
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Dale Johnson of the Sycamore Baptist Church gave invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Edwards noted that a closed session for collective bargaining would be held at the end of the agenda.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda as distributed and Alderperson Balentyne 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

Jane Youngquist, 322 East State Street, spoke to the Council and urged them to maintain our small town integrity and contentment of people working together. She stated she was upset that a member of the City Council had spoken with the tenant of her building and stated that an ordinance was on the table that would make Ms. Youngquist building retail only. She learned later that there was not such an ordinance before the Council. She stated she was upset over this action and felt the Sycamore of tomorrow was threatened.

Steve Hollett, PGR, architects for YMCA project, stated he would speak to the Council when the item came up on the agenda.

Administrator Nicklas asked Ms. Youngquist to contact him in regards to the matter to which she spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 7, 2000.

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 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 February 21, 2000.

Administrator Bill Nicklas was asked to clarify the invoice for food expenses in the dispatch center. He stated that the telecommunicators cannot leave the radio room and take breaks so it is cheaper for the City to purchase the food at the present time than to hire another person. Concern was voiced that this procedure not become routine with regards to other departments, such as, the Street Department when they are plowing snow for long and who need meal breaks too. Administrator Nicklas said that the Street Department personnel do receive breaks and that the dispatch center needs additional people

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the bills for February 21, 2000 in the amount of \$91,144.83 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

- B. Approval of the Minutes from the Joint Meeting of the City Council and Plan Commission on Monday, January 10, 2000.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the minutes from the Joint Meeting 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.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Alderperson Dahl complimented the Street Department on the good job they did on the snow removal during the previous weekend storm.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas – updated the Council on the architectural review for the Community Center and said he would have a full report at the March 6, 2000, meeting, he stated he is in the process of preparing ordinances for the revised comprehensive plan and he hoped to have a polished version of the plan by the March 7, 2000, meeting. He stated the ordinances for the Comprehensive Plan would go before the Plan Commission at their March 13, 2000 meeting.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty – reported on the activity in his office during the past two weeks. He stated there were 11 permits issued which included 7 single family, 2 misc. residential, 1 misc. commercial and 1 demolition.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – stated he had placed the financial report on the Council Members desks.

Fire Chief – Gene Ege – reported on the activity of the Fire Department during the past two weeks and announced that 23 year veteran Firefighter Randy Rhodes has retired from the department.

Police Chief – Roy Garcia – thanked the Street Department for the good job of snow removal during the recent storm and thanked the Media for broadcasting information in regards to the snow removal ordinance.

Public Works – Gene Listy – thanked all departments for their help and cooperation during the snowstorm.

Treatment Plant Supt. – Fred Busse – updated the Council on the bids to purchase TV inspection equipment. He stated that four bids were mailed and three were returned. He said a part of the bid was an on-site demo and since it was not possible to arrange the demonstration in the time allotted he said a decision to purchase would not proceed until the demonstrations were completed.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Alan Bauer – no report.

Ordinance – James Huntley – reported the committee had met at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting and discussed Ordinances No. 99.63 and No. 99.64, which were present on the agenda.

Streets & Walks – Cheryl Maness – no report.

Sewer & Water – Patrick Balentyne – thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their cooperation in working with Com Ed on downed power lines.

Police & Fire – Keven Dahl – no report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

ORDINANCES AND AGREEMENTS

- A. **Ordinance No. 99.59--An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission with Regard to the Request of Brett and Diane Kennet for a Special Use Permit and Approval of a Resubdivision Plat for the Purpose of Dividing a Duplex Into Two Separate Properties with Common Wall Dwellings at 1028 and 1030 Emmsen Drive in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second Reading.**

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 99.59, 99.60, 99.61 & 99.62 and Aldersperson Huntley seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to approve Ordinance No. 99.59 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.

- B. Ordinance No. 99.60—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission with Regard to the Request of John Hopkins for a Special Use Permit and Approval of a Resubdivision Plat for the Purpose of Dividing a Duplex Into Two Separate Properties with Common Wall Dwellings at 1625 and 1627 Pebblewood Drive in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance No. 99.60 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.

- C. Ordinance No. 99.61—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission with Regard to the Request from Milan Krpan for Amendment of the Final Plat for Unit Two, Phase Two, of the Grand View Townhouse Planned Unit Development All in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to approve Ordinance No. 99.61 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.

- D. Ordinance No. 99.62—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission with Regard to the Request of Robert Henning for a Special Use Permit to Conduct a Home Occupation at 503 Parkside Drive. First and second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance No. 99.62 with the four conditions as provided 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.

- E. Ordinance No. 99.63—An Ordinance Approving Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and Illini Security Systems, Inc. for Alarm Board Services in the City of Sycamore. First and second Reading.

Motion

Alderperson Huntley moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 99.63 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.

Motion

Alderperson Huntley moved to approve Ordinance No. 99.63 and Alderperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

- F. Ordinance No. 99.64—An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Fire Department, Section 4-1-9, Fire Protection Training Program, of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Allow Only the Appointment of Trained and Certified Fire Fighters. First and second Reading.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 99.64 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.

Alderperson Maness commended Chief Ege on the ordinance, as the additions to the hiring requirements will save the City money in training.

Motion

Alderperson Balentyne moved to approve the motion 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.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consideration of a Request from the Kishwaukee Family YMCA for Relief from the Provisions of Section 12.04, Paragraph 8(f) of the Revised Zoning Ordinance, Which Establishes Off-Street Parking Standards for Privately Owned Recreation Buildings.

Administrator Nicklas presented background information on the expansion of the YMCA and the proposed parking facility. He stated the plan would adequately provide for the parking needs.

Steve Hollett – gave a visual presentation of the site plan for expansion and stated it would be a good facility for this area.

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve the consideration of 250 parking spaces and Aldersperson Chambon 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 an Administration Recommendation to Cede Sycamore’s Private Activity Bond Cap to the Illinois Housing Development Authority to Help Finance the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program.

Administrator Nicklas stated the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program would be a good chance for the City to create an opportunity for Sycamore residents to receive a tax credit, which is good for the life of the loan.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve the consideration and recommended going ahead with the program 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.

C. Consideration of a Municipal League Recommendation to Oppose a Permanent Moratorium on the Tax of Retail Sales on the Internet.

Administrator Nicklas stated that the Illinois Municipal League requested the Council's support in opposition to a proposed permanent federal moratorium on the imposition of retail taxes on Internet sales.

Aldersperson Maness recommended a letter be drafted to approve opposition to a permanent moratorium on an Internet sales tax. Aldersperson Huntley suggested a letter prepared by Administrator Nicklas but signed by the Council Members.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to support opposition to a permanent moratorium of a retail sales tax on Internet sales and Aldersperson Huntley seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

D. Consideration of a New or Expanded Revenue Source for General Capital Spending.

Administrator Nicklas stated that during budget calculations one issue that is identified is the lack of reoccurring revenue. Aldersperson Smith stated that increasing the home-rule sales tax would be a viable option but felt the City did not have the Staff to handle the paperwork involved with a restaurant/bar tax.

Aldersperson Dahl stated that a Capital Improvement list should have the income match up with the project, otherwise, those monies get lost and they should be specified on project and money.

Aldersperson Maness said the list should be looked at but if the tax is only being raised 25% there will never be enough money to do all the projects.

Aldersperson Chambon thought the community would be supportive if an increase if the funds were spent for certain projects.

Aldersperson Blickem stated she felt the “Big List” should be prioritized to learn what we can accomplish and that discussion on the priorities should occur in the next month.

Administrator Nicklas presented the history of the Home Rule Tax and indicated where funds are generated and where spent.

Aldersperson Chambon stated that in regards to the infrastructure he felt the citizens should be made more aware of what we need to do, how it would be paid for and inform them when a project is completed.

Administrator Nicklas stated it is a matter of choices for the City, because we have high standards but no money. We could do a lot more but to continue to offer services as we are additional revenues will be needed.

Aldersperson Maness stated that the Council needed to move tonight in order to meet the deadlines. If the Council is to move to a 25% increase in the sales tax a first reading or ordinance should be scheduled for the March 6th Council meeting, a second reading for the March 20, 2000 meeting in order to meet the April 1, 2000, deadline.

Administrator Nicklas said he would provide two lists for the Council to enable them to determine what to do and what not to do, but \$250,000 needs to be generated for next years budget.

The Council discussed what lists should be prepared by Administrator Nicklas and what taxes should be considered and that the Alderspersons should talk with their constituents. Administrator Nicklas stated he would have the lists available in the Aldersperson mailboxes by Wednesday. Aldersperson Chambon asked that a brief narrative be provided on the list as a “what if” – the City doesn’t do this or that.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to go into closed session for discussion on collective bargaining 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 Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to return to open session 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.

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