

SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2000

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor James Edwards called the meeting to order and Clerk Nancy Marchiando called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Candy Smith, James Huntley, Pam Blickem, Patrick Balentyne, Cheryl Maness and Keven Dahl. Those Alderpersons absent were: Alan Bauer and Michael Chambon. Six Alderpersons were present and two were absent.

**INVOCATION**

Donald Phelps of St. John's Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council of the closed session to be held at the end of the meeting for discussion of collective bargaining and personnel.

**Motion**

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda as distributed and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Ray Puentes, 1003 Meadow Lane, expressed his views on amending the ordinance regarding parking on Albert Street. He stated this has been an issue for a long time and felt it is a problem for which the school system should be responsible.

Jean Bjorn, 932 Albert Avenue, stated that a petition with 31 signatures had previously been presented to the City Council which listed concerns of the residents on Albert Street regarding the illegal parking by students from Sycamore High School. She reported on the meeting that was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2000 with the Albert Street residents and Chief Roy Garcia at Sycamore High School. She expressed thanks to the Police Department for their help during the year and proposed changing the parking signs on the street. The group suggested that the signs be changed to read "Resident Parking only from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday". Mrs. Bjorn stated these times would not interfere with activities at the school or during Pumpkin Festival weekend. She added that the Albert Street residents would have stickers in their vehicles and these would be provided at no expense to the City.

Police Chief Roy Garcia reported on the meeting with the Albert Street residents and Administrator Bill Nicklas recommended that the issue be placed in the Streets & Walks Committee and also suggested that a trial period be determined for the police department to learn how effectively they can provide a more intensified enforcement of the parking on the street.

Aldersperson Maness stated that the parking problem has existed for the past ten years. She said that it has been difficult to get the downtown employees not to park in front of the businesses and now we have a similar problem at the high school. She said the problem keeps moving and as class sizes increase and with our affluent community providing vehicles for the students the problem is not going to disappear. Mayor Edwards suggested discussing the problem with school officials.

Aldersperson Dahl added that with parking on both sides of the street it makes it difficult for the buses to pass through and brings forth a safety issue.

Administrator Nicklas suggested that the Police Department try to step up the enforcement of the parking on Albert Street and that he and Chief Garcia would offer other suggestions at the next Council meeting.

Chuck Criswell of the Pharaoh Car Club, reported to the Council on the Antique Car Show held on Sunday, July 30, 2000 and presented a check in the amount of \$3,187.67 to Chief Garcia for use in the DARE program. Mayor Edwards complimented the group on the very well organized event and expressed his appreciation to the group for their fine efforts.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the regular City Council meeting on July 17, 2000.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2000 and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Payment of Bills for August 7, 2000

**Motion**

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve the bills of August 7, 2000 in the amount of \$770,056.47 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion. Aldersperson Balentyne inquired as to why there would be two bills for the pre-employment physical for Chief Bill Riddle. Administrator Nicklas responded that the physical involved tests from both clinics.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

C. First quarter financial report.

Administrator Nicklas informed the Council that the report is not exactly what is desired but that the LOCIS software is still working on perfecting the report and he hoped to have it available by the August 21, 2000 meeting. Aldersperson Dahl noted that the only Department that was over budget was the Mayor/Council and Administrator Nicklas stated that was because of grant monies recently paid from that budget.

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

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator Nicklas stated a letter had been received and copies placed on the Alderspersons' desk regarding loud noises from motorcycles. He asked that they review the letter and make suggestions on the issue raised.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Administrator - Bill Nicklas - no report.

Engineer - John Brady - reported that the street maintenance bids had been received and would be read under Item #12B. He reported the State Street work was going fine and that the detour would be changed again for two-three weeks.

Aldersperson Dahl asked when the sewer work on DeKalb Avenue would be completed and Engineer Brady responded that two short liners needed to be installed yet and then the work should be complete. Mayor Edwards asked about the work on Route#64 and Engineer Brady said that the weather would be a big factor, but concrete should be completely poured by Labor Day and then they would fill in the side streets.

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty - reported he had issued 32 permits: 10 single family, 19 miscellaneous residential and 2 miscellaneous commercial.

Alderperson Balentyne asked when Menards would be opening and Mr. Doty stated the manager would be on duty August 28, 2000, and it was not certain when they would open. He added that Culvers would be opening on Monday, August 14, 2000.

Treasurer - Ken Mundy - reported on an article in the Municipal Review (p.7) regarding an increase of 5% in state shared revenues and explained the funds were based on population and stressed the importance of these funds to the City. He stated that the Fire and Police Pension portion of the audit had now been completed.

Fire Chief - Cary Niewold (filling-in for Chief Bill Riddle who was on vacation) reported the Fire Department had received 87 calls for service in the past three weeks, 52 EMS, 35 fire related, and there was no dollar loss due to fire. They saw 61 patients of which 42 were transported.

Police Chief - Roy Garcia - stated that the meeting with the Albert Street residents went well and that he was impressed with the organization of the group. He thanked the Pharaoh Car Club for a job well done and for the donation to the DARE program. He reported the Police Department had received 1900 calls for service.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - Alan Bauer - no report.

Ordinance - James Huntley - all items on the agenda.

Streets & Walks - Cheryl Maness - no report, but wished to schedule a committee meeting at 6:45 p.m. prior to the next Council meeting on August 21, 2000. She requested that a notice be sent to Jean & Joe Bjorn regarding the committee meeting.

Sewer & Water - Patrick Balentyne - no report.

Fire & Police - Keven Dahl - no report.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Public Hearing on the Tax Increment Finance Redevelopment Plan and Project for Redevelopment Project Area No. 1.

Mike Weber, senior planner for PGAV of St. Louis, MO suggested that the memorandum for the background material be considered an official part of the hearing stating that it listed the required dates and information. He

explained the TIF Act and its benefits and stated that the responsibilities of the Council were to approve the plan, establish the area and adopt Tax Increment Financing. He said the ordinances should not be introduced at this meeting, but at the next Council meeting on Monday, August 21, 2000.

City Attorney, Peter Smith, stated that the Tax Increment Financing laws were vague as to when the ordinances were to be introduced. Mr. Weber and Attorney Smith conferred and reported that the ordinances would not be introduced at this meeting and recommended that the agenda be reconsidered and the ordinances removed from the agenda.

Robert Bevington, South Avenue, Sycamore, IL (area part of TIF district) voiced his concerns and complaints regarding the problems with certain neighbors. Mayor Edwards stated that Mr. Bevington's comments were a perfect example of why the area should be a TIF district.

Administrator Nicklas stated that the City should enforce it's own code and asked that Chief Garcia check on Tuesday to see if anyone is living in the industrial area as Mr. Bevington stated.

With no further questions or comments the hearing was closed.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to reconsider the agenda and to remove Ordinances No. 2000.22, No 2000.23 & No. 2000-24 from the agenda and to have the ordinances be considered for a first reading on Monday, August 21, 2000. Aldersperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

- B. Public Hearing on the progress of Sycamore's Competitive Communities Initiative.

Mayor Edwards gave a recap of the Competitive Communities Initiatives program and introduced Mr. Don Falls of DCCA - Competitive Communities Initiatives program. Mr. Falls stated that the CCI program is designed to assist communities in determining where they are going and why. He said that citizens come together and express what they feel needs improvement. Some of the key issues are: Industrial development (what the communities need to do to succeed), commercial development (not only retail, but also tourism tax dollars)

He said he felt there were a lot of positive things happening within the City of Sycamore with many success stories and urged the City to keep pushing and congratulated the City for a job well done. He then answered questions.

Administrator Nicklas asked for an update on the accomplishments of the objectives suggested by the citizens and from DCCA's point of view where is the City headed now and what are the payoffs?

Mr. Falls talked about the accomplishments and said the pay-off is shown by the increase in sales tax, growth and the quality of life. And now the City must choose what direction it wishes to follow. Alderperson Blickem asked if there was a gain to communities involved with CCI and Mr. Falls responded yes because of an action plan being in place. Alderperson Blickem asked if CCI was still active in working with the City and Mr. Falls answered yes and that with the recently submitted grant application for the Community Center his job, as it is reviewed, will be to assist in obtaining the funding.

Ray Puentes voiced his concerns regarding the long range planning by DeKalb County for Peace Road as he had felt there should have been a frontage road.

Mayor Edwqrds asked what the next step would be. Mr. Falls stated the citizens committee should reconvene and review the past two years and decide where the City needs to go now. He said it is a big help to bring citizens back in to fine tune the successes.

Michael McVey stated that he has been trying to make the same points that were stated by Mr. Falls and at last the businesses were starting to materialize and tangible results could be seen. He felt CCI should continue to have a high priority and he supported the program.

With no further comments or questions the hearing was closed.

- A. Ordinance No. 2000.25 - An Ordinance amending Title 6, "Motor vehicles and traffic, Section 6-4-4:A "Yield Streets" of the City Code of the City of Sycamore by adding a "yield" sign at the corner of Russet Lane and Pebblewood Drive in the City of Sycamore, IL. First and second reading.

### **Motion**

Alderperson Huntley moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No 2000.25 and Alderperson Blickem seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.25 and Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 362 - Approving project sites selected by the DeKalb County Public Building Commission.

Administrator Nicklas explained that DeKalb County wishes to construct a building in the County seat and therefore the City has the ability to make comment on the project. He recommended approval.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Resolution No. 362 and Aldersperson Smith seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Resolution No. 363 - Approving the execution of an agreement between the City of Sycamore and the DeKalb County Community Foundation to establish a pass-through fund for the Sycamore Community Center fund-raising campaign.

Administrator Nicklas explained the purpose was to establish the fund in order to make monies donated to the Community Center project tax-exempt but that it does not obligate the City to make pledges.

Aldersperson Huntley said he thought it would be a good project for the City. Aldersperson Dahl asked that should the project not be completely funded would the funds go back to the donors. Administrator Nicklas stated that funds are being pledged right now and that no spending will be done until threshold is met.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve the pass-through fund for the purpose of raising funds for the Sycamore Community Center. Aldersperson Smith seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve Resolution 363. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consideration of a recommendation from the Police Department to hire one full-time and one part-time replacement for the telecommunicator position.

Administrator Nicklas stated the department needs the support to stop the overtime spending.

Smith asked if a previous ad in the newspaper had been published for these positions and Administrator responded that this is the second wave and the City is in the hiring process again.

### **Motion**

Alderperson Dahl moved to approve the consideration and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consideration of a recommendation to award the annual Street Maintenance Contracts.

Engineer Brady announced that the low bid for the crack sealing was received from Freehill Asphalt from Watseka, Illinois in the amount of \$46,500.00(City Engineer's estimate \$58,000.00). He stated that the low bid for the resurfacing was received from Peter Baker & Son from Lake Bluff, Illinois in the amount of \$144,170.10(City Engineer's estimate \$182,119.25).

### **Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to approve the low bids for the crack sealing and resurfacing projects and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

## APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Edwards appointed Robert Huber to the Police Pension Board due to the resignation of Louis Bolt due to health reasons.

### **Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to approve the appointment and Alderperson Smith seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

**Motion**

Aldersperson moved to go into closed session at 9:10 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to return to open session at 9:48 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor - James S. Edwards

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk - Nancy S. Marchiando