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

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Father Timar of St. Mary's Catholic Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Neubauer 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 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mike Fogelsanger, 845 Sunset Ln., said he felt the City's political sign permit ordinance stripped away the first amendment right to express political points of view. He suggested changing it to allow property owners to place signs on their own property and they would be responsible for removing them in a timely manner.

City Manager Nicklas said in order to be fair to everybody a permit is required with a deposit that is refunded if the signs are removed within a time frame.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 20, 2008.
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 3, 2008 in the amount of \$5,349,555.65.
- C. Approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes dated 4/21/08; 5/5/08; 6/16/08; 7/7/08; 7/21/08; 8/4/08; 9/15/08; and 10/6/08.
- D. Approval to destroy the auditory tapes from the Closed Session Council Meetings during the period 1/2/07 through 4/16/07.

Motion

Alderperson Stowe 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 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Kessler encouraged citizens to use their vote to let their voices be heard. She said polling places for every address can be obtained at maps.google.com/vote.

Aldersperson Paulsen thanked Public Works Director Busse on behalf of the folks on Vista Terrace.

Mayor Mundy thanked Public Works and Public Safety for their work during Pumpkin Fest. He said the Sesquicentennial Time Capsule would be presented Saturday at the closing ceremony of the Veteran's Day Vigil and noted the Sesquicentennial Dance would be November 22 at St. Mary's Hall.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said that local property owners are receiving assessment notices and he noted that the multiplier for Sycamore Township was just under 5% and Cortland Township was just under 4%. He said even if no improvements were made to the property the multiplier when applied would create the assessed evaluation for the record. He said the City is mindful of the impact of property taxes and for the past 10 years has reduced the City's portion of the aggregate rate. He said he would provide six property tax rate options at the next Council meeting.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, said Aster Road in Sycamore Prairie Business Park is about ready to open.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty asked for Council support for the consideration regarding fences on Plymouth Court.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said DeKalb County Marine's annual Toys For Tots drive has started. Chief Riddle said a couple of meetings ago the folks from Cricket Communications implied that if their service was not located an injured person on a cell phone could not be found. He said to set the record straight, DeKalb County 911 has been using phase 2 mapping for several years. He explained that the mapping has the ability to locate the caller with a GPS triangulation within about 25 or 50 feet of where the phone call is made. He said this system is vendor driven and they must supply the computer data to the County. He said where those locations have broken down is where the call centers are not updated or the vendor has not supplied the data.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the annual City newsletter would go out at the end of the week. He said the test for the direct debit program to pay water bills was successful and that system is available to residents with forms on the City's website or through the Finance office.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said the Police Department deployed over 120 professionals and volunteers during Pumpkin Fest.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said the leaf pickup program was in high gear and recommended that residents with a few leaves might want to bag them for Waste Management to pick up. He said they are also putting up lights on trees downtown. He said PW sent out 271 mailbox notices and 18 people have responded to say they have been fixed. He said last year they mailed out 380 notices and had 56 people call back for reinspection.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith said the street maintenance program was completed and noted that the Water Division had to repair a watermain break on N. Main Street due to the N. Main Street project.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Public Safety – no report
Public Works – no report

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2008.48—An Ordinance Amending the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas said the City takes a second pass at the budget every year after the audit to make sure the numbers are accurate. He listed the key revisions that were in the background as follows:

1. The General Fund Reserve transfer to the Employee Benefit Assistance Fund (Fund 23) is increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to cover accrued leave payouts for Lt. Tom Scott and Lt. Duane Prather (Line items 23-3741 and 23-8185).
2. The Water Fund overall spending is increased by \$50,000 through a Water Fund reserve transfer to finance the conversion of the SCADA system from a phone-operated to a signal-operated system. This will involve the installation of antennas at the well buildings and Water division offices. The change is prompted by months of repeated failures in the switching system of the local phone carrier that have led to an average of a dozen or more false failure alerts at the City wells that involve responses from Water division personnel at all hours (See line item 741-8580).
3. Several adjustments are made in the Sales Tax Distributive Fund to provide adequate funding for the FY09 street maintenance program. Because of the slow accrual of new sources of funding in the new Street Maintenance Fund (Fund 30), other capital funding sources have been tapped to meet contractual obligations. Line item 22-8316 was increased from \$20,000 to \$100,000 and line item 22-8634 was increased to \$100,000 partially for the same reason and also to cover the unexpected cost of tank removal in S. Main Street which will total about \$35,000 when all remediation costs are known.
4. The Motor Fuel Tax allocation for street maintenance has been increased from \$100,000 to \$160,000 per Council direction on August 4 (Resolution No. 504) to cover the contractual costs associated with an expanded improvement on Somonauk Street.
5. A new Radium Decommission Fund has been established (Fund 33) to more clearly identify the segregation of funds (\$178,200) each year for the remote possibility that the City's radium treatment plants can be shut down in the future. This set-aside is a requirement of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Previously, this allocation was shown in a Water Fund line item. The proposed approach removes the possibility that such funds would be spent for other Water system purposes.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2008.48 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 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2008.48 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adee, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 – 0.

B. Ordinance No. 2008.49—An Ordinance Amending Title 3, “Business and License Regulations,” Chapter 2, “Liquor Control,” Paragraph 3-2-6, “Classification of Licenses; Fees; Hours; and Days,” Section C to Permit Package Liquor Sales on Sunday from 10:00 A.M. in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Mayor Mundy said the revision of Sunday hour liquor sales applied only to Class D licenses.

City Manager Nicklas pointed out that the language “serve or sell” in the ordinance should read “sell.”

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to hear Ordinance 2008.49 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 7 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2008.49 and Aldersperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Paulsen pointed out that Sycamore is not a village and we have a mayor not a president and Jewel is located on Peace Road not Pearce Road. He said he thought that Jewel should be aware of that in their correspondence.

Roll call vote

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

RESOLUTIONS - None

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Public Works Department Report on the City’s Secondary Meter Pilot Program for Yard Irrigation.

City Manager Nicklas said there were 9 participants and real data was collected on 8 of the 9. He said the revenue implications are that this system would not be a wash. He said the recommendation of the Water Division is to make this system available, but those residents would be charged for sewer along with the water use.

Asst. Public Works Director, Ebe Smith, said our water tower holds 750,000 gallons of water so the water used during the pilot was 740,000 and that is one turnover in the water tower for 8 homes. He said that is a lot of water use and he felt that by charging sewer with the water use was a conservation tool.

Aldersperson Neubauer said we should not encourage this much use of water, but asked why they would be allowed to have two meters.

Mr. Nicklas said some might want to know what their lawn watering use might be, but both meters would be charged the same rate.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked if the City would be reimbursed for the second meter.

Mr. Nicklas said those in the pilot program understood from the beginning of the program that the meter was a loaner.

Asst. Public Works Director Smith said it was okay to have a separate meter with an irrigation system.

Mayor Mundy asked if the least painful procedure would be to reimburse the City.

Mr. Smith said that was correct.

Mr. Nicklas said there is an annual inspection for irrigation systems.

Aldersperson Taylor asked about the annual cost for inspection of the check valve and asked if those residents would have used that amount of water anyway.

Mr. Nicklas said he thought residents felt more encouraged to water with secondary water meters.

Mr. Smith said that local certified plumbers perform the inspections and none of that fee goes to the City.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if the City was loosing money or not making as much money. He said he understood the impetus behind the program because people were opposed to paying sewer rates for water that clearly does not go down the sewer

Mr. Nicklas said it is a generation-old billing system that if changed to separate the sewer and water rates per usage, sewer rates would need to be increased. He said it is more a matter of pay me now or pay me later rather than making or losing money because we are looking for a way to get to the \$15 million for the treatment plant expansion without increasing sewer fees.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if a specific rate could be set for a secondary meter.

Mr. Nicklas said it would be very expensive and did not think that was the answer.

Aldersperson Stowe said he thought there was a fairness issue and he did not want to favor the few that want to use a lot of water.

Mr. Nicklas said he was looking for direction.

Mayor Mundy asked for a motion.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to accept the recommendation to end the program and have the property owners reimburse the City for the secondary meters and Aldersperson Knuth seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Consideration of a Building Department Request for Direction Regarding the Construction of a Screening Fence on City Property.

City Manager Nicklas said the issue is that the fence was allowed to be built at the edge of the City's platted alley right-of-way. He recommended supporting the Building Department's decision by allowing the fence to remain on public property because it established an attractive boundary to Plymouth Court and eliminated headlight diffusion beyond Plymouth Court.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he spoke to three of the four property owners and he said the fence is a dramatic improvement to the view from Plymouth Court and the property owners on Plymouth have been maintaining that City right-of-way. He said the main concern of the Pleasant Street property owner was who was going to maintain the space between the fences.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to support the Building Department's decision by allowing the two fences to remain on public property 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, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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 7 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith