
**Sycamore City Council - Regular Meeting
Minutes of May 7, 2001**

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

Treasurer Ken Mundy gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Swedberg reminded the Council that there would be a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters and land acquisition.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda as distributed and Alderperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Michael McVey, 143 North Avenue, informed the Council and audience that he would not be at that address much longer and this would probably be the last Council Meeting he would attend. Mr. McVey urged Council to please schedule a workshop to begin the process to enact a human rights ordinance.

Tami Simmons, 932 Townsend Street, has two cats that are neutered and declawed and is having trouble keeping them indoors. Ms. Simmons feels this ordinance is unfair and asked Council to revisit the cat ordinance and perhaps rescind it. Mayor Swedberg said they would send the ordinance back to committee.

Anthony Stump, 202 Sabin Street, stated that he feels the ordinance prohibiting riding go-carts, motorcycles, etc., in the city is unfair. He has two acres in his back yard and thinks his kids should be able to utilize them. He said he would seek a special use permit.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 16, 2001.

Motion

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the minutes of April 16, 2001 and Alderperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Payment of bills for May 7, 2001

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$272,499.08 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Aldersperson Chambon said the 3rd Ward is up in arms about traffic and asked the police for visible presence on Edward and Fair Streets. Aldersperson Maness would like the Police Department to look into the possibility of moving the squad car at the Junior High, which only crosses 5 – 7 students, to the construction area around the High School. Aldersperson Maness also suggested notifying those 5 – 7 Junior High student’s parents that the squad would no longer be there. Administrator Nicklas asked Chief Johnson to get suggestions for resolving the traffic problems to him so he could report back to Council.

Mayor Swedberg told Council that the Pumpkin Festival Theme Contest winner will be announced Wednesday, May 16, 2001, at 6:00 P.M. on the courthouse lawn.

Aldersperson Paulsen expressed concerns from the 2nd Ward regarding increased traffic on Sycamore Street and the disregard for the stop sign at Sycamore and Locust. John Brady will look at visibility of the stop sign and Chief Johnson will send officers there during unassigned shift time to monitor the situation.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator - Bill Nicklas – reminded Council that Monday, May 28, 2001 the Annual Memorial Day program at the Veteran’s Home would begin at 9:50 A.M. with reserved seats for city officials. The parade is at 10:00 A.M. following the ceremony. Mr. Nicklas also mentioned the Fire & Police Committee will meet at 6:30 P.M. and Street & Walks will meet at 7:00 P.M. to discuss parking at Civic Apartments, before the next Council Meeting. The Administrator informed Council that the parking meters are becoming obsolete and repair parts may become non-existent. He suggested a workshop with the Chamber of Commerce regarding parking meters downtown. Mr. Nicklas informed the Council that we do not have official audited numbers for fiscal year 2001 yet, but we do have fairly reliable preliminary numbers that indicate we will have a surplus again this year.

Engineer - John Brady – reported that at the May 21st meeting he will have bids for Part 2 of the Downtown Project.

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty - stated he had issued 28 permits during the past two weeks - 2 single-family, 3 multi 14-unit, 20 miscellaneous residential, 2 miscellaneous commercial, and 1 demolition.

Treasurer - Ken Mundy - reported that in April, as well as for the year, some revenue sources did well, but we should be cautious with the economic conditions in the state and the country. The Department of Revenue will soon release projections for FY 02 state shared revenue estimates.

Fire Chief - Bill Riddle – reported 80 calls since last reporting period, with a dollar loss of \$11,000 in fire, 52 EMS, 28 fire and non-fire related. Last Monday night two firefighters graduated from Kishwaukee

Community Hospital's paramedic program. Our newest firefighters, Brad Belanger and Bob Maciejkowski, completed the course in record time.

Police Chief – Darrell Johnson said his first priority is the completion of the annual report. Chief Johnson thanked all who offered him the opportunity to serve as Interim Police Chief until such time as a permanent full-time Police Chief is hired.

Public Works Supt. - Fred Busse reported that his department removed downtown flower planters and garbage receptacles. Waste Management will replace them with temporary dumpsters that can be moved around to different work sites.

Water Supt. - Ebe Smith announced that they would start flushing fire hydrants May 14 until approximately May 23.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Streets & Walks – no report

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Bauer said item 12 D. is on the agenda, purchase of the Jetter vaccum, is recommended to the City Council for approval.

Police & Fire - no report.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2001.01 – An Ordinance Approving the Execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the International Association of Firefighters Local 3046, Effective May 1, 2001 to April 30, 2004 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 2001.01 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to bring into Ordinance and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Ordinance No. 2001.02- An Ordinance Concerning Adoption of Amendments to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2000 to 2001 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to have a first and second reading on Ordinance No. 2001.02 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance will make minor changes to the fiscal year-end budget to show where transfers occurred and did not occur. He said these changes will assure a more accurate and positive general audit report.

Motion

Aldersperson Blickem moved to bring into Ordinance and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Report from Waste Management Regarding the Recent Pilot Program in the 4th Ward.

Administrator Nicklas explained we have just completed the 6-month pilot program that involved the placing of 3 different sized rolling carts in the 4th Ward neighborhood. Mr. Nicklas anticipated this would address the fairness issue of the current fee schedule and also improve the appearance of the city. Mr. Nicklas asked Mike Brink and Ron Mannis of Waste Management to answer questions Council might have regarding the program. Mr. Brink felt the survey results suggested the program was well received:

Satisfied with cart size:	90% of those using 96-gallon carts
	95% using 64-gallon carts
	87% using 35-gallon carts
Satisfied with ease of use:	75% of residents
Improved City appearance:	80% if residents.

Aldersperson Blickem said she received positive feedback from her constituents and urged the Council to consider this system.

Mr. Nicklas suggested this might be a workshop topic, since our refuse pickup contract is coming up next year.

Aldersperson Maness asked Mr. Nicklas to include in the workshop discussion whether the city is going to continue to subsidize garbage pickup or are we going to pass on this cost to the citizens directly. Mr. Nicklas explained that we pay \$160,000 to subsidize the cost of the overall contract.

Finally, Mr. Mannis said he receives a bill for a \$10 scavenger license and urged the City to charge the license fee to other refuse companies operating in the City.

B. Consideration of a request for Direction From the City Administrator Regarding Possible Spring and Summer Workshop Meetings

Mr. Nicklas felt we had covered this in the workshop session and had no other comment. Alderperson Maness asked if all the projects on the FY 2002 would be completed in 2002. Mr. Nicklas reviewed the list as follows:

The capital projects for the year 2001/2002 total 6.65 million dollars:

IL Rts 23/64 Improvements, Phase III	1,045,000
Bethany Road Reconstruction, Phase I (Rte 23 to Peace Road)	120,000
New Well on Southeast Side (Well #9 Construction)	1,250,000
Completion of Strong Pond (retention)	1,287,000
Oakland Drive Extension-City Share	55,000
Crosby Avenue Extension-Design	50,000
Public Sidewalk Replacement	25,000
New Public Works Facility	1,300,000
Salt Storage Bin	100,000
New City Hall Roof (partial)	65,000
Downtown Streetscape	1,500,000
Community Center Rehab – Design	55,000

C. Consideration of an Administration Report regarding Recent Negotiations with the Sycamore Auto Center.

Mr. Nicklas recounted the history of this agreement that had never been signed from its origin in 1998. December 2000, Council authorized the City Attorney and the City Administrator to work toward a revised development agreement. The main points in the staff proposal to revise the original development agreement are as follows:

- For the purpose of establishing a minimum assessment more in line with the actual value of the improvements on the site, an EAV of no less than \$549,410 is established (an EAV equivalent to that established by the Cortland Township assessor for the completed improvements in 1999).
- The three-year property tax abatement approach will be honored, and the base year shall be the year during which the revised agreement is approved. In year one, 80% of the property tax will be abated; in year two, 70%; and in year three, 50%.
- Over the first three years of the agreement, the City shall rebate an amount of sales tax equal to the difference between \$30,000 and the amount of real estate tax abated by the City and other participating taxing bodies.
- The City is obliged to rebate sales taxes according to the following formula:
 - a) A total of 720 new or used cars are to be sold each year (180 each quarter);
 - b) In any tax year in which Sycamore Auto Center sells fewer than 720 new or used vehicles, the amount payable that year will be reduced on a pro rata basis rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent, except that no less than \$25,000 shall be paid annually. For example, if the Center sells only 600 vehicles, then the rebate paid that tax year will be reduced by 16.7% or \$5,010 calculated as follows: $720 - 600 = 120$ divided by $720 = .166$ or 16.7%, with 16.7% of \$30,000 being \$5,010 (rounded to \$25,000).
 - c) In any tax year that the Center sells more than 720 new or used vehicles, the sales tax rebate would be increased on a pro rata basis, except that no more than \$35,000 would be paid annually. For example, if the Center sold 800 vehicles the rebate would be increased by 11.1% or \$3,330, for a total of \$33,330 calculated as follows: $800 - 720 = 80$ divided by $720 = .111$ or 11.1%, with 11.1% of \$30,000 being 3,330.
- The aggregate sales tax rebates and property tax abatements would total up to \$300,000 over a ten-year term.

Mayor Swedberg asked Council if they would accept an agreement similar to that of the Mitsubishi agreement of September 18, 2000.

Aldersperson Chambon said he would be abstaining because he felt it unnecessary to renegotiate in the first place.

Aldersperson Blickem said she felt that Ford Mazda had not lived to the original unsigned agreement. Ms. Blickem also said they showed lack of interest by not appearing before Council. She said they did not come close to living up to the minimum assessment of 3 million dollars and said she wondered if an agreement was even in existence.

Aldersperson Stowe said he remembered the original agreement expected an increase in sales productivity each year over a ten-year period.

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to get a signed agreement with the Administrator's proposed numbers with a 2001 base year and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion/

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Six Alderspersons voted aye, Aldersperson Blickem voted no, and Aldersperson Chambon abstained. Motion carried 6-1-1.

D. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Purchase a Combination Water Jetter and Vacuum from Standard Equipment Company in the amount of \$208,265.

Administrator Nicklas turned discussion over to Public Works Superintendent Fred Busse. Superintendent Busse said that last fall they began an aggressive campaign to pursue replacing their 18 – 28 year-old sewer cleaning equipment. He explained this truck is in the FY02 budget and will be purchased with a short-term note and financed by the Sewer Fund (\$37,400 per year) and the Water Fund (\$12,000 per year).

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the purchase of the Vactor and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

E. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation to Begin the Search for a New Police Chief.

Administrator Nicklas stated he is pleased to work with Chief Johnson. He will call him Chief because he will have all the authority of the Chief. The process will begin for the search of a permanent replacement. Mr. Nicklas noted that today he got the ads out for the Human Resource Director. He proposes to place ads in professional journals as well as local media. Mr. Nicklas would like to mirror the search for the Fire Chief. He would like to go through a fairly convention search that is overseen by a team that includes representation by the City Council Fire & Police Committee, another Police Chief, representative from FOP Lodge, and the Fire Chief.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to authorize the police chief search and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

F. Consideration of a Public Work Department Request to Authorize the Hiring of a Laborer

Mr. Nicklas informed Council that Bryan Carlson has accepted a lateral transfer as laborer from the Street Division to a laborer position in the Water Department. Mr. Nicklas asked for Council's approval to fill the vacancy in the Street Division.

Motion

Aldersperson Chambon moved to approve a new hire and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Aldersperson Maness moved to go into closed session at 9:25 p.m. and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

Mayor Swedberg 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 10:10 p.m. and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m. and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Voice Vote

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

Approve:

Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

City Clerk – Candy Smith