
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 3, 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, Rich Neubauer, Chuck Stowe, Gregory Taylor, and Janice Tripp. Alderperson Pete Paulsen was absent.

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Neubauer moved to approve the 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.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Zak Siddiqui, Sycamore resident and small business owner at 1615 DeKalb Ave., said he owned the only Class F liquor license and Ordinance 2009.64 would directly affect his business by reducing the value of his business. He asked Council to consider the damages this would cause to existing liquor license holders in an industry that is already over-served.

Brian Wente, Tri-Star Marketing - a third generation family business operating 52 Super Pantry Convenient stores in Illinois and Indiana, said they have been a member of the Sycamore community for 15 years. He noted that the business environment has greatly changed with competitors such as Walgreen's that have every product they sell except motor fuel. He asked for Council support for Ordinance 2009.64 to allow his business to compete on a level playing field.

Randy Carls, 503 E. State Street, said they own 4 convenient stores and the other three have liquor licenses and in order to compete they would like to have a liquor license at their Sycamore store. He asked Council for support of Ordinance 2009.64.

Joe Bussone, 1725 Brock Cir., commended the Police & Fire Commission for their appointments of the Fire Chief and two Assistant Fire Chiefs.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of April 19, 2010.
- B. Payment of the Bills for May 3, 2010 in the amount of \$292,464.89.

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 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

- A. Swearing-in of Fire Chief Mark Kessler.
- B. Swearing-in of Assistant Fire Chief Pete Polarek.
- C. Swearing-in of Assistant Fire Chief Marc Doty.
- D. Swearing-in of Fire Lieutenant Dan Marcinkowski.
- E. Swearing-in of Firefighter Mike Hardesty.

City Manager Nicklas provided background for each employee in his new position and welcomed them.

- F. Introduction of John Sauter, Director of Building & Engineering.

City Manager Nicklas introduced John Sauter and his family and welcomed him to the organization.

- G. Proclamation declaring May 3 through May 9 as “Public Service Recognition Week” in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.
- H. Proclamation declaring May 9 through May 15 as “Scouting Anniversary Week” in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.
- I. Proclamation declaring May as “National Historic Preservation Month” in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Mayor Mundy noted that Mike Anderson, Keith Snyder, and Rod Swartzendruber had been re-elected to serve on the Police Pension Board.

Mayor Mundy said that a liquor hearing was held for Plank Road LLC which is a National Bank & Trust company with Mike Cullen as trustee whom appeared at the hearing. He explained that National Bank & Trust purchased Carls Fargo/Stratford Inn at auction and has a management company running it at this time and in order to continue to serve alcohol there had to be a hearing and a license applied for and approved. He said the applicant paid the annual fee of \$1,500 and he waived the application fee until a time when the business sold. Mayor Mundy asked for Council approval to waive the fee until a buyer is found.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to waive the application fee for Plank Road LLC 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 7 - 0.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

City Manager – Bill Nicklas said he was pleased with introductions and appointments and is looking forward to a good start to FY11.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, reported that the underground work at the water tower project is progressing well. He said he hoped they would be completed in two weeks and then the painting would begin.

Director of Building & Engineering – John Sauter thanked Mr. Nicklas and Council for the opportunity to serve as Director of Building & Engineering. He reported that the footing foundation permit was issued to Smart Motion Robotics in Sycamore Prairie Business Park.

Fire Chief – Mark Kessler thanked Council for the appointment and said he was looking forward to working with the newly appointed assistant chiefs and members of the Fire Department. He reported that the trial for the new call-back system has ended and they are in the process of tallying numbers and will discuss it at a labor management meeting tentatively scheduled for May 13 or May 14 and bring that information back to Council.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said that although the new fiscal year has begun, for the next 6 to 8 weeks the finance area will still be working on FY10. He said the auditors would be here for two weeks mid June, we will receive a draft mid-to-late July, and in August or early September they will be here to present.

Police Chief – Don Thomas announced that Officer Doug Martha retired after 28 years of service. Chief Thomas reminded residents it is illegal to use cell phones while driving in school zones and it is illegal to text and drive.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said the work at the Waste Water Treatment Plant is on schedule with a goal of completion by Thanksgiving.

City Manager Nicklas noted that a new employee, Denise Setchell, is working in the City Clerk's office and Building & Engineering.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

PUBLIC HEARING - None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2009.64—An Ordinance Amending Title 3, “Business and License Regulation,” Chapter 2, “Liquor Control,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Revise the Conditions for Issuance of a Class “F” Liquor License. Second Reading.**

Mayor Mundy noted that this was the second reading, but because Council was not full, he asked for a motion to postpone until a full Council was present.

Motion

Aldersperson Braser moved to postpone action until a full Council was present and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Voice vote

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

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 538—Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways in the City of Sycamore Under the Illinois Highway Code.

City Manager Nicklas explained that this resolution is required by the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Department of Revenue to reflect allocation of Motor Fuel Tax expenditures.

Motion

Aldersperson Braser moved to approve Resolution 538 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, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 7 – 0.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation Regarding the Purchase of a New Excavator.

City Manager Nicklas said he called this a “mini” excavator that will have multiple uses including alley reconstruction, water and sewer main repairs, catch basin repairs, and will be safer to operate on busy streets. He said the budget allocation for this machine and trailer is \$90,000 with \$30,000 out of the Capital Assistance Fund, \$30,000 from the Water Fund and \$30,000 from the Sewer Fund.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to award the bid to Burris Equipment for \$68,500 and Aldersperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Bauer said he appreciates the work Public Works does, but because of the economic conditions he would like to hold off on this purchase. He said he realized this would be paid from capital funds, but he thought they might need to transfer some of those funds to operations if necessary.

Aldersperson Taylor said he was concerned about how often this piece of equipment would be used when we have the ability to borrow one when needed.

Public Works Director Busse said last year they borrowed the machine from Sycamore Township for a little over five weeks and will need it for at least that this year and they cannot depend on using Sycamore Township’s. He said it would cost about \$8,000 for two-month’s rental. He said the machine would be used more if we had it available all the time and it is also a safer piece of equipment to use for street excavations.

Mr. Nicklas said that safety was relevant because the City was just placed on a watch list by our insurance carrier for workman comp claims.

Aldersperson Bauer said he did not want employees working in unsafe conditions and suggested renting this year and purchasing one next year.

Aldersperson Kessler said the Street Division can save money by doing projects ourselves and said she was in support of this equipment purchase.

Mr. Nicklas said this was vetted in the March budget meeting and approved in the budget in May and said that we can afford this right now.

Aldersperson Tripp said she was thankful to the Township for letting us use theirs, but does not want to go back and ask again. She said they could take \$30,000 from the Sewer Fund, \$30,000 from the Water Fund and \$21,500 from the Capital Fund.

Mr. Nicklas said that was how they would divide the cost.

Roll call vote

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Mundy appointed James Tucker to the Library Board.

Motion

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve the appointment 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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 7 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith