
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 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

Father Frank Timar of St. Mary's 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 November 6, 2006.
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 20, 2006 in the amount of \$841,803.77.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of October 9, 2006.
- D. Budget Report.

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.

Mayor Mundy said he has spent time with the Police and Fire Departments recently and was impressed with the professionalism in both departments.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reported that City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

Engineer – John Brady reported that the Route 64 sanitary sewer is pretty well completed and in a month final testing will be done and it will be operational. He said then they will tie in Foxbriar and get rid of that lift station.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle – no report

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the treasurer’s report is at the 50% benchmark and revenues are at 57% and expenses are at 35%. He said day-to-day interest is at 5.17% which is good news. He said the state income tax is \$82.70 per capita which means about \$40,000 more for the City. He said the census would mean \$6,771 more.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse reported that leaf pickup continues with only one machine because a large piece of metal that was accidentally sucked up tore up the one of the machines. He said the last scheduled day for leaf pickup will be the end of November.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith said the radium tanks for Well #6 will arrive and be installed. He said Well #8 is moving ahead and everything seems to be on schedule for the radium removal project.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reminded the public that the Wednesday before and Sunday after Thanksgiving are the busiest travel days of the year. He encouraged anyone who finds themselves over-served to call a friend or a taxicab or in desperation call the Police Department for a way home.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report.

Ordinance –no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – Chairperson Kessler said they met before the Council meeting and have recommendations for Ordinances 2006.46 and 2006.48.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Mundy opened the hearing and gave the ground rules. Upon hearing no one wishing to speak he declared the hearing closed.

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.

City Manager Nicklas explained that Streets & Walks Committee met and recommended approval of this ordinance that specifies no parking within 15 feet of fire hydrants on public and private streets.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2006.46 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

Alderson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.46 and Alderson Maness seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

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

City Manager Nicklas explained that the Architectural Review Committee expressed interest in some means to preserve the new looks that were springing up on the corridor between Main and Sacramento. He said they have arrived at a solution that is voluntary and held a forum for the downtown property owners and businesses to discuss the Downtown Conservation District. He said the consensus was to require only voluntary compliance to the recommendations. He listed the basic features of the proposed Conservation District 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.

Mr. Nicklas said this is as far as all involved wish to go at this time.

Motion

Alderson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2006.47 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Alderson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.47 and Alderson Kessler seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

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.

City Manager Nicklas said this ordinance was reviewed at the 6:30 p.m. Streets & Walks Committee meeting and they recommended approval 4 – 0. He explained this ordinance defines in a different way the trigger point for authorization of ticketing, removal, or towing of vehicles obstructing the public way during snow removal.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2006.48 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 Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.48 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.

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.

City Manager Nicklas said that Ideal Industries has agreed to dedicate forty feet 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. He explained that the right-of-way will accommodate the ultimate widening of Bethany Road to a three-lane section.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2006.49 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.49 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Maness asked if the right-of-way would be taken from the south side of Bethany at the retention pond and if any right-of-way would be needed from the homes on the north side.

City Engineer Brady said right-of-way will be required from both sides of the road.

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.

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.

City Manager Nicklas said the 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. He said the 13.078-acre lot will be developed by Suter Foods to relocate warehouse space and some production space.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2006.50 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 2006.50 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler said she was glad to see a long-standing Sycamore business able find a location in Sycamore to expand.

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. 484—Relating to Participation by Elected Officials in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

City Manager Nicklas said a discrepancy was found in the annual threshold for eligibility for IMRF participation for the two elected officials who are considered part-time employees. He said this resolution will make the hourly standard for those two positions consistent with the standard for other City employees.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 484 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. 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.

City Manager Nicklas said this is an exciting opportunity. He said some fiber optic exists in the City now, but until now there has not been an entity to bring fiber to Sycamore businesses and public agencies. He said this is an intensive, expensive front-loaded proposition to run this cable on the hope to make revenue through lease arrangements. He said the staff felt this was certainly good for development and through our City attorney chose to consider this a license agreement. He summarized the City’s obligations and benefits as follows:

- 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 485 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.

CONSIDERATIONS - None

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 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.

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith