
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 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, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen and Chuck Stowe

INVOCATION

Father Timar of St. Mary's Catholic Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Mundy moved the Park District Consideration to follow Reports of Standing Committees and removed personnel from the Closed Session.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the amended agenda and Alderperson 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.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Peter Barick, 433 W. High St., expressed concern about the ordinances on the agenda regarding development totaling 262 new homes. He said just last Council meeting they approved 750 homes for B & B and now there are 262 units. He said he approved the change to the ordinance limiting building permits.

Mike Liszka, 470 Lincolnshire Dr., said he is concerned there is no open space or park area in condominium developments. He suggested that Wiseman-Hughes build the park on the final plat first.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of November 7, 2005.
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 21, 2005 in the amount of \$570,089.32.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 10, 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 voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Kessler said Kevin Wynn's subdivision on Coltonville Road has not blacktop and it is occupied.

Engineer Brady said it was supposed to be completed some time this week.

Aldersperson Maness said she hopes the corner of Somonauk and Bethany will be paved this week.

Mr. Brady said he is told it will be, but curbs will not be put in.

Aldersperson Maness said if it does not get paved, that will be a dangerous corner in the winter.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked if the pile of dirt on Maplewood Drive could be removed.

Mr. Brady said he thought Building Commissioner Doty had addressed that and he will check on that.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked for an update on Mt. Hunger Road.

Mr. Brady said the plans are going back and forth with IDOT and it is getting closer to approval.

Aldersperson Kessler thanked staff for their work on the Bethany Road Project.

Mayor Mundy said NIU will be playing its most important game they have played in a long time on Wednesday. He wished everyone a reflective Thanksgiving.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said the revised budget will be presented at the December 5th meeting. He said that a couple of speakers referred to development on the agenda and he explained that final plats reflect portions of preliminary plats that have already been annexed. He said that the units described have been in our assessment and our fiscal evaluations for a number of years.

Engineer – John Brady reported that the sanitary sewer on Oakland Drive project should be completed in two weeks.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said last year the City employees, Kiwanis, and the Fire Department collected about 200 toys for the Toys for Tots program and those containers are in the Sycamore Center and Public Safety Building.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the census takers will begin the door-to-door enumerating Wednesday. He said training and hiring will be ongoing in waves. He said that personal information is protected by federal law and he asked the residents to share that information. Mr. Gregory reported that the budget is at the 50% benchmark and revenues are at 57% and expenses are at 36%.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said that Wednesday will be the last day of the leaf pickup program. He said the Santa house has been placed in a new location at the coring of the parking lot on Somonauk and Elm Streets.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that the equipment had arrived for Well #5, the sand separator is in, the motor and pump should be installed the beginning of next week, and should be online by the end of next week. He said electrical work is being done at Well #9.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said that Thanksgiving is the most traveled holiday and asked that the public be careful and patient when driving. He also asked the public to call taxis, the Police Department, or friends for rides if they have been drinking.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance –no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water –no report

Streets & Walks – no report

B. Consideration of a Progress Report from the Sycamore Park District Regarding Cart Liquor Sales at the Sycamore Golf Course.

Park District Director David Peek said Council had received a letter summarizing the status of the cart liquor sales and he would address any concerns. He said the gross alcohol sales from July to the end of October totaled about \$8,900 and there were no reported incidents. He said this will help the golf course attract more outings which will create more revenue. He asked that the probation be removed.

Aldersperson Knuth asked if he had evidence of increased functions.

Mr. Peek said there was not evidence this year because most of those outings are booked through the winter months. He said he has heard from the patrons that the character of the golf course has not changed and it remains kid friendly. He said at an August golf outing 2 golfers tried to buy more than one beer, but the server would not sell each more than one and that was the end of it.

Mayor Mundy said the license would be renewable May 1, 2006 with all the other liquor licenses and he did not see why it would not be renewed.

Mr. Peek said he would like the probationary status removed because they will be booking outings this winter and will need to know if they can serve alcohol on the golf course next summer.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he did not have a problem with it and said he appreciated their professional management of it.

Consensus of Council was to renew the license May 2006.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2005.60—An Ordinance Replacing Ordinance 2003.65 with a New Framework to Manage the Pace of Residential Growth in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this is the new regulatory framework presented in ordinance form as discussed at the last meeting.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2005.60 on first and second reading 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2005.60 and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Knuth asked how many years the “average of 250 units per year” covered.

Manager Nicklas said the fiscal impact study went to 2015.

Voice Vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2005.61—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Chris Youssi for a Final Plat of Phase Four of the River Edge Condominium Development. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this is the fourth and final plat for the River Edge Condominium Development.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2005.61 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 voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2005.61 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.

C. Ordinance No. 2005.62—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Wiseman-Hughes Enterprises for a Final Plat of Unit 3 of the Reston Ponds Planned Unit Development. First and Second Reading.

Manager Nicklas said this is the final plat for the third and final phase of Reston Ponds. He said it depicts 190 single-family lots, and the final portion of the central park which will be completed in the spring.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2005.62 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 Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2005.62 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.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 464—Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Intergovernmental Agreement Recognizing the City of DeKalb as an Administrator of Public Transportation and Downstate Operating Assistance Program Funds.

Manager Nicklas explained that the City is a member of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) representing DeKalb County, along with DeKalb, Cortland, DeKalb County, NIU and IDOT. He said the City of DeKalb became eligible to participate in the Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) July 1, 2005. He said that DOAP reimburses agencies for up to 55% of their transit operating expenses. He said in FY06 DeKalb will work with the two transit providers in the DeKalb/Sycamore area – Voluntary Action Center and the Huskie Line - to underwrite more hours of operation, to market their services more assertively to the public, to update scheduling software and hardware, and to pursue more contract agreements with human service agencies that serve persons dependent upon public transit. In subsequent years, assuming the continuing financial support of the DOAP and the Huskie Line, the City of DeKalb will work toward an expansion of the Huskie Line’s “green line” to Sycamore.

Mayor Mundy said when he and DeKalb and Cortland and Genoa Mayors get together transportation issues are discussed and any help will be welcomed and appreciated.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 464 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler explained that TransVAC works to get people with disabilities to work thereby helping them stay employed and self-sufficient. She asked how the money is disbursed in the southern part of the County.

Manager Nicklas said it is disbursed only in the MPO area – going to the most populated area.

Aldersperson Kessler stated that the DeKalb County portion must be those areas that are not part of the City and Mr. Nicklas said that was correct.

Voice Vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the City of Sycamore's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2004-2005, Including the Independent Auditor's Report.

Dennis Hildebrandt of Siefert & Co., LLP noted that they did the audit 4 years ago and for years before that. He said there has been substantial improvement since the last time they did it. He went through some funds and balances. Mr. Hildebrandt said the City as a whole has a 34% debt to equity ratio and that is a good ratio. He said that lack of segregation of duties is listed in the internal control and compliance letter, but he does not have an audit that does not have that listed. He said it would be too costly to hire enough employees to comply, but the City has made controls to offset and minimize any risks.

Manager Nicklas said the Council votes on a budget with a cash bases because the accrual system would include assets that cannot be liquidated like roads and infrastructure. He said that internally Brian Gregory lead the audit.

Aldersperson Kessler asked if the City had a healthy emergency reserve.

Mr. Hildebrandt said the City is very healthy. He said a lot of borrowing has reserves built in for repairs and maintenance. He said the City is quite healthy and in a good position.

Mr. Nicklas said the general fund reserve of last year funded 52% of this year's expenditures. He said we could have more, but the taxpayer may feel the dollars are better off in their pockets. He said the Water and Sewer Fund reserves are built for specific large capital expenses like a new water tower and treatment plant capacity.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to accept the audit 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.

C. Consideration of a Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters and to Review Closed Session Minutes.

Motion

Aldersperson Leach moved to go into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to return to Open Session at 8:25 p.m. 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.

APPOINTMENTS

None

APPROVAL AND/OR RELEASE OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Closed Session Minutes of 4-4-05, 4-18-04, 8-22-05, AND 11-7-05 and to release Closed Session Minutes of 8-22-05 and Aldersperson Stowe 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 8:26 p.m. 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.

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith