
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2006

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

Pastor William Bridgewater of the Israel of God Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Leach moved to approve the agenda 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.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of April 17, 2006.
- B. Payment of the Bills for May 1, 2006 in the amount of \$1,742,404.69.

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.

Chief Riddle said the retirement, after 30 years of service, of Assistant Chief Niewold, has created two positions for promotions. City Clerk Candy Smith swore in Fire Lieutenant Turner and Assistant Fire Chief Kessler.

- A. Introduction of new Fire Lieutenant Todd Turner.

Chief Riddle said Lt. Turner has 22 years of service with the Sycamore Fire Department. Lt. Turner introduced his wife, 2 children, parents, in-laws, and sister.

- B. Introduction of new Assistant Fire Chief Mark Kessler.

Chief Riddle said Assistant Fire Chief Kessler is a 21-year veteran of Sycamore Fire Department and has been a lieutenant for 10 years.

Chief Riddle said each of the two firefighters have earned these promotions. He said the promotions don't come often and they don't come easy.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas thanked all the firefighters and officers for attending the swearing in ceremony. He said that Assistant City Manager Gregory will give a report on the special census results. He said the bills included the fiscal year-end bills. He said Friday at a luncheon at NIU Intern Ryan Kelly was inducted into the honor society Pi Alpha Alpha and Assistant City Manager Brian Gregory, 2003 Intern of the Year, was honored as Supervisor of the Year.

Engineer – John Brady reported that after the awarding of the bid for Building Additions to Wells 6 & 8 at a special council meeting April 24th, he sent documents to the IEPA and expects the loan agreement back by the June 5th meeting.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty reported that permitting for the 1st quarter of 2006 is down 15 detached single-family homes and down 29 total dwelling units from the 2005 numbers.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported the SFD sandbox fill will take place May 20 and those interested in having sand delivered should call the department to order. Chief Riddle said the KEC High School students competed in the VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) State finals in Springfield Friday and Sycamore's Mike Hardesty placed 1st, Matt Anderson placed 3rd and Paul Green placed 6th. He said that Firefighter Reynolds and Assistant Chief Niewold helped the students prepare for the competition.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the certified census number as of November 23, 2005 is 14,866. He said it will mean about \$303,719 for FY2007. Mr. Gregory also reported that he and Mr. Nicklas interviewed Intern candidates and it looks like the first choice candidate is going to accept the position and will begin in the fall.

City Manager Nicklas said the population increased about 4% per year for the past 5 years and the average number of people per household decreased from 2.43 to 2.3.

Aldersperson Kessler asked the cost of the special census.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manger Gregory said he estimated \$202,000 and \$220,000 was budgeted.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said their quest for wastewater plant of the year was not realized, but it was an honor to be nominated. Superintendent Busse thanked the 3rd grade class from Cornerstone Christian Academy for planting a tree for Arbor Day. He said that finalizes the requirements needed to qualify for Tree City USA.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported that Rob Rosenberg officially retired today after 25 years of service. He said his replacement, Rudy Ziegler, started solo this week and new office Stacy Safranek started today and will go to PTI next week for 3 months.

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. 2006.01—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.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this and the following 2 ordinances are not inclusive of the additional \$10,000 on consideration later in the meeting.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2006.01 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 Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.01 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.

B. Ordinance No. 2006.02—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.

City Manager Nicklas said this organization began in 1994 and this grant fulfills the commitment made in 1994 by the City of Sycamore to help offset the overhead or administrative costs.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinances 2006.02 and 2006.03 in omnibus fashion 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 Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2006.02 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.

C. Ordinance No. 2006.03—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.

Ellen Rogers, Voluntary Action Center, thanked Council for Sycamore's support and informed them that their need is growing with the impact of rising costs and increased population. She said, regarding the money received through the MPO, VAC has just presented to the City of DeKalb their proposed service for next year and in that is bus service connecting Sycamore and DeKalb and connecting various resources within Sycamore and she said that will not be accomplished without local match. She said as Council visits other requests she hopes they will give serious consideration to the increase in allocation to VAC. She said Sycamore has been an important partner over the last 16 years.

Roger Hopkins apologized for being late to talk about DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation. He explained that DCEDC helps Sycamore manage its industrial tax base and insure the recruitment, attraction and retention of businesses in Sycamore. He said they are working to enhance Sycamore Prairie Business Park and the Thanks America industrial parks. Mr. Hopkins said Trittenhaus Design has just completed a new marketing brochure for DCEDC which will be used to promote the area. He said they are also looking for an increase in contributions and would ultimately like for communities to donate \$1 per person.

Aldersperson Kessler asked the number and nature of inquiries DCEDC receives and asked how Council could help.

Mr. Hopkins said the City could help and is helping with infrastructure, incentives and creating the right business climate.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2006.03 and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler said the services offered through VAC allowing our handicapped citizens to be as independent as possible is something she is proud to support.

Voice Vote

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

D. Ordinance No. 2006.04—An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas described the amendments as follows:

- Revise the Water Fund revenue page to show a reserve transfer of \$309,600 to Fund 25 (see attached).
- Revise Fund 25 (i.e. create a line item "25-3742: Reserve Transfer—Water Fund") to reflect the additional revenue resulting from the interfund transfer (see attached spreadsheets).

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2006.04 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 Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2006.04 and Alderperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Roll Vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 9 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS - None**CONSIDERATIONS****A. Consideration of the FY07 Downtown Improvement Grant Program**

City Manager Nicklas said \$20,000 has been allocated in the FY2007 budget. He said the applications will be processed in June by the Architectural Review Committee and then presented to Council for approval.

The consensus of Council was to "go for it."

B. Consideration of a Proposed Community Development Grant Program.

City Manager Nicklas explained he had put together a packet to try to describe the purpose of the program for the support of local social and community development agencies. He said if the documents are acceptable, a request for applications can be sent to a local newspaper, and packets can be mailed to agencies which have previously expressed interest in Sycamore's financial support, either formally or informally. At the end of the application period, Mr. Nicklas said he would forward all grant applications to the Council's Finance Committee for review and recommendation to the full Council in June.

Alderperson Kessler asked if the social services would be directly related to our citizens.

Mr. Nicklas said the categories are pretty broad, but he would welcome discussion about being more exclusive or more inclusive.

Alderperson Kessler said she would like to be able to show where the dollars would go directly to our citizens for the community development portion.

Mr. Nicklas said the application asks the agency to show how the dollars will be spent.

Alderperson Kessler said the economic and arts & culture categories are not as easy to show how the dollars will be spent on our citizens. She expressed concern about granting money to the Midwest Museum because it would mean money going to another taxing body since they have been turned over to the Park District. She said the City donated \$100,000 to the Midwest Museum for the roof. She said the Historical District is a separate entity.

Alderperson Adee said the seniors who were using the Community Center have been displaced and have been cheated out of a gathering place and nothing has been provided for seniors since.

Mr. Nicklas said he was trying to create general categories to embrace the types of applications that are known.

Aldersperson Leach said that she thought another bullet might be needed to include senior services.

Aldersperson Kessler said she wanted early childhood included, as well. She thought it would be beneficial to create a community development brochure touting Sycamore for Mr. Hopkins to distribute through DCEDC.

Aldersperson Stowe said those applying will know how to stretch the categories. He said there is not much money to work with and Council will have to make the best decision they can.

Mayor Mundy asked Mr. Nicklas to add seniors and early child care to the categories.

Mr. Nicklas asked if he should proceed with those changes.

Consensus of Council was to move forward with the packets.

Mr. Nicklas said when the Community Center closed after VAC no longer supported the meals, what was left of the core group of seniors meeting there seemed to dissolve. He said there seems to be a lack of organization for seniors.

Ellen Rogers, VAC, said the Area Agency of Aging is located in Rockford and withdrew funding to senior center funding and it is difficult to get a senior center going. She said DeKalb is struggling without the meal program. She said they left because the condition of the Community Center building was not safe.

Mayor Mundy said the City, through benign neglect, allowed the building to “slip away.”

Aldersperson Kessler said the Community Center got seniors out of their homes to socialize. She said the City should be aware of this and look for opportunities to address this.

C. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to go into Closed Session at 8:20 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer 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

Action on personnel discussion from Closed Session.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved, contingent upon a resignation in the Police Department, to authorize the City Manager to contact the Fire and Police Commission about a replacement 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 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.

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith