
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2007**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Grace Adee, Alan Bauer, Terry Kessler, Darren Knuth, Rich Neubauer, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, and Gregory Taylor.

INVOCATION

Pastor Rita Root of the Federated Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Adee moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Taylor 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

Anne Scharleau, 15586 Whipple Road, asked Council to consider saying no to the Inland annexation. She said they moved to Sycamore to the outskirts of town only to find out that they will no longer be on the outskirts because anybody who comes in and wants to put up a subdivision is told yes. She said the proposed subdivision supposedly fits in with the neighborhood, but the biggest lot is under ½ acre and the existing lots are all 1+ acre to 20+ acres.

Ann Thomas, 15350 Whipple Road, said she agreed with Anne Scharleau, and asked the City to slow down. She said her kids are driving age and Plank Road is dangerous. She asked Council to think about the safety of everyone before accepting any more developers.

David Larson, 27707 Moose Range Road, said his personal concern is that he is surrounded by the corporate limits on three sides and if he is blocked in on all four sides he would be forced to be annexed. He said, on a bigger note, he wondered why any new development would be considered when there is so much other development that has not sold. He said he hoped Council would say no to this to give things time to equalize.

Phil Cuthberg, 27572 Divine Way, said he came to Sycamore for the ruralness. He said he came from Elmhurst where everything is butted up against each other and he does not want Sycamore to go in that direction. He said he is also concerned about the number of houses on the market that are not selling and said anybody who wants to come can buy a house. He said he was concerned about the safety of Plank Road.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of July 2, 2007.
- B. Payment of the Bills for July 16, 2007 in the amount of \$536,942.38.

Motion

Alderson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderson Neubauer seconded the motion.

Voice vote

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderson Stowe said he has been talking with Bill Nicklas and John Brady about some flooding problems on E. Exchange by Governor and they said they would follow up on it.

Alderson Knuth said with the addition of the retention pond, he heard very little about water in basements on Perry Court after this last rainfall.

Mayor Mundy thanked Ken Campbell, DeKalb County Facilities Manager, and Jerry Swatek of Upstaging Incorporated for the patriotic lighting on the Courthouse. He said he received tourism data from the County that is showing tourism dollars up 5 to 10%. He said the Car Show will be downtown July 29 with 500 to 700 cars expected. He also noted that there will be WWII training aircraft giving rides at DeKalb Taylor Airport July 29 through August 19.

A. Introduction of new Police officers Joe Meeks and Michael Eide.

Chief Thomas said Officer Michael Eide was hired in February and had worked for the NIU Police Force for 3 years. He said Officer Eide was born in DeKalb, graduated from Genoa-Kingston High School and now lives in Sycamore with his wife Amanda. He said he served the Marine Corp for 8 years and attended Kishwaukee Community College and attended the Police Academy through the College of DuPage.

Chief Thomas said Officer Joe Meeks was born in Cedar Rapids, but grew up in Sycamore. He attended Western Illinois University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. He said he attended Police Academy at the University of Illinois in Champaign, interned in Sycamore, then worked for Genoa Police Department and is coming back to Sycamore. Chief Thomas said Officer Meeks lives in Malta with his wife Crystal and daughter Anna.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said before the meeting, Council saw a sludge de-watering rotary press demonstration at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He said there would be more on that in the months ahead. He said until the facility plan is approved by the IEPA we cannot proceed to the next steps which will be identifying some methods and bidding them out. Mr. Nicklas reported that the windows being replaced on the Cooper-Paulsen building are part of the downtown façade program. He said there is one more project carried over from last year to be completed this year and then we will know where we stand for grants for this year.

Engineer – John Brady reported work was going well on the S. California Street project. He said if the weather holds out this week they should get most of the rock in.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty reported that McDonald's building has been raised and they will build a new one at that site. He said he heard from a Jewel contractor that some panels for the building will be coming October 10th.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said Fire Secretary Rebecca Hepker has been deployed to Santa Barbara, CA for a week to help with administrative work at a fire camp.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the two months into the fiscal year the benchmark is about 16 2/3 % and the revenue is running at 17% and expenses at 8.63%. He said interest rate is holding up at around 5% and interest income is strong. He said we received our first half of property tax disbursement.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse – no report

Asst. P.W. Director – Ebe Smith reported that Well #6 has been tested and is back in the system. He said the media has been installed in the radium removal tanks and once that gets chlorinated and cleaned out that will be connected to the system. He said then they will move on to Well #8.

Police Chief – Don Thomas – no report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – no report

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2007.10—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of IRED Sycamore, LLC., Inland Real Estate Investment Corporation, and Yvonne Wolfenberger for the Approval of an Annexation Agreement with the City of Sycamore, Illinois for Property Located on the North Side of Plank Road and East of Moose Range Road, and also South of Plank Road Both East and West of Moose Range Road, and the Subsequent Annexation and Rezoning to “R-1,” One Family Residence District, Planned Unit Development and to “C-1,” Neighborhood Business District, Planned Unit Development. Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that he has recommended tabling any action on this issue until there is a recommendation by the Mayor’s Ad Hoc Committee. He said they have met to hear the report and have set a July 26 meeting to discuss policy implications.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to table Ordinance 2007.10 until the August 6 meeting and Aldersperson Knuth seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2007.11—An Ordinance Annexing the 201.64-Acre Property Located on the North Side of Plank Road and East of Moose Range Road, and also South of Plank Road and Both East and West of Moose Range Road in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this ordinance should also be tabled until the August 6 meeting because it is contingent on Ordinance 2007.10.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to table Ordinance 2007.11 until the August 6 meeting 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, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

C. Ordinance No. 2007.14—An Ordinance Amending Title 1, “Administration,” Chapter 6, “City Council,” Section 1-6-5, “Committees,” Subsection C,2 of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that at the June 18 meeting Aldersperson Bauer pointed out that a pending Illinois House bill would permit two members of a five-member Council committee to converse about committee business without violating open meetings provision under state statute. He recommended tabling this matter until the legislative fate of the bill is known.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if anybody had a feel for when this might be approved.

Mr. Nicklas said nobody in Chicago or downstate has any idea when the legislature might adjourn.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to table Ordinance 2007.14 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, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

D. Ordinance No. 2007.15—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules, Section 6-4-12, “No Parking Zones,” and Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 6-4-8, “Speed Limits,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this matter has been reviewed and recommended by the Police Department.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear ordinance 2007.15 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 2007.15 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Knuth asked if the Park District has been consulted about whether they think there is adequate parking with Airport Road posted as no parking.

Mr. Nicklas said our concern is safety because of parking on the soft shoulders.

Police Chief Thomas said there is adequate parking most of the time.

Roll call vote

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

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Works and Engineering Departments to Award a Contract to Municipal Well & Pump for the Pump Rehabilitation at Well #8 in the Amount of \$34,823.00.

City Manager Nicklas explained the need to award a contract for this work because of the failure of the other contractor's performance on Well #6.

Aldersperson Bauer asked how this bid compared to the one we had with Meadow Equipment.

Mr. Nicklas said the work done at Well #6 took 3 attempts to get the well rehabilitated and running. He said that revealed some prices and this is competitive.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if we had experience with Municipal Well & Pump and the other bidder Layne-Western.

Mr. Nicklas said we have experience with both companies.

Motion

Aldersperson Taylor moved to award the contract to Municipal Well & Pump for \$34,823 plus added expenses as necessary and Aldersperson Adee seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Consideration of a \$21,000 Grant to the Voluntary Action Center.

City Manager Nicklas introduced Tom Zucker and Ellen Rogers of VAC. He said over a year ago Council talked about a bus route with scheduled stops in Sycamore and this is the request for the local share of funding needed.

Tom Zucker, said the bus route would be able to expand personal transportation options for Sycamore residents. He said they expected it would be used by the transit dependent population – senior citizens, disabled, low-income residents, and people without vehicles or licenses. He said the service would travel around Sycamore and connect to DeKalb's service. He said VAC is currently providing door-to-door para-transit service numbering 50,000 rides per year in Sycamore. He said they are proposing a flexible route service along a fixed and established route. He said they have identified a number of stop location and the next step would be to convene a meeting to finalize the route. He said they are a recipient of a state grant of 55% of expenses and they must raise the other 45% locally. He said Kishwaukee United Way, Sycamore Township, DeKalb County Community Foundation, and DeKalb County Health Board have committed funding and they need the City of Sycamore's help to make this happen.

Mayor Mundy asked about the hours of service and how they would promote the service.

Mr. Zucker said they would mirror DeKalb's greenline operating from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. He said that word of mouth would be the least expensive promotion, but they would utilize brochures and newspapers and radio.

Ellen Rogers of VAC said the greenline in DeKalb took some time to grow ridership, but she said they anticipate high usage by clients of Opportunity House.

Aldersperson Kessler asked the size of the bus and asked about their plan for expansion.

Mr. Zucker said they are currently awaiting taking possession of 35' transit buses which could carry a capacity of 37 individuals. He said down the road they envision a conventional transit bus.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if the service would be available for anyone.

Mr. Zucker said because it is funded by the downstate operating assistance program it is a requirement that it is general public service.

Aldersperson Bauer asked about the cost to riders and if the grant is approved.

Mr. Zucker said they currently charge \$.50 per ride. He said the grant is approved and in the state budget.

Aldersperson Bauer said his concern is if this is approved and the other funding source falls short.

Mr. Zucker said if the state budget is not approved, then they would decline the City money.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked what percentage of the door-to-door riders would switch over to the bus route.

Mr. Zucker said he thought about 20%.

Ms. Rogers said that is based on the DeKalb experience, but they expect a difference in Sycamore because of the number of individuals affiliated with the Opportunity House and High Rise in Sycamore.

Aldersperson Neubauer asked the fee for the door-to-door rides.

Mr. Zucker said \$1.50 per ride and that is just a suggested donation for seniors and disabled riders.

Alderson Neubauer asked how the flexible route would work.

Mr. Zucker said there would have to be a tradeoff between timeliness and flexibility. He said the detour would be limited to 10 minutes and anything longer than that would need to utilize the door-to-door service.

Ms. Rogers said there are very few individuals requesting deviations on the DeKalb route.

Alderson Stowe asked how long the state grant would last.

Mr. Zucker said indefinitely because it is a continuing grant and statute requires a 10% increase each year.

Alderson Stowe asked what would be the ongoing cost to the City.

Mr. Zucker said they need dependable and ongoing sources because they are a not-for-profit. He said the request could increase each year.

Ms. Rogers said they could look at the cost of living unless there would be a change in the level of service.

Alderson Stowe said he hates for someone to become part of our budget.

Mr. Nicklas said that ongoing support will be critical. He said ultimately the question is how important is public transportation to Sycamore.

Alderson Neubauer said he has the same concerns and wants to be careful with taxpayer money. He said that VAC is providing a public service that the City cannot provide. He said that VAC is providing an \$80,000 service for a \$21,000 cost to the City.

Alderson Kessler said this service will give back dignity and mobility to many residents.

Motion

Alderson Kessler moved to grant VAC \$21,000 and Alderson Neubauer seconded the motion.

Alderson Stowe said he thought VAC and Sycamore Taxi Service were providing transportation and he was worried about committing funds.

Alderson Kessler said the grant from the state is ongoing and our grant has an end to it. She said there is no guarantee for future dollars from Sycamore, but she felt this was an educated, low-risk decision.

Alderson Neubauer asked how much this could balloon.

Mr. Zucker said they will make every attempt to secure added costs from other sources. He said philosophically he thought public transportation should be funded with federal and state dollars. He said there is an initiative by the State Transportation Association to increase the State's share from 55% to 60%.

Ms. Rogers said since 1989 they have seen little increase in grants from the City of Sycamore yet the service they have provided continues to grow.

Aldersperson Bauer said he thought that \$.50 per ride was too low and they may want to set the rate higher. He said he thought the risk for the new service was worth it.

Ms. Rogers said \$.50 fare was worked out with the City of DeKalb and she said they would be open to input from the City about the fare.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye with Aldersperson Stowe voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 1.

C. Consideration of a \$2,000 Grant to the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation.

City Manager Nicklas explained that DCEDC provides a level of service far in excess of this grant amount and introduced Roger Hopkins, Executive Director of DCEDC and Bob Boey, Past President and present Board Member of DCEDC.

Roger Hopkins said DCEDC has three major goals which are business development, work force development and providing a resource to a community to deal with the issues needed to create the right environment for industry. He said the industrial economy needs to be reinvented frequently through retention and replacement. He said DCEDC has helped foster the workforce development by linking NIU and Kishwaukee Community College with the School District. He said they use marketing, but mostly utilize networking.

Bob Boey introduced himself by saying he was Co-owner of American Bare Conductor, Co-owner of Sycamore Industrial Park, at one time Chair of both NIU and Kishwaukee Community College Boards, served on Kishwaukee Community Hospital Board, and was past president and current member of DCEDC. He said he joined DCEDC in 1989 and from the very beginning the focus of DCEDC has been industrial and commercial retention, attraction, and expansion. He said new companies do not show up by accident, but as a result of organized planning and a network in process that was a result of having DCEDC. He said when outside organizations with no connection show an interest in DeKalb County it is good to know there is a DCEDC with Roger Hopkins to contact. He said the price of this asset is inexpensive when it serves the County collectively and he hoped Council would agree to the additional support.

Mayor Mundy said Roger Hopkins also serves on the Sycamore Economic Development Committee and his input is invaluable to the group. He said DCEDC has served Sycamore well and this grant helps fund an organization that ultimately creates opportunities for jobs in this community.

Mr. Boey announced that he is close to bringing in a very large, high-tech company to Sycamore Industrial Park that will provide manufacturing jobs and professional jobs that will allow us to retain college graduates. He said that is what makes a strong community.

Aldersperson Bauer said he thought DCEDC does excellent work, but he does not understand why they are not going to DCCA for a \$2,000 grant.

Mr. Nicklas explained that the grant dollars that were directed to the DCCA are "just in time" dollars. He said clearly you cannot hire anybody to do the work that DCEDC does for \$12,000. He said he thought this was a good investment because the City does get a return when any company comes here because of the first positive contact they make with DCEDC before they know about anything about Sycamore.

Aldersperson Bauer said he does not know why this was not done upfront.

Mr. Nicklas said two years ago he put \$10,000 in the budget to upgrade grant support and to be fair to all opened that up to any 501-C3 company. He said this year he has proposed an alternative for those dollars.

Aldersperson Bauer said he would rather give the \$1/person of the City population and put that into the budget for next year.

Aldersperson Stowe said he thought they should treat this as a professional service and negotiate a contract with DCEDC rather than granting monies each year.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the \$2,000 grant to DCEDC and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adee, Kessler, Knuth, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye with Alderspersons Bauer and Neubauer voting nay. Motion carried 6 - 2.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. and Aldersperson Taylor 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