to the Planning Section at the EPA level, it will be up to the EPA to provide them with the limits or any improvements any new plant or expansion would need to meet. He said the timing is good, because the ecological study must be performed in August.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said tomorrow and Wednesday they will be replacing a bad water valve at Edwards and Somonauk. He said Well #9 brickwork should be done by the end of the week and inside wall panels are going up. Superintendent Smith said 67,000,000 gallons of water were pumped in July compared to an average month of about 50,000,000. He said that is due to the dry weather and with the rain they are pumping 1 to 1.5 million gallons per day.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reminded everybody that school will start Thursday. He said they have all crossing guards hired and all 12 are ready to go. He thanked the Street Department for striping cross walks. Chief Thomas said there was some painting and egging vandalism over the weekend and asked the public to report any such activity.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance –no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water –no report

Streets & Walks – no report

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on the Proposed Annexation of Property at the Southeast Corner of Illinois Route 64 and Peace Road for Commercial Purposes.

Mayor Mundy opened the Public Hearing and hearing no public comment closed the hearing.

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2005.28—An Ordinance Revising the City Code of the City of Sycamore by Amending Section 3-2-8, “Term of License; Application and Transfer Fees; and Proration of Fee,” and Amending Section 3-2-10, “Transfer of License,” in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this ordinance clarifies some confusion in the language of the Liquor Code regarding when a license is terminated.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2005.28 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 present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2005.28 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

B. Ordinance No. 2005.30—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Naupaktos L.L.C. for an Annexation Agreement, Annexation and Rezoning to “C-3” Highway Business District for Property at the Southeast Corner of Illinois Route 64 and Peace Road. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this 3.479-acre parcel known as the Hove farmstead at the southeast corner of Illinois Rt. 64 and Peace Road. He said this is a shell annexation and when a development plan is eventually submitted some time after annexation, the developer will need to present a preliminary plan for the Plan Commission’s review and Council’s action. He listed the important features of the agreement as follows:

- a) The entire parcel would be zoned “C-3” Highway Business District upon annexation.
- b) Access to this parcel is from IL Route 64 only.
- c) As explained when the Council reviewed the Simon property annexation in June, the City will bring a sanitary sewer main extension from its present location about 1,400 feet west of Peace Road along the south right-of-way line of State Route 64 to the east line of the Subject Property. The cost of this sewer extension shall be borne by the City’s Sewer Impact fee Fund.
- d) The developer of this property shall have the right to connect to the 10” water main adjoining the north boundary of the site at its own expense.

- e) The owner or developer shall provide sidewalks along the south side of State Route 64 when the property is developed, but in no case later than five years from the date of annexation.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2005.30 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 present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2005.30 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Stowe, Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Maness, Paulsen, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

C. Ordinance No. 2005.31—An Ordinance Annexing the 3.479-Acre Property at the Southeast Corner of Illinois Route 64 and Peace Road in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2005.31 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Adee seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2005.31 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Stowe, Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Maness, Paulsen, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

D. Ordinance No. 2005.32—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Vacation of a Portion of an East-West Alley Adjoining the North Property Line of 346 Pleasant Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this is a platted, but unbuilt alleyway that adjoins the property at 346 Pleasant Street. He said the property has limited value except to the properties that abut it. He said the City has no intention of building this alley.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2005.32 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2005.32 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Stowe, Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Maness, Paulsen, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

E. Ordinance No. 2005.33—An Ordinance Authorizing a One-Year Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois to Provide Health Insurance for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas thanked Human Resource Director Jean Tritle for her work in soliciting a report from Blue Cross Blue Shield regarding claims and working with the employees and retirees in going over option for policies. He said he was happy to report that this year Blue Cross submitted the lowest renewal rate that our broker has ever seen for our group. He said low rate increase was based on the following considerations:

- The City had 8 large claims last year, five of which were still on-going.
- The City paid \$1,155,265.56 in premiums and incurred \$990,810.62 in claims expense, for a loss ratio of approximately 90%.
- Our utilization was down.
- The overall trend for rate increases was down at Blue Cross; our renewal came in at less than the current trend.
- The fact that we offered two new plan choices last year was a significant factor. Thirteen of our employees switched to HMO or Health Care Account (HCA) coverage, both of which had a considerably lower premium than that of the PPO plan. Also, any claims expenses paid from the Health Care Accounts were not added into the City's total claims expense which in turn helped to keep our loss ratio under 100%.

Human Resources Director Tritle said the Health Committee was proactive in their approach to health insurance. She said as of this morning 12 employees have signed up for the HSA program and 1 employee for the HMO program and that will create a savings in premiums.

Aldersperson Kessler commended Jean Tritle and the Committee for their work.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2005.33 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2005.33 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

F. Ordinance No. 2005.34—An Ordinance Authorizing a One-Year Agreement with the Principal Financial Group to provide Dental, Life and Short-Term Disability Insurance for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas thanked Jean Tritle again for all of her work. He said this year for the first time the City has been able to investigate some options for dental care.

Alderperson Kessler said that the City is offering this to employees at no cost and it is unusual to offer a benefit like this with no stipulation especially when it comes to union negotiation. She asked if the City would be able to withdraw this benefit without any consequences.

Mr. Nicklas said the cost of family coverage is the greatest cost and the City is not covering that. He said this benefit will make the City more attractive for good quality employees.

Alderperson Stowe said he remembered when the City offered health insurance when it was cheap and now we are paying some employees insurance to the grave.

Motion

Alderperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2005.34 on first and second reading and Alderperson Adee seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2005.34 and Alderperson Adee seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. Six Alderpersons voted aye with Alderperson Stowe voting nay. Motion carried 6 - 1.

RESOLUTIONS

None

CONSIDERATIONS

None

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Mundy appointed Jim Edwards to the Capital Development Board which governs a program call Art in Architecture that is occurring in the Armory. He said the position is volunteer with only expenses paid.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to accept the appointment and Alderson Knuth seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Mayor Mundy appointed Ron Bemis to fill Ken Campbell’s vacancy on the Library Board.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to accept the appointment and Alderson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Closed Session

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to go into Closed Session at 8:30 p.m. and Alderson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to return to Open Session at 8:47 p.m. and Alderson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. and Alderson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith