ROLL CALL
Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and City Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Rick “Spider” Kramer, Curt Lang, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, Becky Springer, and Janice Tripp. Alderperson Steven Braser was absent.

INVOCATION
Pastor Dan Swinson of the Sycamore United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion
Alderperson Kramer moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.
Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of September 8, 2015.
C. Payment of the Bills for September 21, 2015 in the amount of $2,345,009.73.

Motion
Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.
Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.

Alderperson Kramer said it was a pleasure to drive on South Avenue and thanked the City for repairing it.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

City Manager– Brian Gregory thanked City Engineer for his work identifying and receiving confirmation from IDOT that the City has jurisdiction of the right of way needed for outdoor dining downtown on Route 64. He also thanked Fire Lt. Marcinkowski, Firefighter Belanger, Asst. Chief Zern, and Chief Polarek for their work in acquiring and equipping Squad #2.
Deputy Police Chief – Darrell Johnson thanked all those that acknowledged National Thank A Police Officer Day last week.

Fire Chief – Pete Polarek reserved his comments for an agenda item.

Director of Public Works– Fred Busse thanked the City Clerk’s office for taking a list for those residents interested in the tree program because the list helps Public Works identify the addresses that need to have trees cut down. He said they are out taking down trees and have rented a stump grinder this week. He thanked the Fire Department for taking care of the old squad as well as they did because it was handed down to Public Works to use for TV camera equipment and equipment they use daily.

Treasurer/Asst. to the City Manager – Adam Orton distributed the August Treasurer’s Report with a benchmark of 33% and weighted revenues were running at 34% and weighted expenditures were at 32%. He said that August was a rough month for pension funds because they both saw setbacks.

Building & Engineering Director - John Sauter reported they will do a final inspection on Hauser Ross on the surgical portion of the building and the new Ideal building is under roof, they are working on the floor in the manufacturing section, and interior partitions in the office section will start going up soon.

City Engineer - Mark Bushnell reported that with the exception of Park Avenue the 2016 street program is complete. He said that Landmark will start work on the sidewalks along Route 64 on Monday.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, reported that tree bids will be received next Monday and consideration for their approval will be on the October 5 agenda.

Mayor Mundy reminded everyone that October 3rd is kids work day.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – no report
Public Safety – no report
Public Works – no report

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES


City Manager Gregory explained that a developer approached the City about a digital billboard in the spring and that triggered discussion about message boards. He listed the changes as follows:

- No more than 40% or 35 sq. ft. whichever is less of the freestanding sign area shall be used as a message board
- Billboards are prohibited
Zoning Administrator be responsible for approving identification signs that may be mounted on public street sign poles and temporary special event signs

Creation of a base screening section

10. BASE SCREENING. All ground signs supported by a pole or poles shall have the support pole(s) or base screened from all directions. Support poles shall be enclosed in skirting or a solid base with a minimum width not less than one-third the width of the proposed sign with a maximum width not greater than 10% more than the width of the proposed sign. The skirting or base shall be constructed of materials consistent with the appearance of the principal structure(s).

Mr. Gregory said the Plan Commission held a public hearing on August 10, 2015 and held this item over until the September 14, 2015 meeting where they voted 9-0 to forward a favorable recommendation.

Alderman Lang asked if the City had to deny or modify many requested signs.

Mr. Gregory said not as much that, but there have been requests for 100% message signs.

Alderman Paulsen asked if there were existing signs that would no longer be compliant if they pass this.

Mr. Gregory said those would be grandfathered and when they get replaced they would need to comply.

Building & Engineering Director Sauter said the existing signs that are or will be legal-nonconforming can continue to exist, but once they are modified they will have to become code compliant.

Motion
Alderman Kramer moved to hear Ordinance 2015.15 on first and second reading and Alderman Springer seconded the motion.

Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Aldermen voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion
Alderman Kramer moved to approve Ordinance 2015.15 and Alderman Springer seconded the motion.

Roll call vote
Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Aldermen Bauer, Kramer, Lang, Paulson, Tripp, Springer, and Stowe voted aye. Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 643—A Resolution Declaring Wednesday, October 21, 2015 Through Sunday, October 25, 2015 as Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

City Manager Gregory explained that all five resolutions relate to Pumpkin Fest and can be taken in Omnibus Fashion.

Motion
Alderman Stowe moved to hear Resolutions 643 through 647 in omnibus fashion and Alderman Lang seconded the motion.
Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

B. Resolution No. 644—A Resolution Requesting Permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Kingsway Drive to Sacramento Street between 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM on Sunday October 25, 2015 To Allow for the “Road Run” as Part of the Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

C. Resolution No. 645—A Resolution Requesting Permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Locust Street to Sacramento Street from 12:00 Noon Until 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 25, 2015 To Allow for the Pumpkin Festival Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

D. Resolution No. 646—A Resolution Authorizing the Use of City Parking Lot #3 at the Corner of Sacramento Street and State Street for a Carnival to be Held from Wednesday, October 21, 2015 Through Sunday, October 25, 2015 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

E. Resolution No. 647—A Resolution Authorizing the Use of City Parking Lot #1 at the Corner of Somonauk Street and Elm Street for a “Kiddee Carnival” to be Held from Wednesday, October 21, 2015 Through Sunday, October 25, 2015 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Motion
Alderperson Springer moved to approve Resolutions 643 through 647 and Alderperson Kramer seconded the motion.

Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 – 0

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of a Fire Department Recommendation to Award the Purchase of Portable Extrication Equipment to EMC Fire Equipment of Channahon, Illinois in the amount of $34,980.

City Manager Gregory explained that the Fire Department received a grant from the Fire Protection District to replace our extrication tools. He said because cars are now made of ultra-high strength steel, the hydraulic extrication tools prove ineffective.

Chief Polarek explained the existing tools could not cut the stronger metals and that was detrimental to the patients and noted the Fire Protection District has been very generous with grants.

Asst. Chief Zern explained that the Genesis C236 is much more powerful than their existing equipment. He said it is a battery powered hydraulic tool that increases safety, allows for increased operational efficiencies, and reduces noise.
Mr. Gregory recommended approving the bid from EMC Fire Equipment in the amount of $34,980 for 2 Genesis battery powered spreaders and 2 cutters which includes a $2,500 trade-in allowance for 1 set of the existing hydraulic rescue tool.

**Motion**
Alderperson Lang moved to award the purchase to EMC Fire Equipment in the amount of $34,980 and Alderperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**
Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Bauer, Kramer, Lang, Paulson, Springer, Stowe, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**B. Consideration of the Sycamore Public Library’s Annual Report Presented by Sarah Tobias, Executive Director of the Sycamore Public Library.**

Executive Director Tobias reported that last year the Library had the most items circulated in its history and noted the Board is working toward going to referendum in November 2016 or April 2017 to become a district library.

Council Library Board Representative Curt Lang said the Board wants to put the question of becoming a district library on a ballot for the community to decide.

Library Board Member Chuck Ridulph said they also want to make sure the households can support the library with no help from the City.

**C. Consideration and Review of a Staff Presentation Regarding Water and Sewer Connection Fees and Possible Amendments.**

City Manager Gregory said the last time the City reviewed or changed its fees for water and sewer connection was in 2006 and at that time there was a lot of growth with subdivisions being annexed. He said there was a plan for a second water tower, establish a new deep well, and the beginning of the process to construct a new treatment plant. He said during the 2016 budget review process the need to review the water and sewer connection fees was discussed. He said other taxing bodies have expressed a willingness to review impact fees so Mayor Mundy reconvened the Ad Hoc Growth Management Committee on August 19, 2015. He said the committee includes representatives from the City, School District, Park District, Library, DCEDC, Chamber of Commerce, DeKalb County Building and Development Association, Sycamore Planning Commission, and DeKalb Area Association of Realtors. He said the City will be the first to present our recalculations for sewer and water connection fees at the September 30, 2015 Ad Hoc meeting. He said he wanted to present the information to Council before taking it to the Committee.

Mr. Gregory explained that the Illinois EPA employs the standard of 3.5 persons per household and assumes each person consumes 100 gallons of water per day so he was held to those demographics for calculating. He noted that connection fees apply to residential and commercial & industrial building so they differ from impact fees that refer to residential development alone. His calculation for the water connection fee resulted in a fee of $1,698 as compared to the current fee of $1,232. His calculation of the proposed sewer connection fee will be $2,565 compared to the current fee of $2,205. He said he was not looking for action, but for direction at this time.
Mayor Mundy said that a lot of opinion and conjecture has gone into the historical discussion of impact fees and he said these are facts. He said the water towers and treatment plants serve the whole community and without the impact fees there would be more impact on the existing taxpayer. He said it is not reasonable to expect the new development to pay for all of the improvements.

Alderperson Stowe asked how much have we spent in impact fees and said he was glad we had the foresight to impose them in the 1990’s.

Mr. Gregory said he did not have that figure in his head, but it was a proportional amount.

Alderperson Bauer said he thought that McMahon’s estimates were pretty good and asked if the City was going to look at plan review and inspection fees.

Mr. Gregory said our fees are reasonable and we want to work with the trades, but we will look at those.

Alderpersons Lang, Tripp, Kramer, Springer and Paulsen said they thought these numbers looked good.

D. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Review Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion
Alderperson Kramer moved to go into Closed Session at 8:20 p.m. and Alderperson Lang seconded the motion.

Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion
Alderperson Stowe moved to return to Open Session at 8:29 p.m. and Alderperson Lang seconded the motion.

Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion
Alderperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. and Alderperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Voice vote
Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Approve:

Mayor – Ken Mundy

Attest:

City Clerk - Candy Smith