
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 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

Assistant Pastor Trevor Holloway of Well Spring Chapel gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Mundy requested to move Appointments to follow Presentations of Petitions, Communications, and Bills.

Motion

Alderperson Neubauer moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Paulsen 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 - None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of November 19, 2007.
- B. Payment of the Bills for December 3, 2007 in the amount of \$402,492.70.

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.

Alderperson Kessler commended Pubic Works, Police, and Fire for their work during the ice storm.

Mayor Mundy said he received a card from DeKalb County Community Foundation stating that in 2006 they distributed just over \$1 million back to the DeKalb County Community. He said they have grown to \$25 million and will be able to annually distribute \$1 million to grantees. Mayor Mundy thanked the Police Department for the ride along Friday night. He announced that Santa will arrive 5:30 p.m. Friday at the Sycamore Theatre and walk to the Courthouse to light the tree. Mayor Mundy encouraged people to shop in Sycamore.

A. Recognition of the Sycamore High School Girls Volleyball and Tennis Teams and the Boy's Golf Team for their Successful Seasons and Post-Season Competition.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas praised and thanked Public Works, Police, and Fire for their work during the ice storm. He also thanked Finance Office and Custodial Staff for the holiday decorations in the building. He said there are a couple of concerns that fall within our nuisance code that Police Chief Thomas will talk about that will be coming before Council soon.

Engineer – John Brady reported that earlier this year IDOT contracted with an engineering consultant to do some signal timing downtown. He said that report has been completed and we will probably be looking at some increased cycle links that will help move traffic better. He said he would let them know when it goes into affect.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said he was in the process of reviewing Ample Supply's building and a building on lot 14 both located in Sycamore Prairie Business Park.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said Saturday night there were 18 calls for service in 5 hours and 9 of those calls came in the first hour. He said they responded to a house fire at 3:00 a.m. this morning that was caused by a fireplace used to heat the house because the electricity was out. He urged everyone to get a tote and fill it with water and food and plan on what to do in case of an extended electric outage.

Mr. Nicklas said there were many homes without service until today and ComEd was very communicative throughout the weekend.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory distributed copies of the IDOT audit for MFT Funds. He said that IDOT uses a calendar year for their audit and this is for the year ending December 31, 2006 and they certified our books true and correct. He said the net fund balance shown is just over \$2.3 million, but he noted that a substantial part of that will go to the final accounting of Bethany Road.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said there were 12 guys out plowing Saturday from noon to 6:30 and a crew of 6 out Sunday pulling debris off the roadways. He said they will be busy this week picking up limbs from the storm. He reminded everybody that it is illegal to blow snow out into the roadways or even push snow across the roadway and leave furrows of snow in the roadway.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith said along with winter comes water main breaks and he asked residents to report any water in the streets.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reminded residents that no vehicles are allowed to be parked on the public roadway after a 2" snowfall. He said the Police Department is working on 4 or 5 ordinance revisions regarding how long abandoned, inoperative, and unused vehicles can be parked on the street.

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 2007 Corporate Levy.

Mayor Mundy opened the Public Hearing and hearing no comment declared the Hearing closed.

- B. Public Hearing on New Funding Options for Local Street Improvements.

Mayor Mundy opened the Public Hearing.

Steve Kuhn, 430 S. Main Street, commended Council for working on the funding for the street improvements. He said he had no option for funding in mind, but encouraged Council to fund street maintenance.

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

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2007.31—An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Sycamore for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2008 and Ending April 30, 2009. First Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas said this item and the next seven are on the agenda as first readings in order to maximize public input and dialog in the community. He said the corporate levy proposed should result in a lower rate and impact on the average homeowner.

- B. Ordinance No. 2007.32—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2002 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009. First Reading.**
- C. Ordinance No. 2007.33—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 2008-2009. First Reading.**
- D. Ordinance No. 2007.34—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2005 Refunding Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. First Reading Only.**
- E. Ordinance No. 2007.35—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2007 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. First Reading Only.**
- F. Ordinance No. 2007.36—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2007 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. First Reading Only.**

Mr. Nicklas noted that what is proposed in each of the last ordinances is an abatement of what would otherwise be a pretty conventional approach to funding our general obligation debt. He said they are bonds that have been issued to raise money for infrastructure improvements and municipal bond buyers who want to invest in public debt are looking for an iron clad guarantee and in return for that they are willing to accept less in the way of interest payments. He said the City is abating what would otherwise be a property tax obligation to our residents and businesses.

G. Ordinance No. 2007.37—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 2008-2009. First Reading.

H. Ordinance No. 2007.38—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 2008-2009. First Reading.

Mayor Mundy noted that the City's tax rate is cut in half over the past 10 years.

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to go into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m. 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 return to Open Session at 7:59 p.m. and Aldersperson Knuth seconded the motion.

Voice vote

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Mundy appointed Kathy Shipper to the Library Board.

Motion

Aldersperson Taylor moved to approve the appointment 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. 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.

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith