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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2003**

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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, Terry Kessler, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe and Janice Tripp. Alderperson Andrew Larson was absent.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Swedberg asked for a moment of silent reflection.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Peter Barick, 433 W. High Street, expressed concern about growth and asked Council to give the citizens more time for input in the process.

Steve Kuhn, 430 S. Main Street, requested that the City Council host an open forum regarding the jail expansion. He said he was not so concerned about this expansion, but about future expansions extending clear down to Brown's County Market.

Matt Woodstrup, 313 N. Locust, said he realized that the future of the town was based on growth, but he was concerned with the jail expansion. He said other location options should be considered and said there were advantages to moving out of the center of town. He asked City Council to talk with the County on behalf of Sycamore residents.

Roger Hopkins, DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation Director, applauded Council for their policy statement allocating building permits. He said they would act as guidelines for growth and development and were also a tool for a "go slow" process.

Scott Short, 1742 Briggs Street, said he wanted to see communication opened more and asked to have Council email addresses published. He said he thought people would communicate better if they did not have to attend meetings.

Mayor Swedberg said the email addresses were available in the Clerk's office and on the website.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Joint Plan Commission/City Council Meeting of September 8, 2003;
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of September 15, 2003;
- C. Payment of the Bills for October 6, 2003 in the amount of \$1,506,645.30;
- D. FY04 Budget Update.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

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

- A. Swearing-In Ceremony for New Police Officer Justin Kness.

Chief Don Thomas introduced Officer Kness as a 27-year-old from Morrison. He said he was honorably discharged from the military, graduated from U of I Police Training Institute, and earned a bachelor degree from Western. He was a lateral transfer and moved to Sycamore the previous week. Clerk Smith swore in Officer Kness.

- B. Proclamation Declaring the Week of October 5-11 Fire Prevention Week in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.

Mayor Swedberg read the proclamation with this year's theme as "when fire strikes, get out and stay out."

Mayor Swedberg reported that the local National Guard was being called to duty within the United States to perform as military police.

Aldersperson Paulsen said the County's Public Services Committee would meet Wednesday at 6:30 to discuss the jail expansion. He said the documents were available on the County's website.

Aldersperson Kessler said she had talked to Chief Thomas about lowering the speed limit at Peace Road near DeKalb Avenue. Chief Thomas said his department was doing a comprehensive study of all accidents in town and would turn that information over to the County and State. Mayor Swedberg said the County Board Chairman and Engineer have been approached about a traffic study in that area.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas – no report

Engineer – John Brady - no report

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty – no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said the Fire Department received a \$1000 grant from Illinois Fire Chief’s Association to be used for tuition for the College Intern’s Paid on Call program. He said a \$500 grant from the Kiwanis would be used to increase smoke detector awareness. He said the department would stock smoke detectors and batteries and pass out flyers.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said he would address two items on the agenda.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse reported that Public Works created a bulk mailer explaining the leaf pick-up program. He said if it was successful they would incorporate tree trimming and hydrant flushing. Superintendent Busse said that tree trimming at curb lines would begin to accommodate trucks for leaf pickup and snow plowing. He said if they purchase a chipper they will trim more aggressively.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that the water tower has been cleaned. He also thanked the people that live in the area of the Home Street project for their patience. He said that all underground work was completed.

Aldersperson Tripp said she received communications from the Home Street project contractors complimenting the residents for cooperation and patience. She said some residents provided coolers of water for the workers.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Tripp said they had a workshop before the meeting to discuss water rates and they would continue that discussion after more data was gathered through the billing software.

Streets & Walks – no report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **ORDINANCES**

### **A. Ordinance No. 2003.49—An Ordinance Amending the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2003 to 2004 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said this would adjust the budget to reflect the audited numbers from the previous year and to make changes in current budget. He said the changes this year were a one-time equity transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund reserve to the Capital Assistance Fund to purchase a new fire engine, and to increase the 2003 Bond Fund from \$500,000 to \$2,005,000. He explained the breakdown as \$250,000 for sidewalk improvement, \$750,000 for the completion of Oakland Drive, \$500,000 for Bethany Road improvement and \$455,000 to retire the 1996 Bond.

Aldersperson Maness said she hoped Council would have input as to which sidewalks get repaired. She said there should be sidewalks extended to the Grand Victorian and hoped they would prioritize the paths to schools.

## **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.49 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2003.49 and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Leach, Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, Bauer, and Kessler voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**B. Ordinance No. 2003.50—An Ordinance Establishing an Interim, Revised Schedule for the Allowable Number of Annual Permits Per Each New Planned Unit Development. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said they were tending to unfinished business referring to the permit regulation ordinance that did not mention already platted lots. He said this would establish a connection between new growth and already platted growth by adding a third column addressing the expectation for specific pace with future annexations. He said this would send a policy message to Plan Commission when they discuss the recommendation of a change to the Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor Swedberg opened discussion to the audience.

Mayor Swedberg said this was a good first step, but was still concerned that if several developments wanted in it would increase the pace. He suggested a cap on permits to issue.

Mr. Nicklas said that until June there were no controls and with no restrictions there were an average of 150 permits issued until the spike of last year. He said a new annexation would not bring in permits for a number of years. Mr. Nicklas said this would provide a cap of permits in any one year. He said that Naperville said no to growth 15 years ago, because the staff was stretched and that could be held up in court.

Mayor Swedberg said the ordinance would not keep several developments from starting during any one year and he thought a cap was necessary.

Alderperson Leach agreed with the Mayor that a cap was needed.

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.50 on first and second reading 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Alderperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2003.50 and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Alderperson Bauer inquired if this was passed would it go before Plan Commission and Mr. Nicklas said it would be on the next agenda.

**Voice Vote**

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

**C. Ordinance No. 2003.51—An Ordinance Amending Title 8, “Water and Sewer,” Chapter 2, “Water Use and Service,” Section 2, “Connections,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained there needed to be a clear connection between the fee and capital improvements and new development and capital improvements. He said they identified a new well and one elevated tank as the capital needs and the proposed fee takes into account the recent pricing that the City undertook as part of the bidding for the new Well #9. He said this ordinance would raise the overall cost per unit from \$264 to \$299.

Mayor Swedberg asked if 10 to 15 years was the projection for the need for the elevated tank and Mr. Nicklas said it would be sooner than that. Mr. Nicklas said \$1.2 million was currently in the impact fee fund not counting money in the water fund reserve for capital improvements.

**Motion**

Alderperson Tripp moved to hear Ordinance 2003.51 on first and second reading 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Alderperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2003.51 and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**D. Ordinance No. 2003.52—An Ordinance Amending Title 8, “Water and Sewer,” Chapter 4, “Sewer Use and Service,” Section 2, “Sewer Connection Charges,” Subsection C, “Connection Fees and Unit Charges for Sewage Treatment Plant,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said the key capital facility was the treatment plant and the impact of new development was gauged by the need for additional treatment capacity.

**Motion**

Alderperson Tripp moved to hear Ordinance 2003.52 on first and second reading and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Alderperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2003.52 and Alderperson Tripp seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

### **RESOLUTIONS**

None

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **A. Consideration of a Police Department Recommendation to Generally Decrease the Speed Limit Within the Corporate Limits to 25 MPH.**

Alderperson Kessler left at 8:10 p.m.

Police Chief Thomas said that when they studied the Foxpointe Street speed limit a greater attention to curb cut density and on-street parking would likely have led to a recommendation in favor of a 25 mph limit. He said the experience of a growing number of communities in decreasing urban district speed limits, and the increasing attention among traffic experts regarding certain features such as frequent curb cuts and on-street parking that weigh more heavily than they once did in the findings related to traffic. Chief Don Thomas recommended a community-wide speed limit of 25 mph unless otherwise posted and asked if it should be brought back in ordinance form.

Mayor Swedberg asked how they would post the speed limit and Chief Thomas said they would place four entrance signs stating the speed limit of 25 M.P.H unless otherwise posted. Mayor Swedberg said there were more than four entrances and Chief Thomas said they could be placed at all entrances.

Alderperson Bauer asked if they would leave the current 25 M.P.H. signs and Chief Thomas said they would not replace them as they deteriorated. Mr. Bauer said the fewer signs the better.

Alderperson Leach thanked the Police Department for their work and said she thought this was a great suggestion.

#### **B. Consideration of a Police Department Recommendation to Create a Fourth Sergeant Position.**

Chief Thomas said they have 21 shifts 12 of which are covered by Police Sergeants leaving 9 shifts covered by "officers in charge." He explained that the officer in charge was inconsistent and was paid the same as a sergeant. Chief Thomas said all sergeants work the streets and work shifts, but appointing another sergeant would lend credibility for the authority of the promoted officer. He said Michael Anderson was at the top of the sergeant's list that had been created by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

### **Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to bring back as ordinance to increase the number of Sergeants and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

**C. Consideration of an Engineering Department Recommendation To Award a Contract for the Final Landscaping at the Bethany Road Storm Water Retention Facility.**

City Engineer John Brady said he received four bids for the landscaping and the lowest bid was from Strand's Garden Center and Landscaping for \$24,316.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Tripp moved to award the contract to Strand's Garden Center and Landscaping for \$24,316 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

**D. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Personnel Matters.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Tripp moved to go into Closed Session at 8:40 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 6 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to return to Open Session and Aldersperson Leach seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

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

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Approve:

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Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith