

---

**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2000**

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor James Edwards called the meeting to order and Clerk Nancy Marchiando called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Cheryl Maness, Alan Bauer, Pam Blickem, Keven Dahl, Michael Chambon, James Huntley, Candy Smith and Patrick Balentyne. Eight Alderman were present and none were absent.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Brad Riordan of the Evangelical Free Church.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council that there would be a closed session for the discussion of personnel at the end of the meeting. He added that Item #12-A would be moved to Item#4-B.

**Motion**

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda as amended 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**

Al Laing, 123 East Maplewood Drive, addressed the Council concerning the intersection of Route #23 and Maplewood Drive at the Landahl North Subdivision. He outlined the potential hazard at the intersection and stated his goal was to reduce the risk of harm to the children as they cross Route #23 to attend school at Sycamore Junior High. He also announced that a neighborhood meeting would be held on October 19, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sycamore Junior High School for discussion of the neighborhood concerns about the intersection.

*Item # 12 A - Consideration of a report from Dan Pratt, General Manager of AT & T Broadband and Internet Services regarding recent service changes affecting local cable customers.*

Dan Pratt addressed the Council and provided a brief update on cable issues in the community. He announced that the high speed data services for most of Sycamore had been completed on September 10, 2000 and that next year they would be adding channels to the analog cable system. He added that whenever a cable system is rebuilt some problems are expected but that AT&T was attempting to

*offer the best customer service possible. Administrator Nicklas announced that the City and AT&T have a good working relationship and that Mr. Pratt had been very responsive to problems and regularly corresponds with him.*

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of September 18, 2000

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2000 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

2. Payment of bills for October 2, 2000.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the bills of October 2, 2000, in the amount of \$701,738.33 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.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

Aldersperson Smith presented a report regarding the Sycamore Library Board and announced that Library Director Alex Todd had been relieved of his duties. She stated the Board planned to search for an interim director prior to hiring a permanent replacement.

Aldersperson Maness asked if something could be done about the “median” at the entrance to Windfield Meadows on Freed Road. Engineer Brady stated that the problem needed to be resolved as there have been many complaints and he would check on the issue. In addition, she stated that she had been asked by “snowbirds” if a vacation water rate could be given to those who spend the winter in other locations. Water Supt. Ebe Smith responded that residents are not charged for water unless they are using it.

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator - Bill Nicklas - stated that he had given to the Council a financial report for the first five months of the year, he announced that the Council had

been invited to attend the opening ceremony for the annual 24 hour vigil on November 10, 2000 at 5:30 p.m. at the DeKalb County Courthouse in recognition of the Veterans of DeKalb County. He reported on a meeting held with IDOT and Sjorstrom Company regarding the opening of Route #64 and stated the road would be open on Monday, October 16, 2000. He said the City would hold to that and that no extensions would be allowed and that if necessary the Police would be used for enforcement. He added that the road is complete but not sidewalks, driveway, etc..

John Brady - Engineer - announced that the Bethany Road project would get started on Wednesday or Thursday.

Treasurer - Ken Mundy - stated that the final payment had been made on the fire truck, which had been a five-year loan of a lease/purchase agreement. He announced that expenditures were at 41.6% and revenues at 49% and the annual Treasurer's Report was due at the end of October and it would be complete and published by the deadline. Administrator Nicklas added that the revenues looked good and that all the property tax had been received and informed the Council that he would be attending the TIF conference in Chicago on Wednesday, October 4, 2000.

Fire Chief - Bill Riddle - stated that during the past two weeks 50 calls for service had been received and that 31 patients had been transported..

Police Chief - Roy Garcia - stated the Police Department had received 800 calls for service. He said that the department would work with Engineer Brady concerning the Route #23 and Maplewood Drive intersection and asked if it would be helpful to place an officer at that location to slow traffic. He said he would attend the neighborhood meeting at the junior high school. He announced that Trick or Treating would be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2000 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.. He further announced that the department had received a Certificate of Recognition from Illinois Traffic Control and said the Police Department would participate in a contest to win a new squad car.

Public Works Supt. - Gene Listy - reported that he had distributed to the Council a list of the handicap ramps that have been completed in the City and said there were approximately 100 intersections remaining, which would be completed over the next two years. He expressed appreciation to Supt Fred Busse and his staff for their assistance with recent sewer work.

Water Supt. - Ebe Smith - announced that he had distributed the schedule for flushing of the fire hydrants.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alan Bauer - Finance - no report.

James Huntley - Ordinance - reported that the committee had met at 7:00 p.m. prior to the meeting and

had decide to design an ordinance that would encompass problems related to inoperable vehicles on streets.

Cheryl Maness - Streets & Walks - reported the committee had met at 6:30 p.m. and discussed:

1) parking on the west side of Walnut Street and voted 4-0 to send the item to the Ordinance Committee.

2) they decided to place five street lights on Johnson Avenue and John Brady will contact Commonwealth Edison.

3) no action was taken at the present time regarding Albert Avenue, but the committee was considering resident parking only, which would use a hang-tag system.

4) the issue of stop signs at Maplewood Drive at Everett, Keven, Martin & Arneita and a yield sign at Brian & Wendy Streets were approved by a 4-0 vote.

Sewer & Water - Patrick Balentyne - no report.

Fire & Police - Keven Dahl - no report.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

#### ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 2000.34 - Approving execution of a side letter agreement between the City and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local \$ 3957 to recognize the position of Deputy Clerk, modify the wage schedule to include Deputy Clerk and revise a prior memorandum of Understanding all effective October 1, 2000 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second reading.

Administrator Nicklas said the item was self explanatory and he recommended approval.

#### **Motion**

Alderperson Huntley moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 2000.34 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.

**Motion**

Alderperson Huntley moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.34 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.

- 2. Ordinance No. 2000.35 - An Ordinance establishing and fixing compensation for elected official of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First reading.

Alderperson Blickem asked if the new salary amounts would be effective for those taking office and Administrator Nicklas responded yes.

Alderperson Bauer stated that the Council budget was at 47% on expenditures and he felt the Council should not approve a raise for themselves. Administrator Nicklas stated that the Council expenditures were high because of payouts made to DeKalb County Economic Development, Voluntary Action Center and Community Development Foundation.

Mayor Edwards stated he felt the Mayor’s salary was adequate, especially with Mr. Nicklas as Administrator and even though he thought the Liquor Commissioner salary should be more he suggested leaving it as is.

The Council discussed the salaries and asked questions of Clerk Marchiando and Treasure Mundy.

Alderperson Chambon suggested an increase of 2 1/2 % for each of the past four years for the City Clerk position making the salary \$41,000.00. Alderperson Chambon suggested a salary of \$15,000.00 for the City Treasurer position.

No action was taken as the ordinance was for a first reading only.

**RESOLUTIONS**

None.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2. Consideration of the City of Sycamore’s Financial Statements for FY1999-2000, including the independent auditor’s report.

Administrator Nicklas introduced auditor, Dennis Hildebrandt, who reviewed the highlights of the audit.

He stated that the biggest change in the City audit was the change to a modified accrual system this year. He said the issue of internal control regarding checks and balances were still a concern and added that the audit had gone well. Mayor Edwards asked when the deadline would be for the City to begin reporting fixed assets. Mr. Hildebrandt said 2003.

4. Consideration of a recommendation from the Water Superintendent to award a contract for the purchase of a new utility truck.

Supt. Smith requested permission to purchase a utility truck from Sycamore Ford who had submitted a bid of \$43,255.00. Mayor Edwards asked what amount was budgeted and Supt. Smith said \$45,000.00 and stated the truck would be a “rolling shop” and would enable them to have needed tools on site at water main breaks, etc.

**Motion**

Alderman Balentyne moved to approve the bid and Alderman Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

5. Consideration of a request for direction from the City Administrator regarding possible fall workshop meetings.

Administrator Nicklas reviewed discussion topics for the workshop sessions and suggested possible times for such meetings. Alderman Maness suggested having the workshops on the fourth Monday. Administrator suggested having the workshop prior to the first Council meeting of each month and then scheduling committee meetings prior to the second monthly meeting. He also suggested that the first topic be “committees” and requested that the Council make a list of priorities so he would be aware of topics they wished to discuss.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion**

Alderman Balentyne moved to go into closed session at 9:25 p.m. for discussion of personnel and Alderman Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to return to open session at 10:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 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.

Approve:

---

Mayor - James S. Edwards

Attest:

---

City Clerk - Nancy S. Marchiando

