
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Dan Stovall of the Sycamore Baptist Church gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Edwards announced that a closed session was scheduled at the end of the meeting for discussion of collective bargaining and land acquisition.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda as distributed 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.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Michael McVey, 142 North Avenue, spoke concerning the recent tobacco hearings that were held on Wednesday, February 28, 2001.

Ken Elleson, 621 Cloverlane, of Elleson's Bakery spoke regarding the road construction in downtown Sycamore scheduled to begin this spring. He stated he is very concerned about the downtown businesses and asked if the Council would be willing to backup the businesses with loans during the summer months and for a period of time after the construction is completed. He asked if there would be fines against the construction company if the project were not completed on time?

Mayor Edwards responded and stated he has a concern also and said that there are many promotions planned through the Chamber of Commerce for the downtown in an attempt to stimulate business. But it is also very important to make the sidewalks safe so that people are not injured during the Pumpkin Festival or other event.

Curt Behrens, 705 Cambridge, asked the City Council to do the right thing and reject the Clover Ridge development. He said the Plan Commission, which is an advisory group to the Council, voted 3-8 in an unfavorable recommendation and he thought consideration should be given to the negative impact to the City and Park District.

Pete Paulsen, 240 West Exchange Street, encourage the Council to uphold the decision of the Plan Commission because there are too many "bugs" in the Clover Ridge

development the biggest being the impact on the School District. He stated he wanted to address the industrial bond issue later in the agenda, but suggested that possibly that money could be used for the downtown businesses.

Administrator Bill Nicklas responded to Mr. Paulsen suggestion concerning the private activity bond to downtown businesses and said it is not a limitless program and he would outline the program later in the meeting.

Steve Kuhn, 430 South Main Street, stated he wanted to stress the need for development of the existing infrastructure and he had a concern that no money was going that way and suggested the Council take care of what already is established.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 19, 2001.

Motion

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2001, 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.

2. Payment of Bill for March 5, 2001.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the bills of March 5, 2001, in the amount of \$215,283.15 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.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

NEW BUSINESS

Aldersperson Candy Smith gave a report concerning the activities of the Sycamore Library Board and informed the Council that the Board was back to the drawing board in their search for a director.

Aldersperson Bauer expressed appreciation to the Fire Department for covering the Franklin Grove Fire Department while they attended the funerals of the Ashton firefighters who lost their lives in a recent fire.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator - Bill Nicklas - announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Public Works building would be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.. He stated the building would be dedicated to Supt. Gene Listy. He inquired what the Council thought of the new awning at the rear entrance to the building and with their approval an awning for the front entrance would be ordered. The Council agreed. Administrator Nicklas gave a budget report and added that all departments are closely watching their budgets. He responded to Mr. Elleson's questions and stated he would have information regarding City loans as soon as possible and gave a further explanation of the street scape downtown project.

Engineer - John Brady - announced that the initial start date for the Route #23 project is scheduled for March 19, 2001. Alderperson Smith, in the absence of Alderperson Balentyne, inquired about the left turn lane for the Route #23/Route #64 intersection. Engineer Brady said the request was being worked on and considered.

Fire Chief - Bill Riddle - reported the Fire Department had received 40 calls for service during the past two weeks, 20 EMS, 17 Fire and there were no dollar losses due to fire.

Police Chief - Roy Garcia - announced that he would like to present a special award to an outstanding citizens - Brice Dearborn. Mr. Dearborn on April 15, 2000, chased a subject who was involved with aggravated arson and retrieved valuable information for the department. Chief Garcia presented with an Outstanding Citizen Award on behalf of the Sycamore Police Department and Police Chiefs Association. He reported on recent activities at the YMCA involving their new pool in which the department has coordinated traffic control.

Water Supt. - Ebe Smith - presented a report concerning GIS mapping system and stated he would make a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - Alan Bauer - announced that the FY 01-02 Budget Hearings would be held on Tuesday, March 20th and Wednesday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. HE asked Administrator Nicklas how soon they would be able to look at the budget. Mr. Nicklas he would have it completed by Wednesday, March 14th (no later than March 15th).

Ordinance - James Huntley - stated there were three ordinances, 1 resolution and 2 considerations on the agenda. He stated he had placed information regarding a cat ordinance of the City of Rochelle.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance No. 2000.69 – An ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of Clover Ridge Development L.L.C. and Barbara

Louis Messinger and Daniel H. Jahns, co-trustees of Trust No. 1000, under an agreement dated the 2nd day of January, 1996, for the approval of an annexation agreement for the property located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Somonauk Street and Bethany Road with Zoning Classifications of “R-1” One Family Residence District, “R-3” Multiple Family Residence District(PUD), “C-1” Neighborhood Business District and “R-1” One Family Residence District(Special Use for Day Care Center) in the City of Sycamore, Illinois, DeKalb County, Illinois. Second reading.

Administrator Nicklas stated Ordinance No. 2000.69 had been held over from the February 19, 2001 Council meeting and Marc Suchy was present to address issues of concern.

Marc Suchy, 511 West Main Street, Genoa, IL, stated that he liked the awning at the entrance to the building. Mr. Suchy thanked the Council for the continuance so as to allow time to review comments and issues. During that period of time he said it was determined that it would not be feasible to continue the development and so a decision to withdraw the petition until which time an updated layout can be presented. Alderperson Huntley asked if Mr. Suchy was specifically withdrawing. Mr. Suchy said he was withdrawing at this time to address concerns of the Park District and Plan Commission. Alderperson Huntley asked how soon did he plan to come back? Mr. Suchy said possibly in 2-3 months. City Attorney Peter Smith asked if there would be substantial revisions? Mr. Suchy said the plan would be more of a park layout as in the previous plan regarding green space and park area. Attorney Smith stated that these types of revisions under City ordinance would require a 12-month hiatus. Mr. Suchy stated he was of the understanding that for a Special Use there would be a 12-month hiatus. Attorney Smith said that when Mr. Suchy was ready to run the plan by him and Mr. Suchy agreed.

B. Ordinance No. 2000.70 – An ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of Clover Ridge Development L.L.C. and Barbara Louis Messinger and Daniel H. Jahns, co-trustees of Trust No. 100, under an agreement dated the 2nd day of January, 1996, for the approval of an annexation of the property located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Somonauk Street and Bethany Road with Zoning classifications of “R-1” One Family Residence District, “R-3” Multiple Family Residence District (PUD), “C-1” Neighborhood Business District and “R-1” One Family Residence District(Special Use for Day Care Center) in the City of Sycamore, IL, DeKalb County, Illinois. Second reading.

Item withdrawn from the agenda.

Ordinance No. 2000.71 – An ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of Clover Ridge Development L.L.C. and Barbara Louis Messinger and Daniel H. Jahns, co-trustees of Trust No. 100, under an agreement dated the 2nd day of January 1996, for the approval of the Preliminary Plat and Plan for the Clover Ridge PUD in the City of Sycamore, Illinois, DeKalb County, Illinois. First and second reading.

Item withdrawn from the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution No. 373 - Approving the retirement of Municipal Indebtedness of the City of Sycamore in the amount of \$103,863.00 by the use of Motor Fuel Tax Funds.

Administrator Nicklas stated the resolution was a housekeeping issue for IDOT.

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve Resolution No. 373 and Aldersperson Smith 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

1. Consideration of an administration report on the allocation for Sycamore's Private Activity Bond.

Administrator Nicklas reported on the matter by stating that the State of Illinois under the Constitution shares monies with municipalities. This year the City of Sycamore would receive \$560,000 from these funds and he asked the Council to consider uses and he asked them if they wanted to focus on the Industrial Activity Bond or the Mortgage Certificate Program.

Aldersperson Chambon inquired as to why more people were not knocking on doors and why were they not looking to work with several attorneys to get smaller projects. He asked if there was a deadline for spending the funds. Mr. Nicklas said June 30, 2001.

Aldersperson Maness said she favored the Mortgage Credit Program and asked if this was a federal program. Administrator Nicklas stated no it was a state program.

Mayor Edwards agreed the Mortgage Credit Program would help local families and the other monies would go out of the community, but a fee could be charged for that service.

Aldersperson Maness stated she would like to see the money be used for the Mortgage Credit Program and to use the same program as last year.

Aldersperson Chambon said he realized that five families were helped last year but he would like to broaden the community base with the Industrial Activity Bond.

Mayor Edwards said that if the Council is in agreement the funds will be used for the Mortgage Credit Program and a resolution would be prepared for the next meeting.

2. Consideration of an administration recommendation to authorize the hiring of a replacement Police Officer.

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve the hiring of a replacement Police Officer 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.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to go into closed session at 8:40 p.m. for discussion of collective bargaining and land acquisition and Aldersperson Bauer 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 at 9:33 p.m. and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Aldersperson Chambon reported that he had done some research regarding a human resource person and most companies he spoke with felt that it was the way to go and stated he would leave the decision to Bill.

Aldersperson Huntley asked if a Human Resource person would be better than having an full-time attorney here? Attorney Smith said that a human resource person would pay for itself. Mayor Edwards stated that the issue would be discussed during the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. 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.

Approve:

Mayor - James S. Edwards

Attest:

City Clerk - Nancy S. Marchiando