
SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2021

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lang called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and City Clerk Mary Kalk called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Steve Braser, Nancy Copple, Josh Huseman, Pete Paulsen, Virginia Sherrod, David Stouffer, Chuck Stowe, and Alan Bauer. City Attorney Keith Foster was also present.

INVOCATION- by Pastor Paul Mumme, Saint John Lutheran Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Alderwoman Nancy Copple

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said that Resolution 856 needs to be amended to be Resolution 860.

MOTION

Alderperson Braser motioned to approve the agenda as amended and Alderperson Copple seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Braser, Copple, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Robert P. Recker Jr, 922 Birchwood Drive, asked about allowing trucks over 7,000 pounds park on Fair Street and Birchwood Drive and also asked that residents on Birchwood Drive be notified as to when the road work will begin.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of March 1, 2021.
- B. Payment of the Bills for March 15, 2021 in the amount of \$696,871.82.

MOTION

Alderperson Bauer motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Braser, Copple, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Acting City Manager – Maggie Peck introduced Executive Secretary Jessica Lingle who joined the City last Monday. Employee training will begin again in April with Sexual Harassment and Back Safety Training for all employees. She said that it was nice to see the downtown thriving on Friday night and Saturday morning and encouraged everyone to continue to support the local businesses.

Police Chief – Jim Winters deferred his comments to the agenda item.

Fire Chief – Pete Polarek gave a reminder regarding open burning as burning of leaves and garden waste is prohibited in the city and has been for many years. He said to call with any questions but that it is posted on the Fire Department's Facebook page.

City Treasurer Dan Prombo said that the February's Treasurer's Report, on a cash-basis, has a benchmark of 83.33%. For revenues, the State Sales Tax at 87% and the Home Rule Sales Tax at 85% are both above the benchmarks. The Restaurant and Bar Tax is holding steady at 82% after the \$100,000 budget decrease, but is still holding its own. The State Shared Income Tax is at 89%. Total revenues sit at just shy of 91.9% but drops to 89.8% when weighted with property taxes. The

General Fund Expenditures are at 73.17%. He stated that these numbers will change some as accruals are prepared for the annual audit. Both Fire and Police Pension Funds saw significant increases for February, each with \$340,000.

Director of Community Development John Sauter said they've received the final civil and building plans for the St. Alban's Green re-build project and are in the process of reviewing them. The plan is to issue a grading permit to allow site work to begin with a full building permit to follow soon after. They also met with the Homeowner's Association and insurance company at the Arvle Circle fire site and a remediation permit has been issued. The insurance company is also busy working on determining the scope of work for the restoration of the damaged units.

Director of Public Works Matt Anderson said the landscape dumpster will be at the public works campus at 475 N. Cross Street from March 19th through April 2nd. Tower #1 maintenance should start later in the week depending on the weather. He also reported that there was a pre-construction meeting last week regarding the street signals to be located at Mt. Hunger Rd and Route 23. Work should start soon with completion in early June. Lastly, there will be a WRT media exchange putting the well #8 out of service for seven to 10 days.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Alan Bauer said - no report.
Public Safety – Pete Paulsen no report.
Public Works – Chuck Stowe no report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

ORDINANCES - None

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution No. 860—A Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said this comes as part of the 2021 Street Maintenance Program which was presented back in February. She said that \$575,000 of the \$2,200,000 program comes from the Motor Fuel Tax Funds which are funds from the State of Illinois to put back into the roads. This resolution is required by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and included \$575,000 and an additional \$130,000 in eligible engineering expenses.

MOTION

Aldersperson Braser motioned to approve Resolution 860 and Aldersperson Huseman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Braser, Copple, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

B. Resolution No. 857—A Resolution Approving a Preliminary Engineering and Construction Guidance Agreement with Municipal Engineering Corporation for Motor Fuel Tax Funds in FY22 for the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said this is a companion resolution that would take part of the engineering services allocation and enter into an agreement with Municipal Engineering Corporation who has assisted the city street maintenance program since 2008.

MOTION

Aldersperson Braser motioned to approve Resolution 857 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Braser, Copple, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

C. Resolution No. 858—A Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by the City of Sycamore Under the Illinois Highway Code from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said that this is another resolution that IDOT requires for the expenditure of \$295,000 of Motor Fuel Tax Funds committed in FY22. This is for the following:

- a) Snow and ice control (salt purchases): \$125,000;
- b) A portion of salaries related to ongoing street maintenance and repair by the Public Works department: \$100,000; and
- c) Electrical costs for streetlight and signal maintenance: \$70,000.

MOTION

Aldersperson Cople motioned to approve Resolution 858 and Aldersperson Sherrod seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Braser, Cople, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

D. Resolution No. 859—A Resolution Authorizing the Public Works Director to Sign IEPA Loan Documents.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said that this relates to the previous ordinance 2020.24 regarding the City of Sycamore's application to the IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) for Low Interest Loan and debt forgiveness for the replacement of lead service lines. The IEPA requires that a resolution be passed to authorize an official signer of the loan documents and is the next step in the process. This resolution meets the requirement and authorizes the Public Works Director to execute IEPA loan related documents on behalf of the City.

Aldersperson Cople asked if they need to name the Public Works Director, "Matt Anderson".

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said sure, "Public Works Director Matt Anderson".

MOTION

Aldersperson Cople motioned to approve Resolution 859 and Aldersperson Stouffer seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Braser, Cople, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDERATIONS

A. Consideration of the Preliminary FY22 Budget.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck pointed out some highlights of the budget that have been discussed over the last few months including the four financial tenets that the city has used to guide the financial decisions which include working within the city's means, investing in infrastructure, meeting obligations, and reducing general operating debt. She said that the budget is balanced, we are meeting our principle obligations, we continue to invest in our infrastructure, we are contributing additional funds to our pensions, and we continue to work during the pandemic. The budget is available on the city's website and there is one at the Sycamore Public Library for viewing. Additional copies can be obtained through the Clerk's office for a fee. A public hearing will be held at the Monday, April 5th Council meeting and action will be taken on the Monday, April 19th Council meeting.

Alderman Huseman said that the process and meetings in advance to breakdown the budget make's tonight that much easier.

Alderman Bauer said that he and Maggie met a couple weeks ago and she was kind enough to ask former City Manager Brian Gregory to come in and assist with his knowledge. It was a productive meeting as he had a few questions that all got answered and now make sense. A lot of work goes into this document by a lot of people and said it is good and pretty conservative.

Mayor Lang said he enjoys how transparent it is and that we can all be grateful for it.

B. Consideration of a Fire Department Recommendation to Purchase Three (3) Physio Control Lifepak 15 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators in the Amount of \$72,266.17.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck said in the proposed FY22 capital budget, staff budgeted for the purchase of an additional required cardiac monitor/defibrillator but they recently learned that two of the four have an issue in the control board. Having a life span of 10-15 years, Stryker, is concerned with the reliability of the control board since they are only eight years old so they created an incentive program to replace those potential failing monitor/defibrillators. The Fire Department recommends purchasing the same brand due to the equipment compatibility with ambulances, additional training, and maintenance on them. The incentive is a "buy one get one" program and in order to lock in the promotional rate, the City would need to sign a purchase order before March 31, 2021. They looked to expedite the purchasing of a third machine allocated in the FY22 budget for which Stryker is willing to provide an extra 5% discount which is a total savings of 25% off the list price if all three units are purchased at one time. The total cost for the equipment is \$72,266.17 and recommends purchasing all three.

Alderwoman Cople asked if we should replace all four instead of just three.

Chief Polarek said no, it's two of the four that have the motherboard issues. The other two are fine.

Alderman Stouffer asked if there is any warranty on these.

Chief Polarek said the stand warranty with this, like most equipment, is one year parts and labor. They have always had a maintenance program with the company because it's emergency equipment that they rely on so after the first year, they pay a maintenance fee for 24 hours service.

Mayor Lang asked how often these machines are used.

Chief Polarek said it's an essential cardiac monitor tool used every day and are in each ambulance.

MOTION

Alderman Cople motioned to approve the consideration for \$72,266.17 and Alderman Paulsen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Aldermen Braser, Cople, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

C. Consideration of a Request by the Liquor Commissioner to Create an Additional Class VG Liquor License.

Acting City Manager Maggie Peck gave a brief background from the agenda regarding the establishment of the new class VG liquor license for video gaming cafes. In recent months, the Liquor Commissioner and City staff have fielded numerous inquiries from establishments looking to bring new restaurants or bars to Sycamore. Previously, Lance Klinger, who owns Ski's and Sophie's Place has requested to exchange a class B liquor license for a class VG license for Sophie's Place. The majority of the Council supported the request (5-3 in favor), however the vote failed to gain the 3/4ths majority needed for approval. Mr. Klinger has taken steps to ensure compliance with class B license requirements, however the use is more consistent with a class VG license. If the Council supports the creation of an additional license with a 3/4ths majority vote, the Liquor Commissioner would determine the distribution of the license. As such, at this time, Mayor Lang has indicated his intention to move Sophie's Place to the class VG license. Based on direction this evening, she will bring back a resolution for formal action at the next council meeting.

Alderman Bauer said he wants to make sure that Mr. Klinger is aware of and in favor of moving to the VG license class. He stated that it's a "no brainer" to open a class B license to help fill empty storefronts.

Mayor Lang said yes, he has spoken to him and Mr. Klinger is very excited.

Alderman Stouffer agreed that this is a "no brainer" to open up another license for a restaurant that wants to bring more value to the downtown but asked if they can put something in the verbiage of the Class B licenses to try to avoid them from being used for anything other than the bar and restaurant.

Mayor Lang said yes, that is the problem we have with the way it is so we want it to fit the license description. Consensus of the Council was to move forward.

D. Consideration of a Presentation of the 2020 Police Department Annual Report.

Chief Winters said thanks to Deputy Chief Steve Cook, who is present, for compiling all the information for the report as he has for the last several years. It really paints a picture of the activities and the events of the year through some of the charts, graphs, and photos. He presents this annual report on behalf of the men and women of the Police Department who have gone through the challenges of 2020 from the global pandemic, to staff shortages, to social unrest. He covered the following highlights:

Cover page: Thanked Upstaging for providing pink backlighting for the Police Department intended to honor those brave individuals who have battled breast cancer, some close to them, whose courage is nothing short of inspiring.

Pg. 5, Employee Roster

Pg. 9, COVID-19 Response

Pg. 12, In-Car Video and Body Worn Cameras

Pg. 14, Operations Overview, Noted Foot Patrols increase with more involvement.

Pg. 20, Special Projects and Programs

Pg. 21, Mental Health Initiatives

Pg. 23, Parking Enforcement

Pg. 24, Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

Pg. 30, Noteworthy Cases

He thanked the City Council, Mayor, previous City Manager, and Interim City Manager for the support of their officers throughout the year. When you hear about cities talking about defunding the police, he really does appreciate the fact that they support their officers and supporting their mission ensuring that our community is policed properly. When everybody's public safety is considered, the idea of fairness for everybody is at the highest priority from the police department standpoint.

E. Consideration of an Administrative Request for Closed Session to Review Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

Aldersperson Stouffer motioned to enter into Closed Session at 7:52 pm and Aldersperson Huseman seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Braser, Copple, Huseman, Paulsen, Sherrod, Stouffer, Stowe, and Bauer voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

MOTION

Aldersperson Sherrod motioned to return to Open Session at 7:57 pm and Aldersperson Stouffer seconded the motion.

VOICE VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

APPOINTMENTS

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Aldersperson Stowe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

VOICE VOTE

Mayor Lang called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

Approve:

Mayor - Curt Lang

Attest:

City Clerk – Mary Kalk