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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 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, Andrew Larson, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe and Janice Tripp.

**INVOCATION**

Mayor Swedberg asked for a moment of silent reflection.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Alderperson Larson moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Kessler seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Plan Commission Meeting of September 8, 2003;
- B. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 6, 2003;
- C. Payment of the Bills for October 20, 2003.

**Motion**

Alderperson Stowe 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 present voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

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

- A. Recognition of IAFF Local 3046 for its creative efforts in behalf of a new three-shift system in the Sycamore Fire Department.

Manager Nicklas explained that with the cooperative effort of Fire Chief Riddle, the Fire Lieutenants, and the IAFF the Fire department would go to a 3-shift schedule. Mr. Nicklas said this would provide more manpower to structure fires and allow for flexibility in scheduling without straining manpower and resources.

Chief Riddle said that change was never easy and thanked the IAFF 3046 for their willingness to change the system.

Manager Nicklas said there was a Memorandum of Understanding as a statement of intent to work together in implementing the new system.

Aldersperson Larson said that he knew the difficulty of implementing change in Fire Departments and thanked the IAFF, Chief Riddle, and Mr. Nicklas for providing better service to the community.

B. Introduction of Ryan Gustafson as the newest college intern with the Sycamore Fire Department.

Clerk Smith gave the oath of office to POC Firefighter Ryan Gustafson.

Chief Riddle said Ryan was a graduate of Sycamore High School, attended Western Illinois University this past year, and started the Fire Academy today. Ryan introduced his family who were in the audience.

C. Brief announcement by the DeKalb County League of Women Voters regarding a forum that the League is sponsoring on October 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hopkins Park Community Center to discuss alternate ways of funding schools.

Loretta Muller said this was the first meeting on this issue and she invited the Council and the public to attend.

Aldersperson Maness invited Council to attend the Pumpkin Festival Cake Cutting Ceremony Wednesday, October 22, at 5:00 p.m. on the Courthouse lawn.

Aldersperson Paulsen welcomed the new business American Flooring to town.

Aldersperson Leach thanked the Fire Department for demonstrating Fire Prevention in her classroom.

Aldersperson Larson asked Engineer Brady to update the Jr. High Street Signal project of Keven Dahl's during his report.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas reminded Council and extended an invitation to the public to an Open House at the Sycamore Center November 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to view the building.

Engineer – John Brady reported the materials for the Route 23 and Maplewood Drive street signals had been ordered by Virgil Cook and the light should be up and running by February 2004. Aldersperson Larson thanked Mr. Brady for the report and said he was disappointed with the time it has taken to get the signal in place.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty – no report

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that the Treasurer's Annual Report for 2003 was completed and sent to the press. Treasurer Mundy said that recent patterns have developed in the City's finances and have been recognized by two objective bodies, the external auditors and Moody's Bond Rating Agency. He said the budget surplus in the past five years, general fund revenues exceeded budgeted projections, increased user and permit fees, segregation of duties are all important impacts to earlier financial state of the City. He said the improved Moody's said the operations stem from stricter budgeting procedures and financial management. Treasurer Mundy credited Mr. Nicklas for the financial improvement as well as Council and Department Heads.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle – no report

Police Chief – Don Thomas - no report

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said the leaf program was underway and the tree trimming was completed. He said that the public was unaware of the tree trimming policy and would address that with a flyer in the spring.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith - no report

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – no report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **ORDINANCES**

### **A. Ordinance No. 2003.53—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of Dr. Steven Glasgow for a Final Plat for the Bethany Business Campus in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said this and the next ordinance were related. He said the final plat delineated a slightly different configuration for the interior public street running north and south through the subdivision. He said the southern end of the interior roadway had been shifted to allow for three lots with frontage on Bethany Road. Mr. Nicklas said the shift required a shift in the road easement in the Menard subdivision and Menard's was supportive of the change.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.53 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

Aldersperson Paulsen asked if lots 103 & 104 would need to be resubdivided and Mr. Nicklas said they were only shifting the easement.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2003.53 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

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

**B. Ordinance No. 2003.54—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Staff Request to Vacate a Street Easement in the Menard Subdivision and Dedicate a Street Easement at a New Location. First and Second Reading.**

Mr. Nicklas explained this vacation and dedication of a street easement would allow for the changes in the Final Plat of the Bethany Business Campus approved in ordinance 2003.53.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.54 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2003.54 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 8 - 0.

**C. Ordinance No. 2003.55—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Petition from Joe Heyob for a Resubdivision of Lots 130 and 131 in Phase Four of the Heron Creek Planned Unit Development. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said Mr. Heyob owned both lots and was requesting permission to reconfigure the common boundary between the two lots to accommodate a unique architectural layout.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2003.55 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2003.55 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 8 - 0.

**D. Ordinance No. 2003.56—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to a Petition from DeKalb Associates for a Final Plat for Unit One of the Peace Road Crossings Commercial Subdivision. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained that in December 2000 the City Council approve a revised preliminary plat and final plat for the commercially zoned frontage of the property. He said the reason for the one-lot final plat was to satisfy a contract purchase that intended to construct a food and fuel outlet on the east side of the entrance from Peace Road. Mr. Nicklas said that purchaser chose not to follow through with the intended use and the proposed final plat will create a seven-lot subdivision consisting of six buildable lots and one lot dedicated for storm retention and drainage.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2003.56 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 Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2003.56 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 8 - 0.

**E. Ordinance No. 2003.57—An Ordinance Amending Title 6, "Traffic," Chapter 1, "General Traffic Provisions," Section 6-1-6, "General Speed Restrictions," and Section 6-4-8, "Speed Limits," of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Establish an Urban Speed Limit of 25 Miles Per Hour Unless Otherwise Posted. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said this matter was before the Council as a consideration earlier and the ordinance will put this into effect. Mr. Nicklas said Chief Thomas found that 25 M.P.H. was not unique in Illinois.

Mayor Swedberg said he had heard comments applauding this action.

Aldersperson Larson asked if they needed to replace a lot of signs and Police Chief Thomas said there were 28 streets with 25 M.P.H. signs and they would remain. Chief Thomas said they would need to post entrance signs explaining the speed limit.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to hear Ordinance 2003.57 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Maness asked if this would go into effect after it was approved and Mayor Swedberg said it could not be enforced until it was posted.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2003.57 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**F. Ordinance No. 2003.58—An Ordinance Amending Title 1, “Administration,” Chapter 10, “Personnel Rules,” Section 1-10-1, “Appointments,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois to Add a Sergeant and Reduce the Number of Patrolmen to 12. First and Second Reading.**

Chief Thomas said this ordinance would increase supervision in the Police Department. He said currently they had 3 sergeants covering only 2/3 of the shifts using acting sergeants covering the remainder of shifts. Chief Thomas said it would be more professional to have an actual, trained sergeant. He said the Fire and Police Commission had approved the next promotion if the ordinance was passed.

Mayor Swedberg wanted clarification that this would not reduce the street patrol and Chief Thomas assured him it would not.

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.58 on first and second reading and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Alderperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2003.58 and Alderperson Leach seconded the motion.

Alderperson Kessler asked how this would result in greater accountability for the officer in charge. Chief Thomas said that was intended for the Lieutenant who supervises the 3 sergeants as well as the 5 different patrol officers who work as the 4<sup>th</sup> sergeant. He said this would eliminate the 9 officers trying to remain consistent.

**Voice Vote**

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

**G. Ordinance No. 2003.59—An Ordinance Amending Title 8, “Water and Sewer,” Chapter 4, “Sewer Use and Service,” Section 8-4-3 (3,b) “Connecting of Building Sewer to Sewer Mains,” of the City Code of the City of Sycamore Regarding the Timing of Building Sewer Connections in New Construction. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained this would give builders more flexibility during the winter months between November 1 and February 28.

Alderperson Tripp asked if there would be a fine for pulling the standpipe and Building Commissioner Doty said they would forfeit the \$1,000 deposit.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Tripp moved to hear Ordinance 2003.59 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Ordinance 2003.59 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 8 - 0.

**H. Ordinance No. 2003.60—An Ordinance Approving the Execution of an Employment Agreement Between the City of Sycamore, Illinois and the City Manager of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Mayor Swedberg listed the essential terms of City Manager Bill Nicklas agreement are as follows:

- a) The term of the contract will extend to April 30, 2007;
- b) the base salary for the balance of FY04 will remain \$91,000 as recommended by the City Manager at the time of the adoption of the FY04 Budget in April 2003;
- c) the base salary for FY05, beginning May 1, 2004, will be \$105,500. This will make the City Manager the highest paid professional staff position in the Sycamore city government for the first time.
- d) Annual salary adjustments after FY05 will coincide with the general percentage adjustments voted by the City Council for the management group as a whole in April of each year.
- e) The City Manager will receive health insurance coverage and other benefits offered to all City employees as part of the City's benefit package.

Mayor Swedberg said Mr. Nicklas had been with the City for the past five years starting as Administrator and stepping into the Manager position after the referendum. Mayor Swedberg reminded Council and the public that Mr. Nicklas froze his salary for the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year. Mayor Swedberg said that Mr. Nicklas performs many jobs as City Manager such as Chief Financial Officer – writing the budget and overseeing the books, writing background for meetings, manages department heads, and is currently acting as construction foreman for City building projects. Mayor Swedberg said Council wanted Mr. Nicklas' salary to reflect their feeling about his work and accomplishments. He said he hoped Mr. Nicklas stayed with the City for a long time.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2003.60 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2003.60 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler said she wanted to go on record saying that the City had greatly benefited under Mr. Nicklas' direction. She said as CFO he had the vision to see beyond predictable expenditures, was diligent with the budget and was directly responsible for the City's bond rating upgrade. She said he works with other taxing bodies and legislatures to improve Sycamore. She said his work on the Comprehensive Plan was visionary. Ms. Kessler said he worked as a team with department heads. She said Council was in a position to express thanks for what he does and for the blunt criticisms he is the receiver of for Council's actions. Ms. Kessler gave Mr. Nicklas her full support.

Aldersperson Bauer thanked Mr. Nicklas for his work and said Sycamore was a better place for his being here.

Aldersperson Larson said this had been an exciting year in Sycamore and thanked Mr. Nicklas and welcomed him for three more years.

Aldersperson Stowe said that if you want something done, ask Bill and you can be assured it will be done.

Aldersperson Maness thanked Mr. Nicklas for the background work he does for the agendas. She said he had also improved the budget process.

Aldersperson Tripp said she appreciated that he responded to phone calls promptly.

Aldersperson Leach thanked Mr. Nicklas for his patience in helping her make informed decisions.

### **Voice Vote**

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

Manager Nicklas said he was humbled by the praise. He said he was only as good as the people around him and by that he meant the elected officials and department heads.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

None

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **A. Consideration of a Public Works Department Recommendation to Award the Contract for an Asphalt Hot Box to Bonnell Industries in the Amount of \$15,295.00.**

Manager Nicklas said that money was allocated in the budget for an asphalt hot box to allow the Street Division to perform minor asphalt street repairs with better results.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to accept the bid of Bonnell Industries in the amount of \$15,295.00 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to go into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. 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 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to return to Open Session at 8:30 p.m. 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 8 - 0.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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 8 - 0.

Approve:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk – Candy Smith