
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2007

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, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, and Chuck Stowe. Alderperson Terry Kessler and Darren Knuth were absent.

INVOCATION

Pastor Bob Weinhold of St. John's Lutheran Church 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 6 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Michael Stack, 530 Viking Drive, said that he realized that the corner of Peace and Brickville were in the County's jurisdiction, but asked the City to work with the County to take steps to make that a safe intersection.

Mike Liszka, 470 Lincolnshire, said he was speaking against the Traditions of Sycamore because the variations requested will lower the standards of Sycamore and no parks are planned. He asked Council to reject the plan as presented.

John Hall, 4030 Riverview Drive, St. Charles, representing Traditions of Sycamore developers, said that most of the concerns he has heard are regarding the setback variations. He distributed illustrations of homes with side-loaded garages and front-loaded garages that showed that the side-loaded garage homes had more space between houses.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of February 19, 2007.
- B. Payment of the Bills for March 5, 2007 in the amount of \$1,485,696.86.

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 6 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Presentation by Drew Wells regarding the "Fill the Boot" Bean Bag Tournament at NIU's Convocation Center on April 21, 2007.

Drew Wells, DeKalb Firefighter, said his Sycamore counterpart was on the job at the Sycamore Fire Department and could not make the meeting. He said that usually the firefighters collect around \$5000 at street intersections, but this year they hope to raise \$10,000 with a bean bag tournament. He challenged Council members to team up with DeKalb Council and DeKalb and Sycamore employees to pair up. He said it would be a day of fun and games to raise money for muscular dystrophy.

- B. Presentation by Dr. Wayne Riesen, Superintendent of Sycamore Community Unit School District #427, regarding the Board of Education's proposal for a referendum to raise funds for the construction of school facilities.

Dr. Riesen explained that they are seeking \$30,000,000 of funding for facility improvement and expansion and said that even if the School District could write a check for that amount, they would need to go to referendum for voter approval. He said they propose to sell bonds and structure the debt over 20 years while maintaining the \$5 tax rate.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas reminded the candidates that there would be a tour of City departments Tuesday evening. He also reported the tragic news that two bodies were recovered in the building that burned on South Avenue. He thanked fire, police, and water departments for their response and auxiliary police and other outside organizations for their aid. He said that neighboring businesses Blackhawk Moving & Storage and Blumen Gardens were also supportive.

Engineer – John Brady reported that Route 64 sanitary sewer has been tested and is operational.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty asked for Council support of Ordinance 2006.66.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said 13 fire departments worked at the fire Sunday and Monday and will continue to help until the building is razed. He said the NIU police loaned their events van to the scene. He said the building is located next to a ComEd sub station that provides power for 4,000 customers and they were fortunate the wind was not blowing in that direction. He said besides the fire there were many accidents over the weekend.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the City's 2005 Special Census estimated cost was over the actual cost and we would be refunded \$3,219. He also reported that the snowfall of December 1, 2006 was declared a federal emergency so the City has applied for a \$20,000 Illinois Emergency Management Agency grant.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse reported that the jetter body has been painted and placed on a newly purchased used truck with a shortened chassis and tool box addition. He said the completed vehicle came in well under budget.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that the radium removal equipment is in place at Wells 6 and 8 and only needs some final touches. He said the radium levels at Well 9 are below the limits, but there is radium removal equipment ready. He also reported that there have been 7 watermain breaks in the last 9 days.

Police Chief – Don Thomas encouraged the general public to drive carefully because the roads may still be slippery. He reported that 2 bodies were recovered from the building fire on South Avenue and have been turned over to the coroner's office. He thanked the fire department for their work and professionalism.

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. 2006.62--An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of John Hall Homes to Amend the Original Annexation Agreement between the City of Sycamore and Freda R. Herst to Include a New Preliminary plat, Zoning Revisions and Certain Zoning Variances. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said the informal gathering the previous Monday was successful in addressing questions and concerns. He recommended, with the absence of two Alderpersons, that action be deferred until the next regular meeting.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to table Ordinance 2006.62 until the March 19, 2007 meeting and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Alderperson Paulsen said he thought the courtyard homes were an interesting alternative to townhomes and suggested the layout be flipped to set windows to the west side rather than the east side.

Voice vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Ordinance No. 2006.66--An Ordinance Amending Title 3, "Business and License Regulations," Chapter 7, "Electrical Contractors," Section 3-7-2," "Registration Required; Test," to Insert a New Paragraph C in the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this ordinance pertains to what electrical work local residents can perform without an electrical license. He said residents can install electrical wire where they reside as long as it is a detached single-family structure, but may not install wire in rental properties or attached single family homes.

Motion

Alderperson Paulsen moved to hear ordinance 2006.66 on first and second reading and Alderperson Leach seconded the motion.

Voice vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.66 and Alderperson Leach seconded the motion.

Alderperson Stowe said that many single-family residences have been converted and the electrical work must be inspected anyway.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adee, Bauer, Leach, Maness, and Paulsen voted aye with Alderperson Stowe voting nay. Motion carried 5 - 1.

C. Ordinance No. 2006.67—An Ordinance Awarding the Contract for Site Improvements for Fire Station No. 2 on Frantum Road in Sycamore to Elliott & Wood Excavating, Inc. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas recommended Council approval of a contract with Elliott & Wood in the amount of \$295,410.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to hear ordinance 2006.67 on first and second reading and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2006.67 and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adee, Bauer, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, and Stowe voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

D. Ordinance No. 2006.68—An Ordinance Awarding the Contract for the Construction of Fire Station No. 2 on Frantum Road in the City of Sycamore to Swedberg & Associates, Inc. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that the low bid was submitted by Stenstrom of Rockford, IL, but according to the City's local preference policy a DeKalb County-based general contractor may elect to match the low bid in writing if they have bid within 5% of the low bid. He said that Swedberg & Associates of Sycamore has agreed to match the low bid of \$1,765,950. He said because the bids for the project came in lower than estimated, he will propose when going over the budget that \$2.1 million be brought over rather than the \$2.5 million.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to hear ordinance 2006.68 on first and second reading 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Alderperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2006.68 and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

Alderperson Bauer asked for an explanation of Alternate 1 and Alternate 2 because he noticed that Swedberg's matched the bid, but the alternates came in higher.

Mr. Nicklas said that Alternate 1 was in place for the possibility of eliminating the stonework under the sills if the bid came in over budget. He said that Alternate 2 was for the unit price of ice melt tubing in the concrete apron of the apparatus area.

Mayor Mundy said that Swedberg's needed to match the whole bid.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adee, Bauer, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, and Stowe voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

E. Ordinance No. 2006.69—An Ordinance Approving an Employment Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and Bill Nicklas to Renew His Contract as City Manager in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear ordinance 2006.69 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 6 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2006.69 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adee, Bauer, Leach, Maness, Paulsen, and Stowe voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Mayor Mundy said he was pleased that Mr. Nicklas would continue his service to the City.

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to Consider the Proposed FY2007-2008 City Budget.

City Manager Nicklas suggested including March 22, 2007 in the public notice in case the discussion was not completed on March 21st.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 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 6 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith