
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 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, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, and Chuck Stowe. Alderperson Darren Knuth was absent.

INVOCATION

Father Timar of the Church of St. Mary 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 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Ryan Severson, 116 Kerr Street, a student from the Middle School, gave Mayor Mundy a thank you card from Team Intrepid thanking him for taking the time to speak with the team.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 16, 2006.
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Workshop Meeting of October 16, 2006;
- C. Payment of the Bills for November 6, 2006 in the amount of \$2,082,363.00.

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 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Mayor Mundy introduced a Boy Scout Den from Troop 140 that meets at St. Mary's and thanked them for attending the meeting. Mayor Mundy reported that Friday at 5:00 p.m. the Veteran's Day 24-hour vigil would begin.

- A. Proclamation Congratulating Phyllis Kelly, DeKalb County Historian, who is the recipient of the 2006 Studs Terkel Humanitarian Service Award presented by the Illinois Humanities Council.

Mayor Mundy read the proclamation and presented the Studs Terkel Award to Phyllis Kelly with DeKalb County Board President Ruth Ann Tobias and DeKalb Mayor Frank Van Buer at his side.

Phyllis Kelly thanked the volunteers that work with her, and Library Director Sarah Tobias and staff, and the DeKalb County Board who have always been behind her.

- B. Introduction of new Police officers, Cheryl Senne and Stacy Safranek, who have completed their supervised field training.

Chief Don Thomas explained that Officers Senne and Safranek have both completed their training and are now on solo patrol. He said that Officer Stacy Safranek attended Belvidere High School, earned a Bachelor in History at Western, and is now working on her Master's Degree. He said she completed the Police Training Institute July 2006 and received the physical fitness award as the number 1 female recruit in fitness. Chief Thomas said Officer Cheryl Senne was born in Geneva, IL and lives in Sycamore with her husband who is an Elgin police officer. He said Officer Senne earned her Bachelor Degree at Western and worked as a police officer in Bensenville and Lake in the Hills before coming to Sycamore.

Aldersperson Leach said the 4th Ward has completed checking the street widths and they are all compliant with parking regulations.

Aldersperson Bauer said that Sycamore just passed an ordinance to eliminate debris in the parkway that might end up in the sewers and he is seeing more leaves in the street than on the parkway. He said he thought it was an educational situation and said that something should be done to inform the residents.

City Manager Nicklas said this is a challenge every year and asked the media for their help informing the residents about raking the leaves onto their parkways and not into the street.

Aldersperson Kessler said she has received a call regarding semis on Ellen Street and that is being addressed by City Manager Nicklas and Superintendent Busse. She said she met with Mr. Busse and Mr. Nicklas to discuss streets and called a Streets & Walks Committee meeting for the November 20 meeting at 6:30 to discuss parking during snowfalls and fire hydrant parking. She also said that Sycamore was well represented at the Ben Gordon Dodge Ball Tournament.

Aldersperson Paulsen thanked Engineer John Brady for keeping on top of the work on Route 23.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas commended Phyllis Kelly for the work she has done as historian.

Engineer – John Brady reported that Sycamore Creek Phase II, Primm Prairie commercial division, and the Sycamore Crossings project should have the underground completed by winter.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty reported that the building at Midland's Court that suffered wind damage will be taken down and rebuilt from the foundation.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported that the build plate for the new fire engine is ready to be mounted. He also reported that over 2500 kids have been through fire safety schooling since October 2, 2006.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said he had distributed compiled demographics of the 2005 Special Census as compared to the 2000 Census. He said that Intern Adam Orten compiled the data.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse thanked Aldersperson Bauer for bringing to light the problem of raking leaves into the street. He said there are two crews out picking up leaves. Superintendent Busse said they would place signs directing trucks to May Street to Suter's and also no trucks allowed signs on the entrance to Ellen

Street. He also highlighted articles about Mechanic Roger Haeffner and the street garage in a national publication that deals with distribution of parts and equipment for fleet managers.

Mayor Mundy thanked Superintendent Busse for his work cleaning up before and after Pumpkin Fest.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said the GPS mapping system has been updated to reflect all new development through October and they will be creating new map books.

Police Chief – Don Thomas thanked Council for the warm reception given to the new officers.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report.

Ordinance –no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – Chairperson Kessler called a committee meeting for 6:30 on November 20, 2006.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2006.44—An Ordinance Amending the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that the budget originally approved on April 17, 2006 has been revised to replace estimated year-end numbers for FY2005-2006 with actual audited numbers, and to update spending in the FY2007 budget in line with Council direction. He listed the more important changes as follows:

- Fund 1, “General Fund.” Operational spending has been increased by \$10,000 to accommodate the advanced hiring of a new police officer, previously scheduled for May 1, 2007. This hiring is prompted by the military deployment of patrol officer Ann Carlson to Germany for about one year. On October 16, 2006 the City Council determined that the advanced hiring of an officer would be more economical than hiring back replacement personnel on an overtime basis for the balance of the fiscal year. Adjustments have been made in the General Fund Support budget (513-8177: \$60; 513-8474: \$6,974; 513-8475: \$208) to cover the benefit side, and in the Police department’s patrol program (712-8101: \$2,758) to cover the increase in wages. The Police department will reduce its overall spending by \$3,499.45 to cover the balance of the additional cost attending the appointment of a new officer on December 11, 2006.
- Fund 1, “General Fund.” A reserve transfer of \$100,000 will be made to the Capital Assistance Fund (Fund 6) to cover most of the estimated architectural costs associated with the preparation of plans and construction documents for the second fire station. On August 7, 2006 the City Council decided to proceed with the construction of the station in 2007.
- Fund 6, “Capital Assistance Fund.” The fund will show the reserve transfer from the General Fund for architectural services (06-3741) and an expanded spending budget for architectural consulting services (06-8331) related to the second fire station.
- Fund 6, “Capital Assistance Fund.” The fund will also show an increase of \$13,500 in “Refunds/Reimbursements” (06-3711) to indicate a reimbursement from our liability insurance carrier for a damaged Police squad, and an outlay of \$18,500 for a replacement squad.

Further, the "Miscellaneous Income" (06-3720) line item will note an increase of \$32,000 from FEMA to reimburse Fire department responses to the Gulf Coast area after Hurricane Katrina in the summer of 2005. A total of \$10,000 of these FEMA monies will be spent on Fire department software enhancements (06-8639) and another \$10,000 will be used to repair the concrete aprons in front of the Fire department apparatus bays next spring (06-8625).

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2006.44 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 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2006.44 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler commended the departments for staying within their budgets and said the overtime in the Fire Department was incurred when the City did our part in helping the nation by sending help to Louisiana after Katrina.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, and Stowe voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

B. Ordinance No. 2006.45—An Ordinance Approving the Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore, Illinois and the IMLRMA for Worker’s Compensation and Liability Coverage for City Employees. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said that IMLRMA agency is the largest public risk pool in the state and the City has had an agreement with them for the past nine years. He said the City has been paying for the fully insured program for a number of years because we have maximum claims for the past several years. He said the increase is about 12% this year. Mr. Nicklas said Human Resources Director Jean Tritle requested quotes from two other agencies, but they have not returned any written quotes.

Mayor Mundy commended HR Director Jean Tritle for her efforts and said the Safety Committee is a pro-active approach to control our work comp claims.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2006.45 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 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2006.45 and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Bauer said it is often overlooked the power the employees have to convert this kind of expense to potentially better contracts.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, and Stowe voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS -

A. Resolution No. 483—Authorizing the Participation of the City of Sycamore on the DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Committee.

City Manager Nicklas explained that recently the County received some planning funds from the federal government to proceed to this planning effort. He said the City would bear no cost for participation in this multi-jurisdictional planning process for hazard mitigation. Mr. Nicklas recommended Fire Chief Riddle as the principal delegate and Assistant Fire Chief Kessler as the alternate.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 483 and Aldersperson Adee seconded the motion.

Voice vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the Annual City Property Tax Levy

City Manager Nicklas said the direction he was looking for was for the City levy, but they would also look at the corporate levy which includes the library. He said the pension levy has increased since 2001 and the City has increased the work force, but because the EAV has increased the tax rate has decreased. He said he provided five options, but recommends option #3 which is an increase of 3%. He said that even with the increase in the assessed value residents should see a decrease of actual City tax paid at that rate. Mr. Nicklas said the relative proportion of property tax and sales/use tax have changed in that the property tax is about 17% of operating revenue and sales/use tax is about 45%. He said the library board's proposal is an 8% increase. He said he will take Council's direction and schedule a public hearing and first reading for the December 4 meeting and a second reading at the December 18 meeting.

Mayor Mundy said the City is doing our share to keep taxes in line.

Aldersperson Bauer said that in any given year he might prefer a larger increase, but in light of inflationary increases with fuel and other items, he would agree with 3% in order to keep dollars in the resident's pockets.

Aldersperson Stowe said it is commendable to keep the tax rate down and would agree with a 3% increase.

The consensus of Council was to go along with the 3% increase.

Aldersperson Bauer thanked City Manager Nicklas for a job well done.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Alderson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and Alderson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice vote

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

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith