
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2008**

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 Steve Persson of the First Baptist 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

Joel Barczak, 403 Edward St., said he was co-owner of Blumen Garden and thanked Public Works for their work and warned them that there would be many complaints about all the potholes. He said he wanted to talk about growth. He said he was a business owner, taxpayer, multiple-mortgage holder, parent of school-aged kids, Chamber member, and concerned citizen. He compared business to a garden because you plant it, encourage it, cultivate it, weed it, and preen it. He said he believed in growth and thought it was positive. He asked if the no-growthers expected the growth of the last five years to continue. He said in the 1980's Maple Terrace couldn't be given away and then it came around because economics and market forces dictate growth. He suggested those opposing growth ask the merchants, business owners, and people in the trades their opinion of growth. He said that no growth is contrary to the essence of business and invited those opposed to growth to attend Chamber meetings.

Michael Fogelsanger, 845 Sunset Ln., expressed concern about the Park District offering babysitting when it is asking for rate increases for projects that need to be done.

City Manager Nicklas told Mr. Fogelsanger that Parks and Recreation is not under the City government and suggested he call the Park District Director or attend a Park Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of February 18, 2008.
- B. Payment of the Bills for March 3, 2008 in the amount of \$2,255,169.77.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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 8 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Aldersperson Taylor said he noticed a lot of flooding this evening and asked if the City was monitoring it.

Mr. Nicklas said they are and said they were told the river would reach its peak about midday Tuesday. He said there have been no calls for assistance, but the City remains available.

Aldersperson Kessler asked the City attorney to investigate confidentiality agreements and information regarding confidentiality. She said recently there was a breach of confidentiality by one of the Council members and because of that she thought the City should look into this issue as well as what kind of penalties there might be.

Mayor Mundy asked the press to help get out the word that some kind of tax return would be required to receive the federal rebate. He also noted a letter of congratulations received from Senator Obama for becoming a Tree City.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said copies of the first complete draft of the FY09 budget would be ready for Council and the department heads by the end of the week. He scheduled the budget meetings for March 19 and March 20. He said he was starting the draft of the Comp Plan text to take back to the Plan Commission in April.

Aldersperson Kessler said as Mr. Barczak said it seems to be a bumper crop of potholes this year and she asked if in the budget they needed contingency money for the extraordinary number of potholes.

Mr. Nicklas said it has made a more interesting challenge to come up with a priority list of street and alley maintenance this year. He said the list is being worked on and he would get it to Council as soon as possible.

Engineer – John Brady said he was working on the geometrics of the realignment of Lindgren Road at Plank and North Grove Crossings and that project should be under construction this summer.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty reported he issued a permit for a TCF Bank kiosk inside the Jewel. He said that Jewel is moving right along and they are projecting to have the general contractor out of there in about two weeks.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported that besides watching the river rise, there is a Noah weather site linked to the NIU weather site where you can watch the U.S. geological survey predictions where they think the water is going. He said that site said the water should crest by about noon tomorrow. He also reported that he attended an annual MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) conference last week and noted that Illinois has done a lot to address disasters and mutual aid. He said two new programs were “rolled” out as two warehouses on wheels and the second part is a 1,000-bed tent city which would house evacuated persons and rescue workers. He said those tent city units are housed in different regions of Illinois at UPS yards and are monitored and transported by UPS free of charge so it is a public-private partnership on a grand scale.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported that Transfer Tax totaled \$30,515 through February and in 2007 that number was \$25,070.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said the police equivalent to the MABAS conference is taking place now and is called ILEAS (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System). He said that Lt. Singer is attending that conference. Chief Thomas distributed a press release concerning a threat at Sycamore High School that could possibly occur March 4, 2008. He said it was a general threat with a date attached to it and said the press release detailed some of the preventative measures the high school is taking and there will also be police officers assigned to all the schools. He said there will be no pre or post school activities and there will be increased police presence.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said this has been an abnormal year for potholes and they are out every day filling potholes to keep the streets as passable as possible. He said they have changed the direction as far as areas of town for major reconstruction and repairs this summer. He said he and Asst. Public Work Director Ebe Smith sat down with Baxter Woodman to review preliminary plans for the water tower and they are anticipating going out to bid in two weeks with the water tower completed by the end of 2008.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith read a letter from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Oral Health stating that Sycamore was in perfect compliance for fluoridation for a 12-month period.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – Chairperson Stowe said there was nothing to report from the committee, but as the Plan Commission representative he noted there would be no March Plan Commission meeting.

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – no report

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on the City of Sycamore's Notice of Intent for its General Permit Issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for Discharges from the City's Storm Sewer System.

Mayor Mundy opened the hearing and upon hearing no comments closed the hearing.

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2007.58—An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the Sycamore Park District Regarding the Receipt of Land/Cash Fees and Indemnification. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas took a moment to thank Chief Thomas for sacrificing his time at the ILEAS Conference to bring his leadership to the investigation of the Sycamore High School threat.

City Manager Nicklas said this ordinance contains the revised agreement with the Council's request that a stipulation that all monthly billings will be paid in full and a stipulation that the reimbursable City expenses will include both reasonable legal costs and administrative costs.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2007.58 and Aldersperson Paulsen 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. Ordinance No. 2007.61—An Ordinance Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, Representing Sycamore F.O.P. Lodge No. 133. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said the key terms of the agreement are the 4% increase in wage schedule steps and a one-year term.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2007.61 on first and second reading 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2007.61 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if there were any dues paying employees that are not part of the union.

Mr. Nicklas said he did not believe so.

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. 2007.62—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 6-4-14, “All-Night Parking,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this ordinance prohibits parking in the Sycamore Center between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. to permit snow removal in the cooler months and sweeping in the warmer months.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2007.62 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Neubauer 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 2007.62 and Aldersperson Neubauer 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.

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Request from the Sycamore Park District Regarding the Park Land/Cash Fee.

City Manager Nicklas explained that at the last regular meeting of the Park Board the Board voted 3 to 1 to table further consideration of the proposed fee increase until the May Park Board meeting. He said in light of that decision he suggested the Council not take action on the proposed increase to the land/cash fee ordinance.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Aldersperson Paulsen commended the fire department for saving the house next door to the house that burned on N. Cross Street and asked when the burned house would come down.

Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer Lyle Doty said the owner's insurance company is ready to tear it down, but it has not been released by the State Fire Marshall.

Mr. Nicklas asked Mr. Doty to put some pressure on the Fire Marshall to release the house so it could be taken down for safety reasons.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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