
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2006**

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Pastor William Best of Bethel Assembly of God gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the 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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of February 6, 2006.
- B. Payment of the Bills for February 20, 2006 in the amount of \$208,190.96.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the regular Meeting of January 9, 2006.
- D. Monthly Budget Report for February, 2006.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Bauer said he would like to bring back the issue of some form of smoking regulation in restaurants. He said he thought the intent of his earlier suggestion was misunderstood as a citywide ban. He said the excuse of being unable to compete does not hold water since DeKalb has done the right thing by passing smoking regulation in restaurants and protecting the rights of the people. He said he would like Council to be proactive and protect the residents.

Alderperson Kessler asked Alderperson Bauer what direction he was looking for.

Alderperson Bauer said the Council should deliberate either in committee or as a committee of the whole to arrive at some form of compromise.

Mayor Mundy said the committee structure is in place, but he did not want to take any action at this point. He asked for other Council member input.

Alderson Leach said before she did not want us to be an island economically, but would be willing to revisit the issue.

Alderson Adee said she would like to revisit the issue.

Alderson Stowe said he would like to see what happens in DeKalb first.

Alderson Maness said she would like to take time to talk to the businesses.

Alderson Leach said there is already a statement from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Mundy said he spoke with DeKalb's Mayor and Manager and they have a handful of smoke-free restaurants. He said Sycamore has 13 smoke-free restaurants. Mayor Mundy said he thought Sycamore should take its time and asked the press's assistance to get the word out for feedback. He said he is not ready to go to committee.

Mayor Mundy said it is Black History Month and he had attended a Martin Luther King essay contest award ceremony at the Courthouse. He said he would be part of a panel discussion on diversity on WLBK Thursday.

- A. The Sycamore Economic Development Commission will spotlight the Kishwaukee Education Consortium. Dean Cople will introduce Bruce Griffith who will describe the consortium's members and programs.

Bruce Griffith, Work Coordinator and Special Products Coordinator for KEC, said this is a consortium with 5 high schools: DeKalb, Sycamore, Rochelle, Genoa, and Kirkland. He said the KEC was formed in 1984 because they could offer 16 different programs those schools could not find enrollment for or the staff to teach. He said they offer vocational programs to 500 juniors and seniors from those 5 schools. He said there is a staff of 54: 20 in the vocational program and 34 in the at-risk program. He said the at-risk program ranges from 7th to 12th grade and enrolls about 150 students. Mr. Griffith presented a power-point program that represented the programs in which the students can earn college credit. He thanked Sycamore for the opportunities they have given the students who are building houses and for offering Fire Science instruction. Mr. Griffith had 11 Fire Science students introduce themselves to Council.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reported that Water Superintendent Ebe Smith was absent because he was helping Bryan Carlson of the Water Department whose house burned down earlier today. Mr. Nicklas said before the water and sewer impact fee discussion he wanted to clarify the difference between user fees and impact fees.

Engineer – John Brady said the Oakland Drive project has been held up because of cold weather and will resume next month.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty asked for Council's support for Ordinance 2005.85.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said he appreciated the hard work of the firefighters performing the Fire Science instruction and he said the enthusiasm of the students was good to have around the Fire Station.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported the January financials were at the 75% benchmark and revenues were tracking at 84% and disbursements at 64%. He said the census fieldwork is completed and came in under budget.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said because they are reviewing the facility plan there are some pretty concrete numbers for considering the increase in sewer impact fees.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report.

Police Lieutenant – Cary Singer reported that the Police Department will be undergoing prison training which is the most sophisticated computerized “shoot don’t shoot” situation for field training. He invited interested Council members to sign up for the training.

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. 2005.85—An Ordinance Amending Title 9, “Building Regulations,” Chapter 2, “Building Codes,” Section 4, “Building Permit Fees,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore to Establish a Re-Inspection Fee. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that Building Commissioner Lyle Doty recommended the re-inspection fee to attempt to break some contractors’ chronic pattern of scheduling inspections without being prepared.

Aldersperson Knuth asked if \$50 was enough.

Building Commissioner Doty said part of the process is going to the Clerk’s office to pay the re-inspection fee before scheduling any more inspections. He said he felt the inconvenience would be enough to get their attention.

Aldersperson Bauer said he thought \$150 would be more appropriate, but he would stand by Building Commissioner Doty’s recommendation.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2005.85 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 Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2005.85 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2005.86—An Ordinance Purchasing Additional Right-of-Way at the Intersection of Woodgate Drive and Peace Road in the City of Sycamore. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this .0757-acre parcel of land was overlooked by both County and City officials when the intersection was created on Peace Road. He said that County Treasurer Christine Johnson has asked if the City might accept the conveyance for inclusion in the Woodgate Drive right-of-way.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2005.86 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 voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2005.86 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.

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation to Pass Along the Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment for the Residential Refuse Fee.

City Manager Nicklas explained that until 2001 the City subsidized the cost of refuse collection. He said in 2002 the refuse fee increased from \$7 per month to \$10 per month to remove that subsidy and each year tied the increase to a cost-of-living adjustment based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor. He said the current monthly residential refuse fee is \$14.54 and since January 2006 the cost has increased to \$15.08. He recommended passing along the 54-cent monthly increase on the April water bills.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to increase the residential refuse fee to \$15.08 per month beginning with the April 2006 bill and Alderperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Alderperson Kessler said she thought we were getting a lot of bang for our buck and was pleased with Waster Management’s service.

Voice Vote

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

B. Consideration of a Preliminary Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009.

City Manager Nicklas explained that each February staff proposes capital projects three years out. He reviewed the highlights of the 3-year plan as follows:

FY07 Highlights (May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007—Total of \$2,537,502):

- Engineering study for Water Tower #2: \$25,000.
- Engineering for Phase I of the treatment plant expansion: \$330,000.
- Sidewalk replacement (in addition to the Building department's annual sidewalk replacement program): \$100,000.
- Installation of radium treatment equipment at Wells 6, 8, and 9: \$1,325,000.
- Further demolition at the Harvester Square complex: \$200,000.
- Funding of the engineering and grading for the Peace Road bike path from Bethany Road to IL. Rt. 64: \$105,000.
- Vehicle and equipment replacement including a used SUV in the Building department, a new backhoe, three police squad replacements, and a large dump truck: \$291,434.

FY08 Highlights (May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008—Total of \$10,796,300):

- Construction of Water Tower #2 and related mains: \$3,000,000.
- Construction of Phase I improvements at treatment plant: \$6,171,000.
- Sidewalk replacement (in addition to Building department's annual sidewalk replacement program): \$150,000.
- Reconstruction of California Street from Elm to West State: \$850,000.
- Completion of architectural and engineering plans for Fire Station #2: \$200,000.
- Installation of surface and seeding for Peace Road bike path from Bethany Road to IL Rt. 64: \$105,000.
- Replacement of ambulance: \$110,000.
- Vehicle and equipment replacement including two Police squads, a used SUV in the Engineering department, a used bucket truck, a street sweeper, new air packs, etc.: \$291,300.

FY09 Highlights (May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009—Total of \$11,252,000):

- Construction and engineering for Phase II of the treatment plant expansion: \$6,032,000.
- Construction of Fire Station #2: \$2,500,000.
- Reconstruction of Locust Street from Exchange Street to Sycamore Street: \$275,000.
- Reconstruction of South Main Street from Elm to State: \$500,000.
- Reconstruction of State Street from Main to Locust: \$200,000.
- Sidewalk replacement (in addition to the Building department's annual sidewalk replacement program): \$150,000.
- General street maintenance (in addition to the annual \$200,000 Engineering program): \$300,000.

Mr. Nicklas said Public Works Superintendent Fred Busse prepared a handout illustrating the normal flows of the existing treatment plant and Phase I and Phase 2 improvements.

Superintendent Busse said they will be increasing the flow of the wastewater treatment plant by 2 million gallons per day. He said Phase I would incorporate some kind of mechanical dewatering plus a building to house that. He said they are looking at some type of housing for the dewatered sludge, but there will be a reduction of sludge needing dewatered by 50%. He said he would have a video available for council to view.

Mr. Nicklas said there was an over \$24,000,000 program over the next three years. He said this is still \$4.7 million short of the total capital wish list. He said this is the most substantial capital program ever proposed in Sycamore and he proposes doing this. He proposed this be done without increasing property taxes, but 1 bond is proposed to cover the downtown street projects. He said a good portion of the sewer plant upgrade

and expansion will be paid with sewer impact fees and \$2 million of the \$3 million for the water tower will come from water impact fees.

Alderson Knuth asked how to make up the \$4.2 million without raising taxes.

Mr. Nicklas said that is the distance between what we have the finances for and the wish list is that we cannot get it all done. He said we would have to wait for more revenues for some of the items.

Mayor Mundy said the FY08 and FY09 projects are the future part of a plan, but the FY07 projects will need to be adopted for the FY07 budget.

Mr. Nicklas said that three-fourths of the gap was Bethany Road reconstruction from Peace to Somonauk.

Alderson Knuth expressed concern about pushing back the little things that matter to the people like sidewalk repair.

Mr. Nicklas said he did not see that falling off the list and he budgets pretty conservatively so there should be funds to take that on.

Mayor Mundy said there were sidewalk extension delays on the east and west ends of town and asked if they would still be done.

Mr. Nicklas said that was allocated out of bond money and would be completed.

Alderson Bauer asked when the water tower was painted last.

City Engineer Brady said it was last painted in 1987.

Alderson Bauer asked about the warning sirens.

Mr. Nicklas said they are reviewed every year.

Consensus of Council was to move forward with the Capital Plan.

C. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation for a Proportional Increase in the City's Water and Sewer Impact Fees.

City Manager Nicklas explained the difference between user fees and impact fees. He said the proposed impact fees would not appear on anybody's water bill because they could not be used for operations only for brick and mortar. He said they have been stockpiling impact fees for future projects. He said the water impact fees are tied to the additional water tower and an additional well near the water tower. He said the sewer impact fees are tied to the additional capacity at the wastewater treatment facility. He proposed increasing the water impact fee from \$299 per person per unit to \$352 per person per unit. He proposed increasing sewer impact fees from \$500 per person per unit to \$630 per person per unit.

Mayor Mundy said he remembered when there were no impact fees and he appreciated how Mr. Nicklas looks ahead so the City has funds on hand for large projects.

Mr. Nicklas said a well has just been built and we are in contact with the same companies that build water towers so now is the time to do this when we are at the best point to understand what the current pricing is

because later we would have to hire somebody to help us discern that information. He said he got the background information to the DeKalb County Building and Development Association and invited them to the public hearing that will be held.

Aldersperson Stowe said he remembered people saying impact fees would not cover the cost of a water tower and it looks like water impact fees and what we have in reserve will cover it. He said he thought the increases were justifiable.

Aldersperson Maness said Mr. Nicklas needs to be commended that the fees have not only been fair to the taxpayers, but fair to the builders.

Consensus of Council was to bring this back in ordinance form.

D. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to go into Closed Session at 8:30 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.

Aldersperson Kessler excused herself from Closed Session because the discussion was about IAFF collective bargaining and her husband is a firefighter.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to return to Open Session at 8:50 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 7 - 0.

APPOINTMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and Aldersperson Adey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith