
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 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

Mayor Mundy asked everyone to take a moment for reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Kessler moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Neubauer 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

Michael Fogelsanger, 845 Sunset Lane, said he felt it was wrong for the City's budget to allocate tax dollars to charitable organizations.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of April 7, 2008.
- B. Payment of the Bills for April 21, 2008 \$1,990,007.52.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of February 11, 2008.

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.

- A. Proclamation declaring the week of April 20-April 26, 2008 as "Administrative Professionals Week" in the City of Sycamore.
- B. Proclamation establishing April 25, 2008 as "Arbor Day" in the City of Sycamore.

Alderperson Paulsen suggested getting Ward boundaries changed in plenty of time before the April 2009 election so those wanting to run will know who they will represent.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said he intends at the staff level to work with County staff to come up with options for redistricting our Wards by the fall. He asked Mr. Fogelsanger if he would like to meet with him to discuss the budget.

Engineer – John Brady reported that as soon as the weather improves site utility work will begin at the new school at Lindgren and Plank and also for the realignment of Lindgren Road.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty – no report.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported that the KEC class went to Springfield Friday and our kids took 7 out of the top 10 positions. He said the advisors this year are Lieutenant Penn and Firefighter Reynolds.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the Treasurer’s report through March is at the 91.75% benchmark with revenues tracking at 93.66% and expenditures at 88.18%.

Police Chief – Don Thomas noted that this year the Police Department has named Route 64 as the dividing line for the north and south zones used as police beats.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said he distributed a copy of the brochure noting that the Illinois Department of Agriculture will be placing purple traps on trees for the emerald ash bore. He said that DeKalb County is now included in the quarantine area. He said he also distributed copies of the Waste Water Plan power point presentation that will be made later in the meeting.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith reported that hydrant flushing began today and would continue through next Thursday. He said the schedule could be found on the City’s website.

Mayor Mundy noted that there would be an Earth Day program at the Library Tuesday and that Jewel will have its ribbon cutting Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Chairperson Bauer called a meeting for 6:50 p.m. on May 5 to approve meeting minutes.

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Bauer called a meeting for 6:55 p.m. on May 5 to approve meeting minutes.

Streets & Walks – no report

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2007.65—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 3, “Parking Meters and Parking Lots,” Section 6-3-4, “Use of Meters,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas said he presented this to the Chamber Board and they were supportive.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2007.65 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Ordinance No. 2007.66—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 2, “Parking Regulations,” by Inserting Section 11, “Vehicle Immobilization and Impoundment,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said the “boot” is proposed here as a consequence for those with at least 5 tickets with fines of no less than \$250.

Aldersperson Knuth said he was in favor of this measure and asked how many boots the City would purchase and how much it cost.

Mr. Nicklas said the City has one boot and he hoped it sent a loud message.

Chief Thomas said they cost about \$400 and they anticipate purchasing more if they prove successful.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to approve Ordinance 2007.66 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

C. Ordinance No. 2007.67—An Ordinance Amending Title 4, “Public Health and Safety,” Chapter 1, “Fire Department,” Section 4-1-7, “Ambulance Service,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this ordinance proposes the level of increase Council reviewed two meetings ago and heard on first reading at the last meeting.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2007.67 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

D. Ordinance No. 2007.68—An Ordinance Amending Title 8, “Water and Sewer,” Chapter 4, “Sewer Use and Service,” Section 8-4-2, “Sewer Connection Charges,” Subsection 8-4-2, C, “Connection Fees and Unit Charges,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this ordinance focuses on commercial and industrial connection fees only and adjusts some disproportional charges.

Motion

Aldersperson Taylor moved to approve Ordinance 2007.68 and Aldersperson Kessler 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.

E. Ordinance No. 2007.69—An Ordinance Concerning the Adoption of the Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas noted that a public hearing was held at the last regular meeting.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2007.69 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Kessler 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 Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2007.69 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler said this document represents a large task and she thanked Mr. Nicklas, Department Heads, and all employees for keeping their finger on the pulse.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adee, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 9 - 0.

F. Ordinance No. 2007.70—An Ordinance Amending Title 1, “Administration,” Chapter 10, “Personnel Rules,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Authorize Non-Elective Positions in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this ordinance counts the employees.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2007.70 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2007.70 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.

G. Ordinance No. 2007.71—An Ordinance Establishing Offices and Fixing the Compensation of Certain Appointed Officers of the City of Sycamore, Illinois, County of DeKalb, State of Illinois for the Fiscal Year Commencing on the First Day of May, 2008 and Ending on the Thirtieth Day of April 2009. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this is the salary ordinance of exempted employees and reflects 4% raise increases.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2007.71 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2007.71 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adee, Bauer, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye with Kessler abstaining. Motion carried 7 - 0 - 1.

H. Ordinance No. 2007.72—An Ordinance Approving a Contract Between the City of Sycamore and Municipal Engineering Corporation for Contractual Engineering Services During the Period June 1, 2008 Through April 30, 2010. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this contract concerns John Brady who has reached the threshold as far as the IMRF retirement system. He said he will retire and become a pensioner and this ordinance proposes a contractual agreement with a firm he has created with his compensation comparable to what he has been making.

Motion

Aldersperson Taylor moved to hear Ordinance 2007.72 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Adee 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 2007.72 and Aldersperson Bauer 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.

I. Ordinance No. 2007.73—An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this amending reflects Council direction throughout the year.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2007.73 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 Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2007.73 and Aldersperson Kessler 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, Taylor, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 9 - 0.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 499—Reallocating the City of Sycamore’s Private Activity Bond Volume Cap for the Year 2008 to the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the Purpose of Issuing Mortgage Credit Certificates in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

City Manager Nicklas said the City has participated in this program for many years that encourages first time homebuyers who work with local banks.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Resolution 499 and Aldersperson Taylor 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.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Progress Report from Tim Bronn of McMahon Associates Regarding Phase I of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.

Tim Bronn said initially this project was started with a facility plan that was submitted to the State that detailed projected growth for the City and the treatment technologies to be used and what would be reused in the existing plant to meet the treatment goals that were set down by the State for the quality needed to discharge into the Kishwaukee River for the increased flow. He said they divided the plan into two phases so the first phase addresses the most critical needs of the plant without asking for increase in discharge capacity. He said the second phase is actual modification of the discharge permit and that is the part that will take a long time for review. He said they received a letter from Department of Natural Resources regarding an endangered mussel they found during their survey of the Kish. He said this may require us to adopt a different treatment technology. He said the first part of this project was initiated by staff for critical needs they had that would impact the Phase 1 solids handling project because of inadequate equipment that might cause potential operation and maintenance difficulty in the future. He said those are the Headworks improvements. Mr. Bronn walked through the Headworks improvements and Phase 1 power point demonstrations.

City Manager Nicklas said that the permit for Phase 1 should be issued within the next 4 to 6 weeks and he said he was looking for Council direction to proceed. He said he would like formal action to continue with the Headworks and Phase 1 as laid out in the background.

Aldersperson Neubauer asked if they could proceed with the Headworks and Phase 1 without having approval for Phase 2. He asked if the two phases were intertwined.

Mr. Nicklas said even if they had the dollars, they are not ready for Phase 2, but Phase 1 anticipates Phase 2 in both a general and detailed way. He said timing is important and Phase 2 is about two years out which gives us time to process our request for permission and for loan approval. He said that once we are committed we will find ways and means to get through Phase 2.

Mr. Bronn said they need to consider that as the community grows and flows increase there will be a point where the EPA will not allow any more hookups.

Aldersperson Neubauer said his concern is that in a couple of years they will have to go to the taxpayers to increase the rates and the taxpayers will protest the increase.

Mr. Nicklas said the last sewer fee increase was in 2001 and we have been selective about the pace for upgrading equipment. He said that people will be paying retroactively rather than proactively.

Public Works Director Busse said the equipment has a service life of 20 years and when this is completed it will have been in service for 35 years.

Aldersperson Kessler said they would be looking at fees to pay off loans and asked what kind of dollar savings would result from the upgraded energy savings.

Mr. Bronn said he could calculate that, but not off the top of his head. He said they would be able to calculate reduction in horsepower and horsepower hours.

Mayor Mundy said to keep in mind that these are enterprise funds and need to be looked at like a businesses. He said for all the proposed changes the footprint has not changed so no land will need to be purchased.

Mr. Nicklas mentioned that the limited sewer line will play a part in controlling our future outward growth and he felt that this major improvement should be our last in the foreseeable future.

Aldersperson Neubauer said he has no problem with the plan, but he said we need to be realistic to say to our constituents that we need sewer rate increases. He said he did not have a problem with a 4% increase, but would have a problem with a 30% increase and he felt he needed to know what the costs would be.

Mr. Nicklas said the last time there was an increase in sewer it was a 35% increase over two years. He said when we wait to increase there is a bigger jump. He said they will have to address this within the next 24 months.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to proceed in the direction described in the background and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye, Aldersperson Adey voted no, and Aldersperson Neubauer abstained. Motion carried 6 - 1 - 1.

B. Consideration of a Contract Award to Upgrade the Headworks of the Wastewater Treatment Plant on North Cross Street.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to award Contract A to Morse Electric for \$276,000 and Contract B to Kelsey Excavating for \$67,800 Aldersperson Kessler 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. Consideration of a Contract Award for the Procurement of Certain Equipment Items for Phase One of the Solids Handling Improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on North Cross Street.

City Manager Nicklas said no Council action was recommended at this time, but there would be a recommendation on these bids at the May 5 meeting.

D. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Closed Session Minutes and Collective Bargaining.

Motion

Aldersperson Taylor moved to go into Closed Session at 8:50 p.m. and Aldersperson Kessler 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 Taylor moved to return to Open Session at 9:10 p.m. and Aldersperson Adee 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

ADJOURNMENT

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 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