
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 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, Chuck Stowe and Gregory Taylor. Alderperson Pete Paulsen was absent.

INVOCATION

Pastor Harlene Harden of Sycamore United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Taylor moved to approve the 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 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Alderperson Pete Paulsen arrived at 7:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of September 2, 2008.
- B. Payment of the Bills for September 15, 2008 in the amount of \$1,093,873.94.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of August 11, 2008.
- D. Budget Report for September 3, 2008

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Neubauer said there was a lot of ballyhoo at the last meeting about a handout he gave out and he said there is no crime in being well prepared for a Council meeting and did not feel it was a disservice to the public. He said he was not aware of any ordinance requiring alderpersons to share their numbers ahead of time, but in the spirit of cooperation he would try to share those numbers in advance of the meeting.

Alderperson Paulsen apologized for his tardiness; he said it was difficult to get onto Peace Road with the road closings.

Mayor Mundy reported that DeKalb County Chapter of Red Cross has set up a shelter at the Lutheran Church on the corner of Motel and Brickville for those flooded out of Evergreen Village. He said he hoped that there are plans afoot between the federal government and the County for resolution of that property soon. He said the Red Cross number to call for volunteering or giving donations was 815-756-7339. He noted that 59 guests spent the night Sunday night. Mayor Mundy congratulated City Manager Nicklas for receiving the 2008 Clifford Danielson Outstanding Citizen Award.

A. Proclamation declaring the week of October 5-11, 2008 as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Sycamore.

Mayor Mundy said at the last meeting he took exception to the timing of information provided by Alderperson Neubauer and there was no intent to discourage any Alderperson from providing information when it was for the good of the cause.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said that receiving the Danielson Award was a tremendous honor. He distributed ward maps that included 2005 population numbers for each ward and indicators for each alderpersons address. Mr. Nicklas noted that because of the flooding there would be road closures at North Main, Brickville, and E. State over the next couple of days. He thanked the Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments for their work helping people who cannot help themselves and creating safe road closures. He said that the Red Cross has arranged with local restaurants to provide meals through tomorrow night and asked the media to promote donations to the Red Cross to offset their costs.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, reported that the Main and State Street project was going well and the City is coordinating our project with IDOT's project at that intersection.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said a new business called Batteries Plus was about ready to open next to the Marathon Station on DeKalb Avenue.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said there would be 70 to 75 people at the shelter tonight and would be there for a few more days. He said the Fire Department would be providing shower facilities with the MABAS truck.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported the August Treasurer's report was at the 33.33% benchmark with combined revenues at 33.25% and expenditures at 19.36%.

Police Chief – Don Thomas – no report.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse reported that the wastewater treatment plant had been pumping 15 million gallons of water per day over the past two days. He noted the flow is usually 2 million gallons of water per day. He said by next year they would make flood detour signs that would be reflective so they could be seen at night. He said they have had calls regarding the left turn arrow at DeKalb Avenue and Meadow Lane and should have that repaired soon.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith said, as part of the Street Maintenance Program, they would be starting work on the alley between Elm Street and High Street on Wednesday. He said they would then move to the 300 block of S. Walnut and the final alley would be between S. Walnut and S. Locust. He said the Water Division would begin flushing hydrants next week through October 2.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report
Public Safety – no report
Public Works – no report

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2008.33—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission with Regard to the Petition of BTS Tower Development, LLC for a Special Use Permit for a 190-Foot Monopole Wireless Communication Tower at the Southeast Corner of Page and North California Streets in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said this matter was acted upon at the past Plan Commission meeting. He said the owner of BTS Tower Development contacted him this afternoon to say he could not get out of Texas to appear at the meeting and asked if it could be postponed. Mr. Nicklas said if Council chose to postpone they could either proceed with general discussion or defer that to the next meeting.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he was in favor of postponing action, but said he would like to hear from the people in the audience.

Mr. Nicklas said that the principle criteria were those for special use permits required by the UDO were listed in the background. He said the critical one of those was that the proposed structure at the requested location was necessary and desirable and in the interest of the public and would contribute to the general welfare of the neighborhood or community. He said the Plan Commission voted unanimously 0 – 9 to not recommend to Council for approval.

Jason Beinarauskas, 342 N. Sacramento St., said the proposed location was less than 400 feet from his back yard. He said he did not think the tower belonged in town where it would be surrounded by residential housing. He said he did not think they had provided evidence that it was necessary or desirable in the neighborhood. He said if the cell tower were allowed to be built it would diminish the value of his property and asked Council to vote not to allow the cell tower in town.

Brian Corr, 309 N. California St., said he did not think the petitioner demonstrated that this was proven to be desired or necessary in the neighborhood. He said he thought the City of Sycamore deserved better than having this 190-foot tower in the middle of town.

Patrick O'Brien, 230 N. Sacramento St., said he did not think this tower was desired in the neighborhood. He said this tower would limit the use of that property for future development which could possibly negate more taxes generated and also job loss.

Aldersperson Kessler said she could appreciate that the petitioner is stranded in Texas, but she did not know what they could say that would make her support this tower. She said she was prepared to vote against this at this time.

Aldersperson Taylor said we already have a 245 foot tower within .3 of a mile of this location and he would like to give the petitioner an opportunity to be heard. He said he was curious why the County would not let them co-locate. He said he had a background in telecommunications and noted that there are broader uses than simply cellular service and said they try to locate in areas where calls are dropped.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he agreed with Aldersperson Taylor that they should have an opportunity to speak. He said he surveyed his email distribution list about their cellular service and the overwhelming majority did not see a need for a tower like this in this location.

Aldersperson Stowe said he did not think his mind would be changed, but felt they should have an opportunity to speak.

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the Salaries of City Elected Officials from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2013.

City Manager Nicklas explained that state statute requires that compensation for elected officials are set 180 days prior to an election. He said the City Clerk has proposed a specific compensation level and he thought this was an opportune time for the Mayor and Council to address this.

Mayor Mundy urged Council to leave the mayor's salary as it is.

Aldersperson Kessler said she felt the same about the Council's wages. She said she has always thought there should be a cost of living increase for the City Clerk.

Aldersperson Adee said she agreed with Aldersperson Kessler.

Aldersperson Stowe said he thought it was reasonable, but did not know if the City was allowed to add a cost of living increase to the City Clerk's wages.

City Attorney Foster said he would take a look at that before he ruled.

Aldersperson Taylor said he agreed with keeping the Mayor and Council wages the same and felt the City Clerk's proposal was appropriate because it is a full-time position.

Mayor Mundy also agreed with the City Clerk's proposal.

Mr. Nicklas said if City Attorney Foster finds the proposed index to tie the future increases to then he proposed putting in specific numbers for the increases.

B. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation Regarding Bids Received for the 2008 Tree Planting Program.

City Manager Nicklas said there were three bids with the lowest bid from Stran's Garden Center for \$12,950.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to award the bid to Stran's Garden Center for \$12,950 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked when the packets would be available.

Engineer John Brady said they would be available Friday.

Aldersperson Neubauer asked if \$15,000 was budgeted, could we provisionally extend this to the full \$15,000 if there is public interest because of all the wind damage sustained this year.

Mr. Nicklas said there is not room for that in the operating budget, but could possibly find it in Capital Fund. He said he would report the number of trees requested at the next meeting.

Aldersperson Kessler asked if that would affect the bid process.

Mr. Nicklas said he did not think it would. He said this comes out of Public Works' forestry program and he thought there would be challenges to stay on budget because of increasing costs of salt and fuel.

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 an Administration Recommendation for a Closed Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining Matters.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to go into Closed Session at 8:00 pm 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to return to Open Session at 8:13 pm and Aldersperson Knuth 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.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Mundy announced that Jeff Gorman, Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals, had served on that board for 30 years and recently moved to DeKalb. Mayor Mundy appointed Pat Balentyne to the Board of Zoning Appeals and said he had asked Dave Finney to Chair the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve the appointment 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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