
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 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, and Pete Paulsen. Alderperson Chuck Stowe was absent.

INVOCATION

Mayor Mundy asked for a moment of silent reflection.

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

Kathy Stelford of T.A.I.L.S. Humane Society distributed material representing how some of the money the City granted to T.A.I.L.S. is being used. She thanked the City for their money and support.

Alderperson Chuck Stowe arrived at 7:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of November 20, 2006.
- B. Payment of the Bills for December 4, 2006 in the amount of \$2,814,086.74.
- C. Budget Report as of December 1, 2006.

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.

Mayor Mundy introduced St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 40 and thanked them for attending the meeting.

- A. Annual Presentation of Service Awards to City employees. Human Resource Director Jean Tritle will assist the City Manager in presenting awards for employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service to the City of Sycamore.

5 YEAR CERTIFICATE

Scott Garrelts (Public Works) – 8/21/01

Brian Gregory (Administration) – 8/1/01
Michael Marth (Water) – 6/25/01
Don Thomas (Police) – 8/21/01
Jean Tritle (Administration) – 7/9/01
Jeff Wig (Police) – 3/19/01
Dennis Winclawski (Building/Zoning) – 7/16/01

10 YEAR CERTIFICATE

Gary Egler (Public Works) – 12/2/96
Rebecca Hepker (Fire) – 10/3/96 (Part-time); 9/18/00 Full-time)
Steve Johnson (Police) – 4/30/96
Shaun Penn (Fire) – 9/9/96
Colleen Ziegler (Police) – 4/29/96

15 YEAR CERTIFICATE

Michael Anderson (Police) – 12/16/91
Steve Cook (Police) – 2/18/91 (Part-time); 3/19/92 (Full-time)
Ron Corn (Police) – 7/1/91
Mark Oltman (Water) – 5/1/91

20 YEAR PLAQUES

Darrell Johnson (Police) – 1/4/86

25 YEAR AWARDS

Gary Carlson (Fire) - 5/1/81
Douglas Martha (Police) – 9/28/81
Kevin Sargent (Fire) – 5/24/81
Tom Scott (Police) – 7/6/81
Robin Yeager (Water) – 4/20/81

30 YEAR PLUS AWARDS

Cary Niewold (Fire) – 4/14/76
Duane Prather (Fire) – 8/16/76

Mayor Mundy said the challenge of the recent snow storm was to save life, limb, and property and thanked Public Works for their response. He also referred to a letter he had distributed to Council listing items the School Board is working on regarding the need for an additional elementary school.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said he thought it was important that the public know the City was ready for a weather event of substantial proportions in terms of trucks and personnel. He said a storm like this has not been seen since the 1987 thunder-snowstorm which also came down hard and fast starting with an icy mix. He said all of the Public Works Department and Water Department were out about 2:00 a.m. Friday and it was not until 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. before any routine procedures were able to be utilized. He explained that until then all of

the resources were used to keep the emergency routes cleared. Mr. Nicklas said the City does not hire private contractors to plow, but did hire a private contractor to remove snow piles. He said there is no way to avoid closing in driveways as the plows need to plow to the gutter in order to allow mail delivery and to open the gutter lines to carry the melted snow.

Engineer – John Brady reported that IDOT has completed the speed study on Route 23 North which resulted in lowering the speed limit to 45 M.P.H. from Mt. Hunger to Northgate. He said they also performed a speed study on Route 64 west of town from Ski's to just west of Peace Road. He said that stretch will be lowered to 45 M.P.H. also.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said a permit has been issued for a new commercial building on Hauser Ross Drive.

City Manager Nicklas interjected a proposal to the local scouts in the audience to create a list of scouts who would shovel snow for residents and asked them to get back with him once they had discussed the proposal.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle recognized that retired Firefighter Charlie Pangburn died November 30, 2006 and several Sycamore firefighters attended the funeral in Hobart, IN. He also reported that this has been declared carbon monoxide detector week and encourage homeowners to purchase detectors and place them within 15 feet of bedrooms and near utility rooms.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said over the past six months 386 Transfer Tax Stamps were purchased for a total of \$420,180. He also reported for the Safety Committee that the City achieved another 180-day stretch with no loss of time incidents.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse thanked Mr. Nicklas for the explanation of snow removal. He said this 14" to 18" snow was the most seen by any of the current employees. He thanked the Water Department for helping clean off the sidewalks as well as the Police and Fire Departments for their help. He said this fall Public Works spent time inspecting rural type delivery mailboxes and sent out letters to over 400 residents asking them to repair their mailboxes. He said that those that did not comply with repairs will not be replaced if knocked down by the snow from the plows. He said that nobody has been in the office the past few days, but will have someone in the office tomorrow to field phone calls. He said fortunately there were only two minor equipment breakdowns.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reminded homeowners with fire hydrants on their parkways to clear the snow around them.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported that between the time the snow started and 2:00 a.m. the Police Department received 86 calls for service and only 10 of those were accidents. He said the snow ordinance has been changed to allow the Police Department to issue tickets immediately after a 2" snowfall unless it falls overnight then they can start writing them after 7:00 a.m. He said in the spirit of cooperation they did not start writing tickets until 2:00 p.m. Friday when they wrote about 100 tickets. He said only 2 cars were towed Friday because they were blocking driveways, but 20 cars are on the list to be towed Tuesday. He said the Police Department has handled 453 accidents this year compared to 429 in 2005 and he felt that was because they are now handling the Peace/Route 23/Plank intersection. Chief Thomas also reported that in the past parking tickets were not issued for the downtown parking meter violations during the holiday season in order to encourage shopping in Sycamore. He said the effort was counter productive because business and courthouse employees parked their cars in the spaces all day long. He asked the Mayor and Council for their blessing to enforce the meters in order to keep the spaces available for shoppers.

Consensus of Council was to enforce the parking meters by writing tickets.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report.

Ordinance –no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks –no report

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2006 Corporate Levy.

Tom Warzecha, 1635 Maness Court, asked for clarification how the property taxes decrease according to a chart presented in the background information.

City Manager Nicklas said that the chart did not reflect the sentence in the background that Mr. Warzecha referred to. He explained that if an existing house is reassessed substantially there should be no increase in real tax dollars because the multiplier has decreased.

Upon no further comment, Mayor Mundy closed the Public Hearing.

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2006.51—An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Sycamore for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2007 and Ending April 30, 2008. First Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this and the next 3 ordinances will be held on first reading to allow residents time to raise questions. He said the proposed 2007 corporate rate is 7.1% lower than the 2006 corporate rate.

Mayor Mundy said the City is statutorily required to have the levy passed by the third Tuesday of December.

B. Ordinance No. 2006.52—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2002 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. First Reading Only.

City Manager Nicklas said the City will continue its policy of paying the greatest share of its annual general obligation bond debt service from general revenues other than property taxes.

C. Ordinance No. 2006.53—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2003 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. First Reading Only.

D. Ordinance No. 2006.54—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2005 Refunding Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. First Reading Only.

City Manager explained that the 2005 Bond is the refinancing of the outstanding 1999 Bond which refinanced the 1996 Bond.

Mayor Mundy said that abating means we are using other revenue sources besides property taxes to pay the debt service.

E. Ordinance No. 2006.55—An Ordinance Partially Abating Certain Real Estate Revenue Due to the City of Sycamore for Property Owned by Tate & Lyle in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. First Reading Only.

City Manager Nicklas explained that earlier Councils determined that overall property tax rates were not competitive and that meant that we were being passed over by businesses looking to locate in Northern Illinois. He said that property tax abatement packages were agreed upon in order to entice industry to Sycamore. He said this is the first year of a 3-year property tax abatement incentive extended to Tate & Lyle (formerly CCI).

F. Ordinance No. 2006.56—An Ordinance Partially Abating Certain Real Estate Revenue Due to the City of Sycamore for Property Owned by Fullco Industries in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. First Reading Only.

City Manager Nicklas said this is also the first year of a 3-year property tax abatement incentive extended to Fullco Industries. He explained that the Ad Hoc Mayoral Committee revised the incentive package used for Tate & Lyle and for Fullco.

RESOLUTIONS -

A. Resolution No. 486—Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Utility Easement with Sycamore Land Venture for the Extension of Sanitary Sewer Near the Southwest Corner of the Intersection of Peace Road and Illinois Route 64.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this easement sets aside a small triangular area at the southwest corner of Peace Road and Illinois Route 64 to allow for the placement of the sanitary sewer main that has been extended from the interceptor on the Black Farm along Illinois Route 64 to Peace Road and thence south along the west right-of-way of Peace Road to the First Rockford property, Sycamore Crossings.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 486 and Aldersperson Stowe 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. Resolution No. 487—Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Utility Easement with Cheryl Schmitz, Michael Schmitz and Thomas Schmitz for the Extension of a Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Along Illinois Route 64.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this easement concerns the path of the sewer extension that will serve Sycamore Crossings and many intervening points along Illinois Route 64 and Peace Road. He said this sewer will also afford an alternative to the force main presently serving the Fox Briar condominiums. He said the grant of easement concerns the portion of the sewer that extends along the Black Farm frontage on Illinois Rt. 64.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Resolution 487 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.

CONSIDERATIONS - None

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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