
**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2001**

ROLL CALL

Mayor John Swedberg called the meeting to order and Jean Tripp, Human Resource Director acting for Clerk Smith, called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Pam Blickem, Michael Chambon, Andrew Larson, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, and Janice Tripp.

INVOCATION

Treasurer Ken Mundy gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Nicklas added Resolution 399.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Resolution 399 and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Jim Heintz, 2181 Indian Point Road, Sycamore, from West Elementary School related that his students had enjoyed the City tour and that a few student representatives were with him to see part of the Council meeting. Mr. Heintz thanked the Mayor, City Clerk, Street Department and Police Department.

- Kathleen Mathey, 321 E. Exchange St., presented a book representing their visit to the City to Mayor Swedberg.
- Jessica Pluhm, 137 Mason Ct. & Vincent Saldana, 123 Vista Terrace, presented a book representing their visit to the Police Department to Chief Thomas.
- Alex Dominquez, 505 Grant St., presented a book representing their visit to the Street Department to Superintendent Busse.
- Angela Cambier, 1868 Brickville Road, West Elementary School teacher, thanked Mayor Swedberg and Clerk Smith for the tour.

Martha Wetzel, 829 Vaughn Ct., stated she was opposed to using tax dollars for the museum and recommended sending this to referendum at the next election.

Ross Niebergall, 27561 Moose Range Road, Leader Oil property owner, and Dr. Ramona Cornea of Landtec, wanted to speak about Resolution 399, clearing the land near the Leader Oil property. Mayor Swedberg asked them to wait until that item came up on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the City Council Workshop Minutes for the Meeting of October 1, 2001;
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of October 1, 2001;
- C. Payment of the Bills for October 15, 2001 in the amount of \$658,111.98.
- D. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of September 10, 2001.
- E. Monthly Budget Report for the Period Ending on September 30, 2001.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS

Administrator Nicklas announced that the City would honor Ray Nelson for many years of service as a POC Firefighter. Chief Riddle presented Ray Nelson with a certificate of appreciation for 24 years of service.

Aldersperson Maness, Council representative to the Pumpkin Fest Committee, invited everyone to the Pumpkin Fest 40th Anniversary Opening Ceremony October 24th, 2001, at 5:00 P.M. on the Courthouse lawn.

Aldersperson Bauer said he received an inquiry regarding whether the tobacco ordinance included smoking paraphernalia such as lighters. Administrator Nicklas said he would look into the legal aspect of the inquiry.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator – Bill Nicklas reported that there would be a workshop before the November 5th meeting regarding the City's fee structure. He said he also hoped to have the EAV number at that meeting. Mr. Nicklas thanked the Engineer, Superintendents, employees, and officials for the team effort during the road projects.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty –reported that since the last meeting 33 permits were issued: 6 single-family residential, 2 duplexes, 17 miscellaneous residential, 4 miscellaneous commercial and 2 demolitions.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that September financials showed that revenues were exceeding expenses and most of the property taxes had been received. Treasurer Mundy said that debt service on bond issues accounted for most of the total bills approved earlier in the meeting.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle announced the appointment of Pastor Don Phelps as the Sycamore Fire Department Chaplain.

Police Chief – Don Thomas - no report

Public Works Supt. -- Fred Busse reported that leaf pickup would begin October 16 with no definite schedule the first week. He said beginning October 29 and continuing for about four weeks, two street crews would start on the east section of town and move south covering the entire City each week. Mr. Busse emphasized that residents needed to rake leaves into the parkway and not into the street.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that hydrant flushing began October 15th. Mr. Smith also reported that the Illinois Department of Public Health issued the Water Department their highest standard of compliance for fluoridation for the year 2000. He said Sycamore had received this award five times in six years.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance –no report

Ordinance Chair Cheryl Maness reported that the ordinances were on the agenda.

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks Chair Michael Chambon said the items were on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2001.34-- An Ordinance Amending Title 3, "Business and License Regulations," Chapter 2, "Liquor Control," Section 3-2-14, "Minors," To Make It Unlawful for Anyone Under the Age of Twenty-One Years to Loiter in a Liquor Establishment, To Sell Liquor to Anyone Under the Age of Twenty-One Years, or For Anyone Under the Age of Twenty-One To Attend any Bar or Sell Alcoholic Beverages in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.**

Mayor Swedberg stated he did not support the exception of the liquor license holder 's offspring aged 18-21 serving alcohol.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2001.34 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Seven Alderspersons vote aye with Aldersperson Bauer voting Nay. Motion carried 7-1.

- B. Ordinance No. 2001.40—An Ordinance Amending the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that the 2001 budget was revised to show recent audit totals for FY01 and other revisions needed to confirm decisions made and the changes approved by Council.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2001.40 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2001.40 and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Ordinance No. 2001.41—An Ordinance Amending Title 5, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 4, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 6-4-1, “Stop Intersections,” Subsection A, to Provide for a Stop Intersection on Bristol Drive East and West at Hathaway Street and on Scott Street at Emmert Avenue and Borden Drive; and Section 6-4-4, “Yield Streets,” to Provide for a Yield Sign on Bayberry at Pebblewood Court in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to hear Ordinance 2001.41 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2001.41 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Ordinance No. 2001.42—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Request from Freeman Holland for a Modification to the Special Use Permit for the Property at 315 N. Main Street. First and Second Reading.**

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2001.42 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2001.42 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Ordinance No. 2001.43—An Ordinance Regarding the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Adoption of Urban Design Guidelines and an Action Plan. First and Second Reading.

Administrator Nicklas explained that this tied together themes throughout the Comprehensive Plan.

Aldersperson Blickem reported that the Plan Commission was pleased with the document.

Aldersperson Stowe expressed concern regarding minimizing parking lots since they were used as water runoffs

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to hear Ordinance 2001.43 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance 2001.43 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 394—Authorizing Service Credit for Military Leave for City Employees Enrolled in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Resolution 394 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution No. 395—Approving the Appropriation of Motor Fuel Tax Funds in the Amount of \$37,000 to Fund Work to be Completed on Illinois Routes 23 and 64 (State Street) Which Is Designated as Section 01-00066-00SW to be Performed Pursuant to Contract.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 395 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously

C. Resolution No. 396—Approving the Appropriation of Motor Fuel Tax Funds in the Amount of \$182,000 to Fund Work to be Completed on Illinois Routes 23 and 64 (State Street, Center

Cross, and DeKalb Avenue) Which is Designated as Section 98-00063-00RP to be Performed Pursuant to Contract.

Motion

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Resolution 396 and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously

D. Resolution No. 397—Authorizing the City Administrator to Negotiate an Agreement with Russell and Bernice Schelkopf Concerning the Donation of Their Collection of Wildlife Exhibits to the City of Sycamore.

Administrator Nicklas explained that the issues before Council were whether to accept the Schelkopf Collection, as well as whether to restore the Community Center. Mr. Nicklas recommended both accepting the Collection and housing it in the restored Community Center. Mr. Nicklas proposed in his conceptual budget the use of hotel-motel tax as discretionary monies to help fund the museum. Mr. Nicklas said that he felt that the best use for that money was to promote Sycamore and increase tourism.

Aldersperson Larson inquired if the funds were not raised would the City not accept the Collection.

Administrator Nicklas responded that if this resolution passed the City would be obliged to take the Collection.

Aldersperson Blickem stated that she felt a museum was a great project for the community to embrace, but the City should not be involved because it is not in the business of education and recreation. Ms. Blickem stated that she did not want tax dollars used at all.

Aldersperson Stowe expressed concern regarding the City's ownership of the Collection and said he would be more comfortable asking a community-formed non-profit group to accept the Collection. Mr. Stowe said he had not heard community support for City involvement, but he would consider donating the Community Center to the non-profit group.

Aldersperson Maness reminded Council that City ownership of the building would maintain City utility discounts.

Mayor Swedberg expressed concern that the Collection would send the message that killing is condoned; many of the animals were taken in a cruel way. He said he felt the estimate to restore the building was low and questioned the soundness of the economy to support such a venture. Mayor Swedberg said he would not support accepting this collection because this type of museum was not the best for the Community.

Treasurer Mundy stated he was a member of the Steering Committee working with the Community Center and felt the Collection would be a good fit for the building and for the Community. Mr. Mundy said he did not feel that the hotel/motel tax would be needed to support the museum.

Aldersperson Chambon said he felt this museum would help to maintain a vital downtown.

Aldersperson Blickem asked that the fund raising group raise the money necessary and keep the City out of it.

Joe Bussone, 1725 Brock Circle, said he wondered how the community could support a museum that the Council had not accepted.

Aldersperson Stowe expressed concern that the Council was accepting a collection that they were obligated to keep.

Administrator Nicklas stated that the Community would need a product in order to make pledges.

Mayor Swedberg said he feared that Sycamore would become known as the City with a "dead animal museum."

Aldersperson Larson said that the animals used for food were not all killed in a humane manner; this should not become a morality issue. Mr. Larson said that the City was not asking anyone to harvest animals; they were already harvested. The question was whether to accept the collection.

Aldersperson Chambon said he felt this collection needed to be used as an educational vehicle.

Aldersperson Maness said that most of the people in the audience had devoted their lives to the City of Sycamore and were large fund-raisers. Ms. Maness said she had faith in the community to raise the funds that would be needed.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 397 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll call vote. Those Alderspersons voting aye were: Bauer, Chambon, Larson, Maness, Paulsen, and Tripp. Those voting nay were: Stowe and Blickem. Motion carried 6-2.

- E. Resolution No. 398—Authorizing the City Administrator to Represent the City of Sycamore As An Ex Officio Member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Museum of Natural History, During the Board's Capital Campaign to Convert the Sycamore Community Center Into a Museum.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this would give the City permission to sit on the non-for-profit board that will be established to run the museum.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Resolution 398 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Seven Alderspersons vote aye with Aldersperson Blickem voting nay. Motion carried 7-1

- F. Resolution No. 399 – Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives Agreement Between the City of Sycamore, Leader Oil Company, and Ross Niebergall for Certain Street Right-Of-Way Property in the City of Sycamore.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this resolution simply stated that no wells would be drilled in the middle of the street and in no way did this indicate that the City would take on responsibility for clean up of any previous contamination found within our public way.

Motion

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Resolution 399 with the inclusion of Ross Niebergall as a responsible party and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of an Administration Report on the Specifications for a New Refuse Contract.

Administrator Nicklas reviewed the specifications for the bidding of the City's refuse, recycling, and landscape waste removal contract.

Several Alderspersons expressed concern regarding the banning of plastic bags.

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the Specifications for a New Refuse Contract and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session To Discuss Land Acquisition.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to go into Closed Session at 9:50 P.M. and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

None

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to return to open session at 9:56 P.M. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 P.M. and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith