
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Dan Stovall of the Sycamore Baptist Church gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Alderperson Huntley 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

Mayor Edwards introduced the Boy Scouts Troop #216 of the Federated Church. Scout Leader Doug Roberts explained that the scouts were working on the Citizen in the Community Merit Badge.

Ray Puentes stated he wished to address the issue of the 200-2001 City Budget and would speak at the point in the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of January 17, 2000.

Alderperson Smith noted a correction in the spelling of the name Christopherson and Clerk Marchiando would make the correction.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the minutes of January 17, 2000 and Alderperson 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.

- B. Payment of Bills for February 7, 2000.

Motion

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the bills of February 7, 2000, in the amount of \$119,720.56 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.

- C. Fire Department Annual Report for 1999

This report was given under the Report of Officers.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas – stated he had received inquiries concerning the rules and regulations of snow removal on sidewalks. He asked the Council if they wanted to consider an ordinance for enforcement of the snow removal and the Council decided to ask the Chamber to write a letter to businesses encouraging them to shovel the sidewalks. Administrator Nicklas spoke to the Council about a memo from the Illinois Municipal League concerning a internet sales tax and following discussion by the Council it was decided to place the item on the February 21, 2000, agenda for further discussion.

Building and Zoning – Lyle Doty – presented the activity report of the Building Department for the past two weeks.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – talked about the information contained in the Legislative Newsletter regarding the Internet sales tax.

Fire Chief Gene Ege – reported that the department had received 77 incident calls 48 of which were EMS and 29 fire responses. There were 34 patients, 35 of which

were transported. Chief Ege reviewed the 1999 Annual Fire Department Report for the Council.

Police Chief – Roy Garcia – reported the Police Department received 2186 calls for service during the past two weeks and stated the department would be receiving a grant that would monitor the department’s domestic violence program.

Treatment Plant Supt. – Fred Busse – explained the chart, which had been distributed to the Council concerning the water processed to the water pumped in the City.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Alan Bauer
On the agenda.

Ordinance – James Huntley
On the agenda.

Streets & Walks – Cheryl Maness
No report.

Sewer & Water – Patrick Balentyne
No report.

Police & Fire – Keven Dahl – reported that the committee had met prior to the Council meeting to discuss the alarm board bids and referred the item to the Ordinance Committee. He further informed the Council that Chief Ege had met with the Committee to request that the prerequisites for hiring firefighters be increased. The item was forwarded to the Ordinance Committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

ORDINANCES AND AGREEMENTS

- A. Ordinance No. 99.56 – An ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of Rodney and Martha Oehlert to amend the annexation agreement for property at 1770 & 1778 West State Street and 105-180 Liberty Lane, Sycamore, Illinois by removing all restrictions

associated with age for occupancy of dwelling units. First and second reading.

Administrator Nicklas stated that at the January 17, 2000, meeting the Council had discussed items for amending agreement and listed the items to be amended.

Mr. Charles Brown, attorney for Rod and Martha Oehlert, informed the Council that he was available for questions they may have regarding the request.

Aldersperson Smith asked how the agreement would be enforced. Aldersperson Balentyne that if the Oehlerts failed to follow the agreement the City would have to go to Court and enforce the terms of the agreement at the Oehlert's expense.

Rod Oehlert informed the Council that the landscaping for the subdivision would be done in April 2000, by New Image. Aldersperson Balentyne suggested that instead of a certain date being set for the planting that the agreement read that the trees would be planted during the spring planting for 2000. The Council agreed.

Aldersperson Bauer stated that for the interest of the Council he would read an e-mail note from the Oehlert's neighbor, Mr. Doderlein, and stated that Mr. Doderlein was now requesting that a fence be placed between the properties and suggested a substitute motion to include this issue.

Rod Oehlert stated that he felt that it was unfair to allow the suggestion to be brought up at this time following the recommendation by the Plan Commission. He stated that his request was good for the City of Sycamore and he expressed his frustrations with the issue of the fence being brought before the Council at that time.

The motion to deny was made at the December 20, 1999, meeting by Aldersperson Bauer and seconded by Aldersperson Chambon. The issue was then tabled until the February 7, 2000, meeting at the January 17, 2000, meeting by Aldersperson Balentyne and seconded by Aldersperson Blickem. The vote to deny had to be voted first.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Edwards called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Those Alderspersons voting aye (which meant to deny) were Aldersperson Bauer. Those Aldersperson voting nay were Dahl, Blickem, Maness, Smith, Huntley, Chambon and Balentyne. One Aldersperson voted aye and seven voted nay. Motion failed.

Motion

Aldersperson Huntley moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 99.56 and Aldersperson Smith seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve the amended agreement, which would include items #1,2, & 3 inclusive. Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Edwards asked for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Those Alderspersons voting aye were Dahl, Blickem, Maness, Smith, Huntley, Chambon and Balentyne. Aldersperson Bauer voted nay. Seven Alderspersons voted aye and one vote nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 351 – Between the City and Illinois Department of Transportation concerning an addendum to the June 7, 1000 agreement for improvements on State Street, DeKalb Avenue and Center Cross Street in Sycamore, Illinois.

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve the resolution and 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. Resolution No. 352 – supporting the passage of the Kishwaukee College Building Bond Referendum on March 21, 2000.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the resolution as written and to include both parts and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. Those Alderspersons voting aye were Bauer, Maness, Smith, Huntley, Chambon and Balentyne. Those Alderspersons abstaining from the vote were Dahl and Blickem. Six Alderspersons voted aye and two abstained from voting. Motion carried.

- C. Resolution No. 353 – approving the execution of an agreement between the City of Sycamore and the Sycamore Community

School Unit 427 concerning crossing guards in the City of Sycamore.

Administrator Nicklas stated he and Attorney Smith had met with Supt. Bob Hammon and had reached an agreement with School District # 427 in which they agree to pay to the City the amount of \$15,000 per year for each of the next three years for the schools share of the costs for the crossing guard program.

Aldersperson Bauer stated he felt it was a step in the right direction for budget purposes.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the resolution and Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consideration of an administration report on the FY 2000-2001 City Budget.

Administrator Nicklas reviewed the budget for the Council and stated the budget was balanced on both sides and addressed each issue of the budget. He explained suggestions for new capital revenues, such as, sales tax increase, a restaurant and bar tax, and a utility tax. He referred the issue to the Council for direction.

Aldersperson Blickem stated that though no businesses have left the City they also need a reason to stay and for others to come and she felt the utility tax would not be a good idea.

Aldersperson Chambon stated that abatement programs would most likely offset any incentives offered by the City to prospective business.

Ray Puentes, 803 Meadow Lane, spoke to the Council concerning an increase in the sales tax and stated that every year the Council waits to increase revenues we are losing money as repairs become more costly. He told the Council not to fix things with bubble gum but to do it right and he asked the Council to really think through options.

Aldersperson Maness stated she felt most people did not know the amount of sales tax they pay on items and she felt the increase should be done immediately before the April 1, 2000, deadline.

Aldersperson Blickem stated that having no utility tax would help in attracting business to the City.

Aldersperson Chambon could not see that an increase in the sales tax or adding the restaurant/bar tax would stop people from shopping or eating out at the restaurants. He said the Council should expect a few complaints but felt the majority of the citizens would not be overly concerned.

Aldersperson Chambon asked about the impact on sales tax revenues with the opening of Menard's. Administrator Nicklas stated it would be difficult to know what Menard's would bring to those revenues.

Mayor Edwards stated he would oppose a utility tax but felt the restaurant/bar tax would reach people other than the citizens of Sycamore. Aldersperson Balentyne reminded everyone that those who voted for the tax cap were stating they did not want any more taxes.

Administrator Nicklas stated there was another option, which would be not to do anything but, he would have to find money and would need the Council to tell him how.

It was decided that the Council would digest the information provided and discuss the options at the next Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to go into closed session at 9:25 P.M. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and personnel and 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.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to return to open session and 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor – James S. Edwards

Attest:

City Clerk – Nancy S. Marchiando