
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 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, Terry Kessler, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, Gregory Taylor, and Janice Tripp. Alderperson Rich Neubauer arrived at 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION

Deacon Chuck Ridulph of Senior Christian Ministries gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderperson Neubauer arrived at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Kessler moved to approve the 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.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mayor Mundy said the Fire Department had a presentation regarding the rescue of a young person in our community.

Ross Bubolz said he wanted everybody to know what great first responders we have in this community. He said that our firefighters and police officers responded quickly and professionally and were very kind to his family. He acknowledged that we have great service and great servants here from the 911 operator all the way down the line.

Chief Riddle noted that on the morning of July 13 a call was received that Thad Bubolz fell into the swimming pool and the fire department wanted to recognize some citizens for their work in the rescue.

Firefighter Marcinkowski, IAFF Local 3046 President, said that Thad's sister pulled him from the pool and a friend performed CPR until the ambulance arrived. He said that they were able to get a pulse back on the ambulance and got him to the hospital and he is here with us today. He presented an award to Kennedy Bubolz and to a friend, Sarah Blazer. He said the Local was presenting Citizen awards and the Chief was presenting awards from the City. He presented an award to Diane Russell who is Dispatch from the Sheriff's Department in recognition of her outstanding effort. Chief Riddle presented Diane Russell with an award and noted that generally the dispatchers don't get to see the outcome of their work so they just want to say thank you.

Mayor Mundy thanked everybody for coming and thanked the firefighters for doing their job.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of July 20, 2009.
- B. Payment of the Bills for August 3, 2009 in the amount of \$326,689.58.
- C. Proclamation Declaring the City of Sycamore's support for the U.S. Census Bureau and the 2010 Decennial Census.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Aldersperson Neubauer said there is a movement afoot to purchase and make into a park the vacant lot on the corner of Somonauk and Charles. He said he would get more information to Council and he would keep them in the loop.

Mayor Mundy noted that the warmth and strong support in response to the passing of Joyce Nicklas by our community was memorable and wonderful and we continue to support Bill Nicklas and his family. Mayor Mundy also thanked Public Safety and Public Works for their effort toward the Car Show.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas thanked Mayor Mundy for his kind words and thanked Brian Gregory for his help in polishing the agenda.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, reported that next Monday the excavation for the water tower project would begin with the foundation work to follow.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty distributed a one-half-year building report that shows residential and commercial activity very light this year.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle – no report

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported that the audit draft should be in this week and once reviewed should be ready to present to Council in September.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reserved his comment for Resolution 523.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith reported they received a letter from State Purchasing stating that salt prices have decreased to \$55/ton compared to \$80/ton last year.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Public Safety – no report

Public Works – no report

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES - None

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 523—A Resolution Supporting Issuance of New Debt Service to Fund an Addition to the Public Safety Building.

City Manager Nicklas said he wanted to formalize the intent of the straw poll taken at the July 20 meeting so that Eric Anderson of BMO Capital Markets can proceed to take the steps necessary to lead us up to the closing on the bond in September. He said the more important test will be what we see down the road in bids.

Aldersperson Bauer said he knew there was a grass roots effort to expand this program to include the entire facility and he felt it was one thing to know when to strike when the iron is hot and to know what you can afford. He said he thought this was a reasonable solution.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Resolution 523 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler asked the time frame of the process.

Mr. Nicklas said the market knows about the federal program and we will not have to wait months to pre-qualify. He said there are people looking to buy up these bonds and the federal cover to this is important for the discount and what it does for our rate. He said we would have to submit our financial statements for review by a bond rating agency and we are considering using Standard & Poors. He said that Mr. Anderson would lead us through the rest of the process.

Aldersperson Neubauer said we were shooting for a rate of 4.5% and asked what that depended on.

Mr. Nicklas said he thought we were still in a favorable position in relation to this program and said there was always a possibility of doing some mixing and blending, but we want to principally work through this program.

Roll call vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation Regarding Health Insurance Coverage for Active and Retired City Employees.

City Manager Nicklas thanked Human Resources Director Jean Tritle for helping flush out this particular consideration. He said the City has over \$3 million in claims expense, but we ended up with a premium

increase through Blue Cross Blue Shield of just over 8%. He said that the low increase is partly due to moving the retirees to a separate plan. He said the overall package includes health, dental, and vision insurance. He said the recommendation is to renew the contract with Blue Cross and Assurant and to continue the City's contribution to the HSA deductible as incentive for our employees to choose this plan.

Christina Bowers said she has appreciated working as the City's broker since 1998 and she works hard to get us a creative package. She said she felt that the long relationship helped keep Blue Cross's increase down with a claims loss ratio of 185%.

Mr. Nicklas said that another broker submitted a bid which looked, on the surface, more attractive, but it was not exactly the same plan. He said the proposed new carrier has not penetrated this market to establish a trend line so a change has not been recommended at this time.

Mayor Mundy credited Human Resources Director Jean Tritle and Brian Gregory for their work on the Health Insurance Committee.

Aldersperson Taylor asked about the claim trends.

Mr. Nicklas said there were extraordinary events this past year.

Human Resources Director Tritle noted that this year's claims experience included retirees and they have since been moved to a separate plan.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to approve renewal of contracts with Blue Cross and Assurant and to approve the City's contribution to the HSA deductible and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

B. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Architectural Review Committee Concerning a Façade Grant Request from Sweet Earth, Inc. for the Property at 341 West State Street.

City Manager Nicklas said the Committee reviewed this and recommended a 50/50 participation for the new sign. He noted that since the background was written, Sweet Earth received an additional bid which was considerably lower at \$3,485.00. He said the City's participation would be \$1,742.50.

Motion

Aldersperson Taylor moved to approve the grant for \$1,742.50 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Roll call vote

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 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