
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2010

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. Rich Neubauer arrived at 7:01.

INVOCATION

Pastor Steve Persson of the First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Nicklas recommended removing Ordinance 2009.51 from the agenda because he felt more information was required.

Motion

Alderperson Neubauer moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Ordinance 2009.51 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 8 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Rosemarie Slavenas, 1629 Park Avenue, expressed concern that Sycamore would lose some of its charm if the population restriction was removed for the number of package liquor stores allowed. She said she felt a sin tax was a short-term solution that creates long-term problems.

Rose Trembl, Sycamore Chamber Executive Director, said she was speaking on behalf of the Business Advocacy Committee and Chamber Board and they could not support the ½% Home Rule Tax increase because they thought it would directly affect the public purchasing power and therefore the sales of member businesses. She said that if Council felt they had exhausted all other options and must increase the Home Rule Tax, they asked that a two-year sunset clause be included.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of December 21, 2009.
- B. Payment of the Bills for January 4, 2010 in the amount of \$2,213,320.85.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Alderperson Kessler noted that the bills include refunds for the United Aviation and American Airline agreements.

Voice vote

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Paulsen noted that Larry Steczo died January 1 and his memorial would be held Saturday at the First Baptist Church and after a gathering to celebrate his life at MVP Sports Bar.

Mayor Mundy congratulated Ideal Industries for its acquisition of Western Forge.

A. Swearing-in of Bob Maciejewski as Fire Lieutenant and Nick Young as Career Firefighter. Both are replacement positions.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Manager – Bill Nicklas said he hoped to bring a recommendation for awarding a bid for the police addition at the second meeting in February.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, - no report

Building & Zoning Commissioner – Lyle Doty said the memory care center going up off Peace Road is going pretty slowly and he did not expect it to open before mid-summer.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle noted that the City has hired 7 of the 9 graduated of the Fire Department’s intern program.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported that the City transferred just under \$74,000 to the School District for Transfer Tax collected in the last quarter of 2009. He said the total transferred for 2009 was just over \$250,000.

Police Chief – Don Thomas listed the heating centers as the Sycamore Center, Public Library and the Public Safety Building. He asked residents to reach out to friends and neighbors and to call 911 if they see a problem.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse reported that the last large lift on the new water tower would take place this week. He noted that the work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has slowed down because of the cold weather.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Public Safety – no report

Public Works – no report

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2009.49—An Ordinance Amending Title 3, “Business and License Regulation,” Chapter 2, “Liquor Control,” Section 3-2-7, “Number of Licenses,” Subsection A,4, “Class D; Package Goods,” to Remove the Population-Based Limit on the Number of Package Liquor Licenses in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas said he brought this back at the direction of Council at the last regular meeting who were polled and all five alderpersons present said they approved removing the population-based limit on the number of package liquor licenses.

Motion

Aldersperson Braser moved to approve Ordinance 2009.49 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.

- B. Ordinance 2009.50—An Ordinance Approving a Lease Between the City of Sycamore and the Sycamore History Museum for the Property at 1730 N. Main Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas said this item was discussed at the last regular meeting and Council directed him to bring this back in ordinance form.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved hear Ordinance 2009.50 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 8 - 0.

Motion

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to approve Ordinance 2009.50 and Aldersperson Paulsen 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, Tripp, and Mayor Mundy voted aye. Motion carried 9 – 0.

- C. Ordinance No. 2009.51—An Ordinance Designating Basic Medical Coverage Under the Public Safety Employee Benefit Act (PSEBA). First and Second Reading.**

(removed from agenda)

- D. Ordinance No. 2009.52—An Ordinance Amending Title 3, “Business and License Regulations,” Chapter 2, “Liquor Control,” Section 6, “Classification of Licenses; Fees; Hours and Days,” and Section 3-2-7, “Number of Licenses,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Establish a New “J” License for Outdoor Ball Park Facilities. First and Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas said this item arises because of the interest of a promoter that represents Liners Baseball which is a team that is part of a collegiate baseball league which would locate some of its summer games in Sycamore. He noted that the league promoter's name in the background should be Kim Wise.

Alderson Bauer asked if the wording could mean that potentially beer and wine could be sold at t-ball games.

Mayor Mundy said this is a specific purposed ordinance, so there cannot be confusion about where the liquor will be sold.

Alderson Kessler questioned the clarity of the serving time because the ordinance states "when the sporting event is in progress."

Mayor Mundy said the time of each game is unknown.

Alderson Bauer said that typically professional games stop the sale of alcohol in the 7th inning.

Mayor Mundy said there may be more than one game and maybe sometimes tournaments.

Mr. Nicklas said he did not want to authorize police overtime to police the time of selling alcohol.

Alderson Kessler said the people serving liquor will need to be responsible for the alcohol sales. She said they want this to succeed and we want this to succeed so she thought they would act responsibly. She also noted that this will bring people and revenue into Sycamore and she was in complete support of this.

Mayor Mundy said a management firm will be in charge and the control will be there.

Alderson Neubauer said he would be a little concerned about tournaments and people drinking all day and asked if the City could send an officer to monitor the end of the event.

Mayor Mundy said the first year about 27 games would be scheduled and he did not anticipate a whole day of baseball.

Alderson Taylor asked if the Park District would be the liquor holder.

Mayor Mundy said the management company would hold the liquor license.

Mr. Nicklas explained that this would be a mini version of Kane County Cougars where tables and seats would be brought in.

Alderson Braser said he has worked on the department tourism on this and this is a win-win situation for Sycamore. He said they will improve the ball fields and the park and most of the cities are five times as large as Sycamore so we are lucky to be considered.

Alderson Stowe said he thought that "event in progress" should be clarified.

Mr. Nicklas said he saw the point, but because the times of the games are uncertain, they should leave this up to the license holder and if they violate the conditions of their license, there will be consequences.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved hear Ordinance 2009.52 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 2009.52 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.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 531—Authorizing the City Manager to Designate Freedom of Information Act Officers Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois.

Motion

Aldersperson Braser moved to approve Resolution 531 and Aldersperson Kessler 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.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Request for Direction Regarding the FY2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget.

City Manager Nicklas said he brought this back tonight because he was looking for direction to make some elementary assumptions about our general operating fund. He said at the last meeting the Mayor went down the dais and the five alderspersons present felt that Option #5, ½% Home Rule Tax increase, was the way to go. He said that all Council members were present and he wanted their input so he could bring back an ordinance to the next meeting if that is their direction.

Aldersperson Neubauer said it was important to remember that until a couple of years ago we were running surpluses and if the economy had not taken a nose dive, we would be in great shape. He said he could support the increase in the Home Rule Tax by ½% as long as it rolls off in two years.

Aldersperson Kessler said she was in support of the ½% increase and said she could see the Chamber’s point if the surrounding communities were much less. She said that DeKalb is at 8% and that is where the ½% increase would put Sycamore. She said that she would like to keep the increase in the

Telecommunication Tax on the table for future deficits. She said she would like to see a sunset clause in a 3-year period.

Mr. Nicklas said it may not be legal to impose a sunset clause, but Council can vote to remove the increase at any time. He said he has asked the attorney to look into this and he will come back with the conclusion on where that stands with State Statute.

Aldersperson Braser said he did not like phrases like "sunset clause" and thought the language should be clear that the tax will end at a certain time. He also noted that sales tax does not keep residents and businesses from coming to a town.

Mr. Nicklas said he has never heard anybody not purchase or move into a community because of the sales tax rate, but he said he did understand the anxiety over it.

Aldersperson Neubauer said he preferred to have the tax end in two years and if it is still required because of the economy, then it can be reinstated.

Aldersperson Bauer said he was in favor of a sunset clause because it is up to Council to be good government and that would force the next Council to review the tax.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he felt that a time limit should be factored into the tax.

Aldersperson Stowe said we have strived to reduce property taxes and have become more dependent upon sales tax. He said if a sunset clause is considered, he felt it should be in 3 ½ years.

Aldersperson Tripp said it would be hard to put a sunset clause on it even though she would like to see it.

Aldersperson Kessler said she was not sure that this sitting Council should dictate to the next sitting Council, but she noted that all revenue sources are looked at every year.

Aldersperson Taylor said he thought the sunset clause should be set for 3 ½ years.

Aldersperson Neubauer said he felt the sunset clause should be set for 2 ½ years.

Mayor Mundy said that every line item in the budget is looked at every year and said he had no position on a sunset clause because of our process. He noted that State Statute allows council to change this tax twice per year. He said that he valued the Chamber's position, but he felt that during times like this there are no easy choices. He said we need to try to make this work and to do nothing would be a mistake. He said that he appreciated Council's considerations and the community input.

Mr. Nicklas said if it is possible to do a sunset clause, we will and suggested that September 2012 would be the time to review.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 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