
**Sycamore City Council - Regular Meeting
Minutes of March 19, 2001**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Dan Stovall of the Sycamore Baptist Church gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council that a closed session would be held at the end of the meeting.

Motion

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Jim Lyon, 1824 West Forestview Drive, spoke to the Council concerning a project a group of firefighters and other interested parties are interested in undertaking. He said the group is planning to form an organization dedicated to the preservation of firefighting equipment. He provided the history of a pumper truck that was purchased by the City of Sycamore in 1923. The intent of the group is to return the vehicle to Sycamore 78 years later and restore the vehicle. He informed the Council that a preservation group would be formed to raise money to restore the vehicle and other equipment in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of the regular City Council meeting of March 5, 2001.

Motion

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2001, 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.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

2. PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR MARCH 19, 2001.

Motion

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the bills of March 19, 2001, in the amount of \$157,383.47 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.

3. Plan Commission Minutes for the February 12, 2001, meeting.

The Plan Commission Minutes of February 12, 2001, were accepted by the City Council.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Aldersperson Balentyne inquired if the left turn lane at the intersection of Route #23 #64 would be complete by July and Engineer John Brady responded yes.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator - Bill Nicklas - reminded the Council that the Finance Committee would meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20 & 21, 2001, to review the FY 2001-2002 Budget.

Engineer - John Brady - informed the Council that depending on the weather the Route #23 project will begin on Monday, March 26, 2001.

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty - because he had been on vacation for the past two weeks there was only one permit issued. He expressed appreciation to John Brady, Chief Bill Riddle and all others who helped out while he was gone.

Fire Chief - Bill Riddle - reported that 53 calls for service were received 35 of which were EMS related and 18 fire related. There was a dollar loss of \$700.00 for fire related calls.

Police Chief - Roy Garcia - in the absence of Chief Garcia, Patrick Solar introduced and provided the background of new Police Officer, Jeff Wig, who began his employment that day. City Clerk

Marchiando gave the Oath of Office to Officer Wig and he was congratulated by Clerk Marchiando, Administrator Nicklas, Mayor Edwards and other City officials.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - Alan Bauer - no report.

Ordinance - James Huntley - reported that the committee had met at 7:00 p.m. prior to the meeting and stated that an ordinance regarding cats would be presented to the Council for a first reading at the April 2, 2001 meeting. He said the committee also discussed the implementation of providing a passport service in the Clerk's office and the committee gave approval to begin immediately.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None.

ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 2000.72 - An Ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of Thomas A. Rosenow for approval of the final plat of Charlie Munger's Addition to the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second reading.

Administrator Nicklas stated that Mr. Rosenow was seeking approval of a final plat to sub-divide the parcel into two buildable commercial lots. He stated approval of the petition was recommended.

Aldersperson Dahl asked Mr. Rosenow if Microtel was one of the businesses to be built on the site and Tom Rosenow answered yes. He stated he was the land seller and developer and then spoke briefly about his request and shared some historical information regarding Charlie Munger.

Motion

Aldersperson Huntley moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No. 2000.72 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.

Motion

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.72 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.

2. Ordinance No. 2000.73 - An Ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of Menard, Inc. to amend the Annexation Agreement between the City of Sycamore and the Estate of John P. Lowe and Menard, Inc. for certain property in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Motion

Aldersperson Dahl moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 2000.73 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 Dahl moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.73 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.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution No. 374 - Re-allocating a portion of its Private Activity Bond Volume Cap for the year 2001 to the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the purpose of issuing Mortgage Credit Certificates in the City of Sycamore, IL.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Resolution No. 374 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. 375 - Authorizing the Mayor to execute an addendum to the contract between the City of Sycamore and Illinois Department of Transportation for improvements on State Route #23 and #64 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Motion

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to approve the resolution 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.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Consideration of the Preliminary FY2001-2002 City Budget.

Administrator Nicklas said copies of the budget had been distributed and stated the times and dates for the Budget meetings. Mayor Edwards announced that he would be absent on Tuesday night and asked if others would be absent. Mayor Edwards stated he would be attending on Wednesday night.

Alderspersons Balentyne, Maness, Chambon and Smith stated they would not be in attendance on Tuesday evening. Mayor Edwards stated he supported the budget prepared by the Administrator and Department Heads.

Aldersperson Chambon echoed the same support for the budget and felt it was very thoughtfully put together.

2. Consideration of a report from the Water Superintendent regarding proposals for the implementation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the City of Sycamore.

Water Supt. Ebe Smith reported to the Council on the bids. He stated that two bids were received and that he had contacted three other companies who stated they could not meet the requirements. He recommended that the proposal from U.S. Filter be accepted in the amount of \$65,000.

Aldersperson Bauer asked about the funding for the project and Administrator Nicklas said it would be paid for out of the sewer fund.

Motion

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to approve the proposal of U.S. Filter in the amount of \$65,000 for a Geographic Information System 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.

3. Consideration of an administration report on the recent work of the Sycamore Economic Development Commission.

Administrator Nicklas spoke regarding the functions and tasks of the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Rod Schairer of the EDC said that visits made to local business indicates a very positive attitude concerning the City government, but that the number one concern is the high property taxes. Other common concerns are the shortage of skilled labor and the need for industrial and commercial investment in the community. He asked if any there was anything else the Council would like the Commission to be doing and said he would answer questions.

Aldersperson Huntley stated he had received very favorable comments on the efforts of the EDC.

Aldersperson Chambon asked who at the City spent 25-50% of their time attracting new businesses. It was stated that it was principally the administrator, mayor and Chamber - but that a lot of different hands are involved. Aldersperson Chambon stated he felt this was a top issue and that more time and promoting should be put forth in obtaining new businesses. He stated it is a very time intensive project.

Aldersperson Huntley informed the Council that he has packets prepared by the Clerk and Administrator that he carries with him whenever he is traveling and he stops and makes contacts with businesses and industries. Aldersperson Chambon asked about the possibility of having someone in a part-time roll for EDC.

Administrator Nicklas stated that the City is not grossly inadequate in this area. He said he speaks with Roger Hopkins daily and if he thought the City was ready for such a person he would bring it to the budget.

Mayor Edwards said the biggest challenge is the decision as to what to bring to Sycamore. He suggested a group of people meet from all sectors and discuss what they would like Sycamore to look like in 20 years. What do they want in industrial and commercial - and cultural? Until that point, he said it is hard to know what to attract to Sycamore. Administrator Nicklas said that vision is important to the economic development process.

Aldersperson Dahl stated that he felt the City had done a good job of keeping its portion of the property tax bill at a moderate level during the last four to six years.

Mayor Edwards thanked Mr. Shairer for his presentation.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to go into closed session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of litigation, personal matters and collective bargaining. 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 Balentyne moved to return to open session at 9:19 p.m. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Alderman Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. and Alderman Huntley seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor - James S. Edwards

Attest:

City Clerk - Nancy S. Marchiando