

SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA
May 18, 2009

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
No Meetings Are Scheduled

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of May 4, 2009.
 - B. Payment of the Bills for May 18, 2009.
 - C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of April 13, 2009.
 - D. Proclamation Declaring May 27, 2009 “Senior Health and Fitness Day” in the City of Sycamore.
 - E. Annual Report of the Sycamore Fire and Police Commission for FY09.
7. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.**
8. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**
9. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
10. **PUBLIC HEARINGS--None**

11. ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance No. 2009.05—An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 City Budget. First and Second Reading.

The attached ordinance makes a minor revision in the Sewer Fund revenue spreadsheet of the FY10 Budget. The projected fund balance and expenditures remain the same as presented to the Council in May. However, the total revenues are adjusted (i.e. increased) to reflect a slightly higher reserve transfer. With this correction, the City can proceed with its submittal to the Illinois EPA for grant and loan support for Phase I of the treatment plant improvements.

City Council approval is recommended.

B. Ordinance No. 2009.06—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$1,000 to the DeKalb County Community Foundation for Services to the Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Over the past fourteen years, the City Council budget has historically funded a \$1,000 allocation to the DeKalb County Community Foundation to help defray organizational expenses. This grant and others from local taxing bodies and private contributors helps offset the operational liabilities of the foundation and in turn optimizes the funds available for helping county agencies and new initiatives in the general welfare. Among the Sycamore agencies or groups that have been served in recent years are Opportunity House, CASA, Sycamore Child Care, VAC, Discover Sycamore, the Sycamore Chamber, the Sycamore Historical Society, the Midwest Museum, and the Sycamore Firefighters Preservation Company. In the FY10 City Budget, the funding source for this grant allocation was moved to the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund (09-8489).

City Council approval is recommended.

C. Ordinance No. 2009.07—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$12,000 to the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation for Services to Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

For twenty years, the City Council budget has extended a grant to the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) to help defray organizational expenses. The grant has been accompanied by an organizational agreement (attached) setting out the reciprocal obligations of the City and DCEDC.

The proposed grant underwrites the DCEDC staff's responses to cold calls and other inquiries concerning industrial space in Sycamore. An additional value of Sycamore's support for the organization is access to the County's best network of economic development officials, and a respected clearinghouse for development information. The City seats on the organization's executive committee and Board assure us of a more timely and thorough access to such information. The attached agreement requires prompt follow-up on industrial leads, the maintenance of a database on Sycamore's industrial sites and buildings, and regular reporting to the staff and Council. In the FY10 City Budget, the funding source for this grant allocation was moved to the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund (09-8489).

City Council approval is recommended.

D. Ordinance No. 2009.08—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$17,000 to the Voluntary Action Center for Services to the Citizens of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Ordinance 2009.08 pertains to the annual allocation for services rendered to the City of Sycamore by the Voluntary Action Center (VAC). Specifically, the grant helps defray organizational expenses associated with TransVAC, which provides about 19,000 trips per year for Sycamore residents; MedVac, which provides about 400 trips per year to regional hospitals and other care facilities; and the Meals on Wheels program which provides about 11,000 meals for senior citizens and disabled persons in Sycamore. Only about 12% of the TransVac services and 3% of the Meals on Wheels services are offset by the proposed grant. Other VAC funding sources include state and federal grants, foundation grants, private donations, and user fees. In the FY10 City Budget, the funding source for this grant allocation was moved to the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund (09-8489).

City Council approval is recommended.

E. Ordinance No. 2009.09—An Ordinance Approving a Grant of \$20,000 to the Voluntary Action Center to Support the Blue Line Flexible Bus Route Service in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

In July 2007 the City Council committed to long-term funding support for the “Blue Line” in the form of a local match for a larger state grant of about \$44,000 and local private donations totaling about \$15,000. The attached ordinance would sustain that commitment.

The Voluntary Action Center records indicate that since the Blue Line began operation in November 2007 the average daily ridership has been about 80 riders. Most riders are persons with disabilities and residents of the high-rise apartment building on Grant Street. Recently, more residents have used the service rather than their personal vehicles for economic reasons. VAC officials believe ridership will continue to grow now that the route and service are better known. The Blue Line’s hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., but the service has also provided special runs during downtown event weekends. Funding for the City’s share comes from the Sales Tax Distributive Fund (22-8540).

City Council approval is recommended.

F. Ordinance No. 2009.10—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Petition from Rick and Gloria Kramer for a Special Use Permit to Operate a Body Art Establishment at 126-1/2 E. State Street in the “C-2” Business District in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

At the City Council meeting of April 20, the Council approved revisions to the City’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to allow “body art establishments” as a special use in the “C-2” Central Business District, above the first floor, and in “C-3” Highway Business districts within the corporate limits (Ordinance 2008.84).

At the May 4 meeting, the Council approved a regulatory framework for the licensing of body art establishments within the City of Sycamore (Ordinance 2009.03). With the appropriate changes to the UDO and the City Code, the Kramers are now in a position to formally file for a special use permit to operate a body art establishment at 126-1/2 E. State Street.

The Kramers petitioned the Plan Commission and the Council for a special use permit to operate a licensed body art establishment on the second floor of the building at 126 E. State Street. They would be required to abide by the newly approved licensing provisions noted above—regulations which they helped create.

At the Plan Commission meeting of May 11, the Commission voted 8-0 to recommend the special use request. City Council approval of the Plan Commission recommendation is requested.

G. Ordinance No. 2009.11—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Petition from the City of Sycamore to Annex Property Owned by Jerome Johnson at 401 N. Main Street, to Rezone the Property to “C-3,” Highway Business District and to “M-1,” Light Manufacturing District, and to Approve a Final Plat for the J.A. Johnson Subdivision in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Consideration of an annexation petition has been continued since the December Plan Commission meeting. Since that time, the City staff and Mr. Johnson have agreed to a rezoning of the subject parcel to provide for commercial “C-3” zoning along the N. Main Street frontage and “M-1” light manufacturing zoning on the western portion of the parcel, a final plat of subdivision, and also a vacation of a wedge-shaped piece of street right-of-way adjacent to the southwest corner of the property. This small piece will not be needed for any future re-configuration of the intersection of W. Page Street and N. Maple Street, but an easement has been added for construction purposes. The annexation, rezoning, and final plats are attached to illustrate these understandings.

In addition, the property owner has agreed to a dedication at the southeast corner of his property to allow for construction or utility work in the event that a widening of the turn radius is desired in any future road improvement abutting that portion of the property. At the Plan Commission meeting of May 11, the Commission voted 8-0 to recommend the annexation, rezoning and final plats. City Council approval of the Plan Commission recommendation is requested.

H. Ordinance No. 2009.12—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Petition to Vacate a Portion of W. Page Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

This item relates to the Johnson annexation and rezoning described above. The portion of W. Page Street to be vacated is described on the attached plat of vacation and abuts the property at 111 W. Page Street. City Council approval is recommended.

12. RESOLUTIONS--None

13. CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Police Department Recommendation to Award a Contract for the Purchase of Three Replacement Squad Cars to Veto Enterprises in the Amount of \$52,087.37.

The Police department recently requested bids on three replacement squad cars that are funded in the FY10 Budget (06-8521). As the attached memorandum from Lt. Cary Singer explains, three sealed bids were received, and each bid included trade-in values of the three vehicles that are to be replaced (a 2001 Chevy Impala, and two 2002 Chevy Impalas). The low bid was submitted by Veto Enterprises of Sycamore in the amount of \$52,058.37, with the trade-in values included. The replacement vehicles will also be Chevy Impalas.

City Council approval of the low bid is recommended.

B. Consideration of a Police Department Recommendation to Award a One-Year Nuisance Abatement Contract to Sigmascap Design Group, Inc.

The hiring of a community services officer in the Sycamore Police department several years ago brought order and a greater efficiency to the City's effort to mitigate yard nuisances within the corporate limits, especially tall grasses and weeds in the warmer months. On several occasions in 2007 and again in 2008, the sequence of legal notices did not elicit a cooperative response from the property owner and a summary abatement of a longstanding yard nuisance took place. With the collapse of the local housing industry, a casual observer will notice that many platted but unbuilt lots are growing weeds which will soon become intolerable to families in nearby homes. In anticipation of more abatements, the City prepared specifications for private contractual services that could perform the necessary mowing and cleanup tasks at bid prices. A notice inviting bids was published in early April, and specifications were made available to any interested bidders. The described work could be performed by a small local contractor with equipment that could resist the wear and tear that comes from the mowing of vacant lots which often have hidden construction debris.

Only one bid was solicited. The lone bidder was Sigmascap Design Group of Sycamore. The per-hour labor and equipment costs are attached. The disappointing response to the City's solicitation does not disqualify the bid. In addition, in light of the recent spurt in the growth of weeds and grasses on unbuilt lots, it may be prudent to award the contract so that a contractor can be under contract within the month. At this time, it is difficult to estimate the City's cost for such services in 2009. With reference to the City's experience with yard abatement in the past two years, it is likely that the persuasive powers of the Police department's ordinance officer will continue to minimize the need for the summary abatement of nuisances. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to expect some abatement efforts over the course of the summer and fall.

City Council approval of a one-year contract with Sigmascap is recommended.

C. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters.

14. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

15. APPOINTMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT