

SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA
November 20, 2006

City Council Committee Meetings

6:30 P.M. Meeting of the Streets and Walks Committee. The committee will discuss the following topics:

1. a revision to Title 6, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Chapter 2, "Parking Regulations," Section 6-2-1, "No Parking Places," Subsection F, "Fire Hydrants" to prohibit parking at any curb within fifteen feet (15') of any *public* hydrant *on a public street or private street within the corporate limits (proposed revisions are italicized)*.
2. a revision to Title 6, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Chapter 2, "Parking Regulations," Section 6-2-7, "Parking After Snowfall," Subsection B, "Enforcement," to read: *After a two-inch (2") snowfall, the police department is hereby authorized to ticket, remove, and/or tow away any said vehicle or any other obstruction at the owner's expense; provided, however, if it is an overnight snowfall there will be no enforcement until 7:00 a.m.* The present city code language reads as follows: "After eight (8) hours after the two inch snowfall, the police department is hereby authorized to ticket, remove, and/or tow away any said vehicle or any other obstruction at the owner's expense."

Committee direction is requested. Ordinances 2006.46 and 2006.48 on this agenda address the issues raised in the background notes, above.

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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 November 6, 2006.
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 20, 2006.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of October 9, 2006.
- D. Budget Report.

7. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing Regarding the Implementation of a Conservation District in Downtown Sycamore.

This public hearing is an opportunity for interested persons to present testimony regarding the proposed "Conservation District" for the State Street corridor from Main Street to Sacramento Street. On October 2, the City Council reviewed the City Manager's proposal to create such a district in order to preserve the "look" of downtown facades for which the City has been extending renovation and remodeling grants for three years. Based on the Council's consensus in favor of such a district, an informational meeting was scheduled for November 2 involving all property owners and business owners associated with the properties abutting the State Street corridor between Sacramento Street and Main Street. Nearly all property owners and business owners attended that meeting. No objections to the concept were registered.

The action contemplated by the Council is the creation of a special review procedure for permit applications affecting the appearance of building facades within the Conservation District. The basic features of the proposed Conservation District are as follows:

1. The focus is the care and quality of the building facades along the State Street corridor, from Main Street to Sacramento Street. Rear facades or corner facades facing side streets are not included.
2. When an exterior improvement involving any State Street facade requires a building permit, the Building Department would forward the proposal to the City's Architectural Review Committee for additional review in an expeditious manner. Examples would include structural changes (sometimes involving doors or windows), electrical alterations, the trussing of a flat roof, the installation of a new sign, etc.
3. The Architectural Review Committee would have only an advisory role. It could make recommendations to the permit applicant that, in the committee's estimation, more clearly reflect the spirit of the overall downtown look or vision that was accepted by the City Council in December 2003. The Architectural Review

Committee would not have a role in reviewing improvements that do not need a City building permit, such as painting, routine siding or window repairs, etc.

An Ordinance creating such a special control district is on this agenda (Ordinance 2006.47).

11. ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2006.46—An Ordinance Amending Article 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 2, “Parking Regulations,” Section 6-2-1, “No Parking Places,” Subsection F, “Fire Hydrants” in the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

The Council’s Streets and Walks Committee will convene at 6:30 p.m. on November 20 to review several proposed revisions to Title 6 of the City Code. The attached ordinance contains a minor revision to the City’s on-street parking regulations to expressly prohibit parking at any curb within fifteen feet (15’) of any *public hydrant on a public street or private street within the corporate limits (proposed revisions are italicized)*. This change will make it easier for our police officers to enforce parking restrictions pertaining to public hydrants, and is recommended by the Police department. The Streets and Walks Committee will review the draft and report its findings to the Council at the top of this agenda.

City Council approval is recommended.

B. Ordinance No. 2006.47—An Ordinance Establishing a Downtown Conservation District in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

The concept of the proposed conservation district is explained in the “Public Hearing” portion of this agenda. The attached ordinance would institute a special advisory review process for permit applications affecting State Street facades from Main Street to Sacramento Street.

City Council approval is recommended.

C. Ordinance No. 2006.48—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 2, “Parking Regulations,” Section 6-2-7, “Parking After Snowfall,” Subsection B, “Enforcement,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Public Works Superintendent Fred Busse and Police Chief Don Thomas have recommended the attached ordinance draft, which will be considered by the Streets and Walks Committee at 6:30 p.m. on November 20. The draft reads as follows:

After a two-inch (2”) snowfall, the police department is hereby authorized to ticket, remove, and/or tow away any said vehicle or any other obstruction at the owner’s expense; provided, however, if it is an overnight snowfall there will be no enforcement until 7:00 a.m.”

The present city code language reads as follows: “After eight (8) hours after the two inch snowfall, the police department is hereby authorized to ticket, remove, and/or tow away any said vehicle or any other obstruction at the owner’s expense.” This change has been recommended to the Streets and Walks Committee for several reasons. First, for most

residents and visitors, the eight-hour rule is irrelevant. They are typically not aware of when the clock starts in terms of the two-inch snowfall. However, as in any snowbelt city, they can be reasonably certain when a snowfall exceeds two inches by their own observation and news reports. Further, they can be advised of the City's "two-inch" trigger for relocating vehicles by signage appropriately posted around the community.

Second, the removal of vehicles causing snow removal problems eight or more hours after a two-inch snowfall often prevents our public safety workers from addressing problems in a timely manner. In addition, it is not unusual for the eight-hour threshold to be reached at a time during the business day when the relocation of vehicles is more hazardous owing to the level of traffic.

City Council direction is recommended.

D. Ordinance No. 2006.49—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Dedication Plat for Roadway and Utility Purposes. First and Second Reading.

Ideal Industries has agreed to dedicate forty feet (40') of right-of-way north of the centerline of Bethany Road from the east line of the Farm Bureau property to the east line of Ideal's property adjoining the single family residence at 615 Bethany Road. This right-of-way will accommodate the ultimate widening of Bethany Road to a three-lane section.

The Plan Commission considered this plat at its last regular meeting of November 13 and recommended the Council's approval by a vote of 8-0. City Council approval of the Plan Commission recommendation is requested.

E. Ordinance No. 2006.50—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Final Plat for Unit 6 of the Sycamore Prairie Business Park. First and Second Reading.

The attached plat depicts a one-lot subdivision to provide a new Lot 30 in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park, immediately east of the Farm Bureau property. The 13.078-acre lot will be developed by Suter Foods, which will relocate warehouse space and some production space to the site.

The Plan Commission voted to approve the plat by a vote of 8-0 at its last regular meeting of November 13. City Council approval of the Plan Commission recommendation is requested.

12. RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 484—Relating to Participation by Elected Officials in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

Sycamore's IMRF field representative, Jon Renner, recently performed a routine compliance audit. He noted that the City maintains several standards for IMRF eligibility for part-time employees. In December 1998, the City Council raised the annual threshold for eligibility for all employees from 600 hours worked to 1,000 hours worked, in line with industry standards. However, the Council action did not include elected officials serving as

City Clerk or Mayor, who are considered part-time city employees. Mr. Renner recommended that the hourly standard for these two elected positions should be consistent with the standard for other city employees.

City Council approval is recommended.

B. Resolution No. 485—Granting a Utility License to DeKalb Fiber Optic, LLC to Install Below Ground Fiber Optic Facilities Within the City’s Public Rights-of-Way.

The attached resolution authorizes DeKalb Fiber Optic, LLC to install underground fiber optic cable and facilities within the City’s parkways, while providing an appropriate level of indemnity for the City in the event of damage to other infrastructure during or after installation. DeKalb Fiber Optic, represented by Cohen Barnes and Dan Halverson who are also the principal owners of TBC Net of DeKalb, have worked with NIU and the City of DeKalb to provide high-speed fiber optic loops serving governmental bodies and business entities in northern Illinois. They are presently working with the Sycamore School District to connect classrooms with remote networks providing technical information and high-speed media applications.

Fiber optic cable, in general, provides increased band width to pass vast amounts of information faster than other high-speed internet applications. For instance, downloading a feature-length movie at the very fastest broadband cable connection might take hours; the same download through a fiber optic connection might take 30 seconds. Doctors sending MRIs, CAT scans or any other data rich medical tests to consulting specialists at remote locations have to wait seconds rather than hours to ensure that their colleagues on the other end have received the images. Classrooms sharing three-dimensional models could experience similar, dramatic improvements in download times.

For the City of Sycamore, the value in permitting use of our rights-of-way—primarily our parkways—for the sending and receiving of such images is primarily found in the advantages for attracting research and development firms to key corridors that can be served by fiber optic cable, such as the Bethany Road and Peace Road corridors.

In exchange for the free use of the City’s rights-of-way, DeKalb Fiber Optic agrees to operate under the following requirements:

- Written consent by the city engineer for any construction projects;
- Maintenance of membership in J.U.L.I.E. to assure marking in advance of construction work by DeKalb Fiber, and also to assure other utilities that Fiber Optic’s underground cable and other appurtenances will be marked by an authorized locating company;
- An obligation to begin restoration of the city’s parkways within five (5) days following the completion of any construction;
- Compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations regarding construction quality;
- Indemnification of the City against claims for loss of life and injury to persons or property during operations in the public ways;

- Listing of the City as an additional insured for any liabilities;
- Holding the City harmless in the event of any liens filed by subcontractors or providers;
- Non-exclusive access to the City rights-of-way. Other fiber optic installers agreeing to the same provisions and limitations would have the opportunity, at the City's sole discretion, to enter into similar arrangements with the City;
- To host the City's web site at no charge;
- To provide electronic mail routing services for "cityofsycamore.com";
- To provide free access to four (4) fiber strands in their fiber optic system for the purpose of affording high speed internet access to such city facilities as the City may designate. It is understood that the City would pay reasonable costs for the installation of such strands, but that no charges shall be assessed to the City for their use.

City Council approval is recommended.

13. CONSIDERATIONS--None

14. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

15. APPOINTMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT