

---

**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2009**

---

**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: Alan Bauer, Steven Braser, Rich Neubauer, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, Gregory Taylor, and Janice Tripp. Alderperson Terry Kessler was absent.

**INVOCATION**

Elder William Bridgewater of Israel of God Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Alderperson Neubauer moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Paulsen 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**

**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 in the amount of \$347,448.22.
- 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.

**Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent 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.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.**

Mayor Mundy advised residents to drive carefully as school lets out and the children are out playing and riding bikes. He also noted Sycamore's Memorial Day events starting with the ceremony at the High School May 22, Mayor's breakfast at the Fargo May 25, service at the Vet's Home May 25 followed by the parade to Elmwood Cemetery.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas announced that the Council department tour would be June 17 starting at Public Works at 6:30 p.m.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, said he was working with Assistant Public Works Director Ebe Smith on the street maintenance program and would have a report for Council at the June 15 meeting.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said that a couple of months ago Zak Siddiqui asked for a waiver on a sidewalk on Coltonville Road and that sidewalk is now in. He thanked Council for their support.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said the Sycamore National Guard unit will be returning from Afghanistan and he noted that this was the third time this unit had been deployed since 2001. He said that last week Firefighter Ian Wheeler performed a piano solo at the High School music concert. Chief Riddle said that Paid-On-Call Gary Carlson turned in his resignation and he would have him in for recognition at the next Council meeting.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the numbers on the Treasurer’s Report through April 30 were on a cash basis and the Home Rule sales tax fell short of the budgeted benchmark by about \$156,000 and the state portion was about \$400,000 off the budget. He said it looked like there was also a shortfall on a cash basis of the airline agreements revenues. He said the auditors would be back out mid to late June and they should have their report in August. He said that April looked like a promising month, though it would not make up for the fall.

Police Chief – Don Thomas presented Council with the 2008 annual Police Department report. He said the Police Department has grown to 30 police officers, 15 auxiliary and civilian, and 10 crossing guards. He asked Council to call him with any questions.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse reported there would be a pre-construction meeting Tuesday with CBI regarding construction of the water tower. He said they are ready to get started and he would have a time frame after the meeting.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING** - None

## **ORDINANCES**

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

City Manager Nicklas said this was a housekeeping item in anticipation of an IEPA grant and loan support for Phase I of the treatment plant improvements.

#### **Motion**

Alderperson Neubauer moved to hear Ordinance 2009.05 on first and second reading 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.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to approve Ordinance 2009.05 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that the City has given this grant to the DeKalb County Community Foundation since its inception to help defray organizational expenses.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2009.06 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 2009.06 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Taylor said he read in the newspaper that DeKalb would be weaning themselves from some of their charitable organizations and wondered if Sycamore should consider that. He also wondered what impact \$1,000 would have on an organization working with \$7 million.

Mr. Nicklas said that \$1,000 was not a large amount and they return that many times over back to the community. He recommended continuing this grant.

**Roll call vote**

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

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas said this grant is for certain services that are identifiable and measurable and if it were not for those services the City would probably have to spend more money.

Paul Borek, DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation Director, said over the past 22 years they have helped attract over \$1 billion worth of investment and 10,000 jobs in the County. He said the 2009 focus is on retention and expansion and they have initiated a business visitation program to reach out. He also noted that their website has been updated. He thanked the City for their participation and support.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if DCEDC had anything to do with getting the robotics firm.

Mr. Borek said that company went directly to the City.

Mr. Nicklas said that they found the site on the DCEDC website and then contacted the City. He said that DCEDC is particularly useful in working with certain agencies at the State level.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2009.07 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Tripp 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 2009.07 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas said this was the same level grant as last year.

Ellen Rogers, VAC, said they have partnered with the City for that past 20 years that she has been with VAC. She said the services they provide have a real impact on municipalities and they are grateful for the City's partnership. She said that partnership was one of the things that make Sycamore a great place to live. Ms. Rogers went on to talk about the Blue Line and said it has done greater than they had anticipated. She said they are doing about 1,000 rides per month and she felt it had provided need. She said it has also impacted their door-to-door service by freeing up space for those who cannot stand at a bus stop.

Aldersperson Bauer asked Ms. Rogers to explain about the flexible part of the bus service.

Ms. Rogers said they are able to deviate from the designated stops which works out well when working with special populations where directions might be challenging.

Mayor Mundy said he gets direct feedback on the services and he hopes the ridership grows.

Aldersperson Braser said they also have an outstanding safety record.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to hear Ordinance 2009.08 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to approve Ordinance 2009.08 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Neubauer said that for \$37,000 the City could not even buy a bus and provide bus drivers and he was honored to approve these grants.

**Roll call vote**

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

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas said in 2007 Council committed to multi-year support and at the time they did not set a time, but asked VAC to come back and report. He recommended continuing this grant for this year and said that if the City were to pull their support, the State grant would be in jeopardy.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to hear Ordinance 2009.09 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to approve Ordinance 2009.09 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that April 20 Council approved revisions to the City’s Unified Development Ordinance to allow body art establishment as a special use in C-2 Central Business District, above the first floor and in C-3 Highway Business district within the corporate limits. He said the regulatory framework was passed at the May 4 Council meeting. He said this is back now with a Special Use permit request from the Kramers.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2009.10 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Bauer 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 Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2009.10 and Aldersperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Bauer, Braser, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye with Aldersperson Neubauer voting nay. Motion carried 6 – 1.

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas said this has been continued since the December Plan Commission meeting and since that time City staff and Mr. Johnson have agreed to a rezoning of the subject parcel, a final plat of subdivision, and the next item on the agenda refers to a vacation of a piece of street right-of-way adjacent to the southwest corner of the property.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2009.11 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Braser 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 2009.11 and Aldersperson Braser seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked if the current buildings would be conforming to these changes and Engineer Brady said they would be.

**Roll call vote**

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

**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.**

City Manager Nicklas said the engineering for the street has not been done, but they reached an accord on this issue.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2009.12 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 Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2009.12 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

Mr. Johnson’s attorney, Duane Slayton, thanked the City.

## RESOLUTIONS - None

## 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.**

City Manager Nicklas said the Police Department has done a good job in presenting this matter with considerable savings and thanked Chief Thomas and Lt. Cary Singer for that.

Mayor Mundy asked about using energy efficient vehicles when he saw that these cars are E85 engines and asked if we sacrificed anything by using those.

Chief Thomas said that all their vehicles are now V-6's. He said the policy is they never drive over 20 M.P.H. over the speed limit in an emergency and that has worked well. He said he would like to go green and go hybrid, but it would take 8 to 12 years to recoup the difference in price and their cars do not last that long with the heavy use. He said the Chevy Impala is a sufficient car and it is the most popular police car in the country.

Mayor Mundy said he asked that on behalf of school students who have been writing and asking about our intentions of being green as a City. He said he promised them that as it is affordable the City would do that.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to award the contract to Veto Enterprises in the amount of \$52,058.37 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Paulsen noted he liked spending the money in town.

Aldersperson Taylor said there was an \$11,000 difference in bids.

Chief Thomas said we have an advantage because Mr. Veto is well known throughout the United States and gets top dollar for vehicles he sells to movie theatres as promos, to the movie industry to demolish, and to smaller departments to use for police business.

#### **Roll call vote**

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

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

City Manager Nicklas said because of the economy and in anticipation of more abatements the City prepared specification for private contractual service that could perform the necessary mowing and cleanup tasks at bid prices. He said the lone bidder was Sigmascap Design Group, Inc.

Aldersperson Neubauer said there was some resident concern that the City will be mowing private lawns.

Mr. Nicklas said this would not be a public service; liens will be placed on those properties.

Alderson Bauer asked what amount would be liened above and beyond the actual nuisance removal.

Mr. Nicklas said that administrative fees would be charged.

Chief Thomas said that the liens would include fines, as well.

Alderson Taylor said he appreciated the fast response of the Community Service Officer.

Alderson Braser asked how many hours of work were anticipated and asked why this would not fall under the Street Division.

Mr. Nicklas said that two lots were abated last year. He said he would never support committing the City to abate properties as a service.

Chief Thomas said as soon as the word got out that the City had a vendor to abate last year there was more compliance from property owners.

**Motion**

Alderson Stowe moved to award the contract to Sigmascape Design Group, Inc. and Alderson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Aldersons Bauer, Braser, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 7 – 0.

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

**Motion**

Alderson Paulsen moved to go into Closed Session at 8:25 p.m. 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Alderson Taylor moved to return to Open Session at 8:47 p.m. and Alderson Braser seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Alderson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. and Alderson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Approve:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk – Candy Smith