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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2002**

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**ROLL CALL**

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

**INVOCATION**

Father Frank Timar of St. Mary's Catholic Church gave the invocation

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Swedberg added a Closed Session Consideration to discuss Collective Bargaining.

**Motion**

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda with the addition and Alderperson Larson seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Joint Council/Plan Commission Meeting of November 11, 2002;
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of November 18, 2002;
- C. Payment of the Bills for December 2, 2002 in the amount of \$1,048,490.74.
- D. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes for the Council Meetings of September 4, 2001; January 7, 2002; February 4, 2002; February 18, 2002; March 4, 2002; March 18, 2002; May 6, 2002; May 20, 2002; June 17, 2002; July 1, 2002; July 15, 2002; August 5, 2002; September 3, 2002; and September 16, 2002.

**Motion**

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Larson seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BILLS.**

Aldersperson Chambon announced with mixed emotions his resignation as 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Aldersperson because he had taken a job in Carson City, NV and would be moving his family before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Mr. Chambon said that he had thoroughly enjoyed serving the City and he had gained an appreciation for the hard work it takes to run a City.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Administrator – Bill Nicklas reported that it had been a pleasure to work with Aldersperson Chambon; he especially appreciated his candor. Mr. Nicklas thanked the Water Department for their work repairing a watermain on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Nicklas also thanked the Public Works Department for some demolition and excavation work on the Henderson Building to identify some features needed before going to bid.

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty – no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle reported that over the past year representatives from 6 MABAS Divisions created a regional Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue response team for catastrophic events in North Central Illinois. Chief Riddle said the team would be formally active by January 2003 covering DeKalb, Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson, Ogle, Lee, and Rock Counties.

Police Chief – Don Thomas – no report

Public Works Supt. -- Fred Busse reported leaf pickup was completed except for one final sweep this week. Superintendent Busse said that the process was improved because of the new leaf machine. Aldersperson Larson inquired if the new snow blower had been delivered and Superintendent Busse said it was delivered during the morning's snowfall.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance –no report

Ordinance – Chairperson Maness reported that the Committee had met before the meeting and made no changes, but decided to review the whole liquor licensing system including the fee structure. Administrator Nicklas suggested forming an ad hoc committee and Chairperson Maness asked Mayor Swedberg to appoint one.

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Bauer said the Committee would meet before the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Streets & Walks –no report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **A. Public Hearing on the 2002-2003 Corporate Levy.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this was the opportunity for the public to voice their opinions regarding the Corporate Levy. Administrator Nicklas said that the City's tax rate decreased and the average homeowner would see a \$10 increase. Administrator Nicklas said the corporate levy proposed was \$2,700,329.

Heidi Anderson, 221 May Street, said that she had lived in Sycamore for 16 years and grew up frequenting the Library. Ms. Anderson said that she enjoyed the improvements the Library had made and felt it was helpful for children with their schoolwork.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **A. Ordinance No. 2002.54—An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Sycamore for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2002 and Ending April 30, 2003. First Reading Only.**

Administrator Nicklas said this ordinance was dealing with the Corporate Levy which was the combination of the Library Levy and City Levy.

Aldersperson Blickem asked for a response from the Library regarding the level of their Levy. Executive Director Sarah Tobias explained that she had made changes that brought the increase down to 10.9% from 13%, but the change could not be approved until the December 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Aldersperson Tripp said she appreciated that they came down 2%. Aldersperson Larson said that he was new to the Library Board, but he felt they provided good service and saw the need to support it.

Administrator Nicklas said that there was a procedural issue regarding the publishing of the public hearing with specific dollar amounts within a certain time frame. Mr. Nicklas asked Ms. Tobias if she thought her Board would approve the increase of 10.9% and she said she thought they would. Mr. Nicklas said that if they did not, there would be need for a third public hearing and a Special Council Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

### **B. Ordinance No. 2002.55—An Ordinance Partially Abating Certain Debt Service Levied for a General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003. First Reading Only.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance would partially abate the debt service on the 1996 general obligation bond for the 2002 levy year. He said the debt service obligation for FY2002-2003 is \$423,383 and the City will levy \$155,000 and abate \$268,383.

### **C. Ordinance No. 2002.56—An Ordinance Abating Certain Debt Service for a General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003. First Reading Only.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance would abate all the debt service on the 1999 refunding bond in the amount of \$156,513 that refinanced a portion of the 1996 bond series at a lower interest rate.

**D. Ordinance No. 2002.57—An Ordinance Abating Certain Debt Service for a General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003. First Reading Only.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance totally abated the debt service of \$301,153 on the more recent 2002 general obligation bond and the levy will be \$0.00.

**E. Ordinance No. 2002.58—An Ordinance Abating Certain Real Estate Revenue Due for Property Owned by Sycamore Ford/Mazda/Hyundai in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003. First Reading Only.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that the City would need to abate 70% of the City's share of the property tax owed by Sycamore For/Mazda/Hyundai. The agreement was for a three-year abatement agreement.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution No. 422—Approving a Cooperative Agreement Forming the DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study (DSATS)**

Administrator Nicklas explained that because DeKalb County's population had reached 50,000 it was recognized as an urban area making it necessary to formulate this organization. He said that the federal government preferred to funnel transportation assistance funds to urban areas through umbrella organizations know as metropolitan planning organizations or MPO's.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve the Agreement forming the DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of the Annual Motor Fuel Tax Audit.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that IDOT did the annual audit of the MFT Fund and no action was necessary except to receive and file it.

**B. Consideration of Bids for the Installation of a Fiber Optic Connection From the Municipal Building to the Henderson Building to the New Consolidated Dispatch Center.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that the Police Department had solicited the bids for the installation of a fiber optic cable to safely speed data transmission from the Municipal Building to the former Henderson building and to the DeKalb County Public Safety Center. Mr. Nicklas said the budget for this expense was \$40,000 and both bids came in over budget. Chief Thomas negotiated with the lower bidder, Turnkey

Communications, to install a single conduit rather than two conduit runs and they agreed it could be done and reduced their bid to \$40,000.

Chief Thomas said that the fiber optic would be the safest method regarding confidentiality issues and there would be no other costs such as monthly fees or annual maintenance. He said they would be installing a 24-strand cable and would use only 4 of those. Chief Thomas said they would be piggybacking off of conduit already in the ground. Chief Thomas said that he and Chief Riddle recommended approving Turnkey Communications bid of \$40,000.

Mayor Swedberg inquired if they were familiar with the company and Chief Thomas said that they had done a background check that showed an excellent reputation.

Aldersperson Tripp suggested the project be closely supervised and Engineer Brady said they would be monitoring the work.

Aldersperson Stowe asked if the cables would be shown on the GPS maps and Administrator Nicklas said not yet. Aldersperson Chambon inquired if the City would be liable if they sliced someone else's cable and Mayor Swedberg said that the excavator holds the liability. Administrator Nicklas said that he thought the City held liability if cables would get damaged when the City was doing the digging. Superintendent Smith said that the cable has a communication wire for JULIE locates. Chief Thomas said that there may be requests for use of non-used strands. Administrator Nicklas said that they would need to look into some of those aspects in the future.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Turnkey Communications bid for \$40,000 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

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

### **APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Swedberg said that before they go into Closed Session he had appointments to the Council-Manager Referendum Ad Hoc Committee. Those appointed were Aldersperson Blickem, Treasurer Mundy, Mike Cullen of The National Bank & Trust, Rose Trembl of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, Steve Braser of Downtown Shoes, and Mayor Swedberg said he would Chair the Committee.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Chambon moved to accept the appointments and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

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

### **C. Consideration to go into Closed Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to go into closed session at 8:50 p.m. and Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to return to Open Session at 9:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Chambon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

Approve:

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Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith