
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 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, Alan Bauer, Terry Kessler, Darren Knuth, Rich Neubauer, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe and Gregory Taylor.

INVOCATION

Joe Bussone read the prayer Father Timar of St. Mary's Catholic Church wrote for the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderson Neubauer moved to approve the agenda and Alderson Taylor seconded the motion.

Voice vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mayor Mundy introduced Middle School Student Council Representatives, sponsor Ms. Stambaugh, and Student Council President John Cordes.

Mike Fogelsanger, 845 Sunset Ln., suggested because of the state of the economy that Council approve Option #1 for the levy because it would decrease the levy by \$63,000.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of November 3, 2008.
- B. Payment of the Bills for November 17, 2008 in the amount of \$234,604.65.
- C. Budget Report for October, 2008.
- D. Building Department Permit Report for October, 2008.

Motion

Alderson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderson Neubauer seconded the motion.

Voice vote

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderson Bauer said he appreciated everybody's patience for his absence last meeting and reminded Council he would miss the next meeting because he would be training out of town.

Alderson Kessler noted that the Veteran's program at the Courthouse was moving and well attended.

Mayor Mundy thanked the Fire Department for letting him shadow the shift earlier in the day. He said the Sesquicentennial Celebration is coming to a close with a dance on Saturday and the Time Capsule will be officially closed at the end of the year. He wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged everybody to shop Sycamore.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said he hoped to get direction on the levy option so the levy notice can be published.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, said the new FEMA maps will go into effect January 2009 so there will be an ordinance on the agenda next month to adopt them and update our flood plain ordinance.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said a final occupancy was written for Superior Industries in Sycamore Prairie Business Park.

Mr. Nicklas said that Ample Supply hopes to be in their building in late winter.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reviewed Fire Prevention activities that took place over 3 weeks in October. He said that firefighters Darren Hepker and Bill Reynolds visited over 2075 kids at schools, 625 students toured the station, and visited 357 pre-schoolers. He said the firefighters feel that it is a worthy program costing \$3,000 in wages and overtime and the materials are donated through grants.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the benchmark for the October Treasurer's report is 50% with revenues running 52.21% and expenditures running 33.75%. He said the Annual Pension Fund Report that was at Council seats had to be completed before the levy is approved.

Police Chief – Don Thomas stated that traditionally the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day with the most accidents and DUI's. He suggested finding a ride home if you find yourself over served.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse report that November 26 would be the last day of leaf pickup and suggested residents get the leaves to the curb over the weekend. He said that Waste Management's last days for picking up yard waste are November 24 and November 25.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith – no report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Public Safety – no report

Public Works – no report

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2008.50—An Ordinance Amending the Sycamore City Code, Title 6, "Traffic," Chapter 4, "Traffic Schedules," Section 6-4-1, "Stop Intersections," to Add Streets in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park. First and Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that this ordinance had a number of changes for safety measures on new subdivision streets.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinance 2008.50 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 2008.50 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.

B. Ordinance No. 2008.51—An Ordinance Approving the Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the IMLRMA for Worker’s Compensation and Liability Coverage for City Employees. First and Second Reading.

City Manager Nicklas recommended, for the 12th year running, continuing with an agreement with Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) for worker’s compensation and liability coverage. He said the City has benefited from Human Resource Director Jean Tritle’s guidance and expertise in searching the market for options. He said the City has become proactive with a pretty active safety program, but because we are carrying the anchor of major claims in years past, we are unable to get competitive bids from the private sector.

Human Resource Director Jean Tritle pointed out that City employees have been working hard the past two years to get the rate down and the loss ratio is decreasing, but the IML looks back a number of years.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2008.51 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 Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2008.51 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if this would be paid before November 21 in order to receive the 2% discount.

Mr. Nicklas said it definitely would.

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

A. Resolution No. 510—Adopting the DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

City Manager Nicklas explained that the adoption of such a plan is a pre-condition for the County to be eligible for mitigation funds under various provisions of the United States Code.

Aldersperson Kessler said she did not understand why the watershed program fit under this topic.

Mr. Nicklas said it was one of the components of the plan.

Aldersperson Kessler asked if the cost of \$500,000 over the next 36 months would be our obligation.

Mr. Nicklas said it was not our obligation, but there must be some contours done of the County and the County has that under advisement.

Aldersperson Kessler said it was an unfunded recommendation at this point with no obligation of the City if they approved this plan.

Mr. Nicklas said if the County could not find the resources available they would have to go to the voters.

Aldersperson Taylor said it looked like a lot of unfunded mandates.

Mr. Nicklas said there are several state and federal mandates with the attitude to let the municipalities pay for it. He said what is asked for here is an annual inventory and accounting. He said we are not taking on an annual cost, but it should be a national discussion about who is responsible for our homes.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if they did approve this resolution would the amount we would be on the hook for be more paying for the projects than what we could get from FEMA.

Mr. Nicklas said he did not think so. Mr. Nicklas said he could not guarantee that someday a price tag would not be attached. He said if we do not approve this, we will not be eligible for FEMA funding. He said the City is now required to do a certain amount of silt control when doing road or ditch work.

Aldersperson Neubauer asked if they should use the words that were in a sample resolution "provided resources are available."

Mr. Nicklas said the City is required to make an effort.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to adopt Resolution 510 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the Annual City Property Tax Levy.

City Manager Nicklas noted that Sycamore Public Library Executive Director Sarah Tobias was in the audience because the Library's levy is part of the corporate levy. He said the equalized assessed valuation is an estimated number at this point because of the possibility of residents protesting their EAV's. He said the multiplier is based on three trailing years and this year the base is 2005 which was a boom year in this

County. He said he has not proposed any tax rate increase in any of the six options. Mr. Nicklas recommended Option #5 a 3.5% increase. He said that none of the options proposed have reached the rate of inflation as defined by the federal government. He said of the \$2,548,176 levied, 38% goes to pension funds. He said next year he would show line charts as suggested by Alderperson Neubauer. He said he takes into consideration the impact on homeowners and the impact on attracting new business when he is calculating the rate.

Alderperson Neubauer said the way he judged what the rate should be would be the rate of CPI or the rate of inflation. He said he thought that 3.5% increased the rate 1.7% vs. a CPI of 4.88%. He said he thought it would be good if government kept its spending to 3% below the CPI. He said he thought Option #5 would be fine and would like to see a comparison to the CPI in future years.

Alderperson Bauer said he was in favor of Option #5 a 3.5% increase because the lion's share of the increase will go back into the local economy through ordinary wages and our local preference ordinance causes those dollars to stay local.

Mr. Nicklas said the background included the Library Board's proposal and Council basically receives that and it is on par with the increases over the past 10 years. He said the corporate rate is still down 2.2%.

Mayor Mundy said this is a result of prudent management of the budget. He said they have been consistently weaning the City away from property tax reliance.

Mr. Nicklas said when he was hired in 1998 Council mandated him to keep rates down.

The consensus of Council was to adopt Option #5 with a 3.5% increase.

B. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Liquor Commissioner to Allow City Bars to Remain Open Until 1:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 27, 2008.

Mayor Mundy said he received a request from 5 of the 10 bar licensees to remain open an extra hour the day before Thanksgiving.

Alderperson Taylor asked Chief Thomas to comment.

Police Chief Thomas said the bars in DeKalb close at 1:00 a.m. that night and if ours close at midnight, our citizens might drive to DeKalb. He said it made sense for decreased vehicular activity that we keep the same hours as DeKalb that night. He said he was neutral on the subject, but he did not see a strong negative in allowing that extra hour.

Alderperson Neubauer said he supported the extra hour as long as DeKalb bars closed at 1:00 a.m.

Alderperson Paulsen said he agreed with the Chief and would rather have the bar patrons go home than drive to DeKalb. He asked if the other 5 bar licensees had been contacted.

Mayor Mundy said it would apply to all 10 bar licensees and this was not a mandate, but only gave permission to those who wanted to stay open later. He said he would send letters to all 10 bar licensees.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve the request to allow bars to stay open until 1:00 a.m. November 27, 2008 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.

C. Consideration of an Administration Request to Discuss Arbitration.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to go into Closed Session at 8:25 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Knuth moved to return to Open Session at 8:35 p.m. 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.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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