
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 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

Deacon Chuck Ridulph of the Senior Christian Ministry Program gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Maness 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 July 17, 2006.
- B. Payment of the Bills for August 7, 2006 in the amount of \$1,826,554.79.
- C. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes for the Meeting of May 23, 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.

- A. Sycamore Economic Development Commission member Pete Paulsen will introduce Carl Peterson of Encap at 1709 Afton Road, who will describe his firm's services.

Carl Peterson said Encap primarily focuses on water quality issues that come with land development. He said they work on the sight identifying natural resources that need to be protected, controlling erosion issues, and installing landscaping and other site features that help treat water after rain events. He said they have been in business in the DeKalb area since 1974 and chose to move to Sycamore because it is the County seat and has strong leadership.

Alderperson Maness asked Engineer John Brady if the east leg of the intersection at Bethany & Somonauk would be brought up to specifications soon.

Mr. Brady said it has been J.U.L.I.E.D. and he has a meeting with them tomorrow regarding storm sewer work.

Mayor Mundy commended Douglas Newman for achieving Eagle Scout. He announced there will be a Veteran's Fair at Kishwaukee College Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

B. Presentation of an Appreciation from the KEC Class of 2006.

KEC graduates Mike Hardesty and Shawn Warren presented the City with a plaque of appreciation for the Fire Science Program.

C. Proclamation Declaring September 8 and September 9, 2006 as Lions Candy Days in Sycamore, Illinois.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas introduced the City's new MPA intern Adam Orton. He said he is a recent graduate of University of Illinois and will start the MPA program this month.

Engineer – John Brady said the next step for the wastewater facility improvement is to update the facility planning boundary area. He said he has published the legal description in the Daily Chronicle on August 8th and August 9th and most of the area is north and totals about 2700 acres. He said there is a 30-day comment period and hopefully will come back in 45 days to get the facility plan boundary approved.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said because of Well #9 the damage was limited to three houses at the fire last week. He said there was plenty of water to fight the fire. Chief Riddle said 30 years ago Sycamore started ambulance service.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said since the Transfer Tax was started June 1st the Finance Office has issued 133 stamps, 27 of which were exempt, totaling \$169,740. He said Wednesday the State will come out to audit the Motor Fuel Tax.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse – no report

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said because of the fire last week they experienced two watermain breaks and he thanked his staff and Public Works for their work repairing those watermains in the heat. He said Well #5's motor has been repaired and should be back on line by next week.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said the Police Department received a \$12,000 grant from the Federal Government and the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority to buy mobile data terminals for the squad cars. He said it is a device to hook up to the Secretary of State in the dispatch center. He reminded everybody that the cooling stations are the Library and the Sycamore Center during business hours and the Public Safety Building after hours or if the power was off.

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. 2006.17—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.

City Manager Nicklas explained the premium year runs from September 1 through August 31 and this year six requests for proposals were sent out and six declinations were received. He said this past year's claims experience was 94% as opposed to the previous year's claims experience of 150% and the premium increase will be 7%. Mr. Nicklas commended Human Resource Director Jean Tritle, in attendance at the meeting, for her work in preparing the requests for proposals and the background for this ordinance. He recommended continuing with Blue Cross Blue Shield's 3-plan health insurance and the dental insurance and adding the vision care benefit.

Aldersperson Kessler inquired if the vision would pay for lenses and contacts at the same appointment and Jean Tritle said she would find out.

Aldersperson Kessler said she thought the vision benefit was great, but as with the dental she was concerned if the unions were aware that if the premiums increased greatly the benefits might go away.

Mr. Nicklas said that has been made clear at the Health Committee meetings.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2006.17 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 Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2006.17 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2006.18—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals With Regard to the Petition of Derek and Deanna Carls of 915 Albert Avenue for a Variance from Section 6.2.1.C.2.a of the Unified Development Ordinance. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this petition was considered at the July 25th Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. He said the proposed garage on the Carls property is 1 foot from the side lot line and because of the odd angle of the lot line a garage that would be square with their house would have to be set further away from the side lot at the front line in order to make the back corner conforming.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2006.18 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 2006.18 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 472—Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Professional Services Contract with the Daley Policy Group for Legislative Assistance in Securing Federal Funds for Capital Projects in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

City Manager Nicklas said that Patty Daley, Principal with the Daley Policy Group, was in attendance for discussion. He said this resolution will extend a contract with the Daley Policy Group that will help make our legislatures aware of our City’s needs. He said the projects the City is having the Daley Policy Group pursue funds for are the Harvester Square Brownfield Site, Bethany Road reconstruction from Peace Road to Somonauk Street, California Street reconstruction from Exchange to Elm, and Peace Road Bikepath from Bethany Road to IL. Route 64.

Aldersperson Leach asked if because Ms. Daley also represents DeKalb, how she would handle a situation where the two Cities were vying for the same dollars.

Patty Daley explained that each city provides their own priority list and so far she has not run into two cities going after the same dollars.

Aldersperson Kessler asked if there is a time of year when the list needs to be turned in and also if our planning year is in line with the federal planning year.

Ms. Daley said the new fiscal year begins October 1, but this has been an unusual 10 years of trying to get Congress on schedule. She said that this year with earmark reform and shrinking of the budget, there is more competition at the local level. She said she is working with Mr. Nicklas and the Department Heads to look at the priority lists to get them in queue so that we can hopefully secure some of those funds and position them strategically within the federal budget so we can get some federal funding.

Aldersperson Kessler asked Ms. Daley if she could foresee funding for our projects in this budget in light of military funding.

Ms. Daley said there is a reduction in every agency and the President has made it clear that funding will go to defense and the military. She said this year they are still finishing up budget negotiations and bills are sitting in conference and most likely any understanding of what will be available will not be revealed until after the November election.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Resolution 472 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Award a Contract for a Replacement Pickup Truck to Dennison Corporation of Bloomington, Illinois.

City Manager Nicklas explained that just before going on vacation Public Works Superintendent Busse opened bids and Dennison Corporation had the low bid of \$15,059.

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to award the contract to Dennison Corporation for \$15,059 and Alderson Bauer seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Consideration of a Recommendation from the City Engineer Regarding the Bids for the 2006 Street Maintenance Program.

City Manager Nicklas said the bids were opened earlier in the day and the low bid of Peter Baker & Son for \$222,102.95 came in about \$22,000 over budget. He recommended making up the difference out of the Sales Tax Distributive Fund.

Alderson Paulsen said he was glad to see Becker Place and Brickville Road up for repair and also expressed some concern that the Freed & Brickville patches should be done by the developer.

City Engineer John Brady said that was done in 2002 and they are beyond the 1-year warranty.

Alderson Maness said that since Wards 2 & 4 are getting all the repairs, she hopes to see Wards 1 & 3 represented in the 2007 budget.

Motion

Alderson Paulsen moved to award the contract to Peter Baker & Son for \$222,102.95 and Alderson Leach seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

C. Consideration of a Contract with FGM Architects for the Architectural Plans and Specifications Associated with a Second Fire Station.

City Manager Nicklas welcomed Andy Jasek of FGM Architects. Mr. Nicklas noted that in 2005 the maximum cost was estimated to be under \$2.5 million and one year later is now estimated at between \$2.5 million and \$2.9 million. He said the cost has jumped from \$175/square foot to \$225/square foot which does not include engineering and furnishing costs. Mr. Nicklas said the General Fund reserve has been identified as the funding source and the unofficial estimate of the reserve as of May 1, 2006 is about \$6 million. He said \$1.9 million will need to be set aside to cover all accrued leave obligations, \$1 million has been set aside each fiscal

year for emergency purposes, and the remaining unrestricted reserve of \$3.1 million will be just enough to build Fire Station 2. He reminded Council that the Sycamore Center was purchased with General Fund reserve dollars and proposed following the same path which is not without risk because there could always be a disaster or series of major events. He said he thought this was a measured risk and a sound financial step to take and felt it was important to consider this now as the cost of building the station increases with the steady inflation in building materials.

Aldersperson Maness asked if Frantum Road would be under construction from Peace to North Grove Road the same time as the Fire Station.

Mr. Nicklas said Frantum Road would be development driven, but would be constructed to the City's driveway.

Aldersperson Kessler asked about the timeline.

Mr. Nicklas said if the Council supports the contract, they will get it executed this week and go to bid February 2007, break ground April 2007, and if all goes well open the Fire Station November 2007.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to accept the recommendation to proceed with the contract with FGM for the second fire station and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Mundy said that Midwest Museum Director Chris Brodnicki had given him a letter he'd received from a guest praising the Museum and their staff.

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 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