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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2004**

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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, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, and Janice Tripp. Alderpersons Terry Kessler and Andrew Larson were 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 Leach 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.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Jesus Romero, Taxco Restaurant, spoke in support of the 3-year contract with Discover Sycamore.

Rich Para, Ben Franklin Store, said that Discover Sycamore consists of retail, industry and service groups and asked Council to continue supporting their investment in the Downtown.

Todd Hendrey, The Confectionary, spoke in support of the contract with Discover Sycamore.

Alderperson Larson arrived at the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Penny White, Castle Bank, asked Council for their support for Discover Sycamore.

Don Paulsen, Paulsen Appliance, urged Council to continue its support for Discover Sycamore.

Amy Biundo, B95 – WDKB Radio, said the station is in support of the contract with Discover Sycamore.

Rick Turner, 714 Somonauk Street, Chamber Ambassador, said the downtown is the gateway to the community and asked that Council consider continuing investing in the downtown.

Roseanne Para, Ben Franklin, said she strongly favored supporting the downtown position. She said the position has brought unity to the downtown by coordinating sales and events. She said although the merchants spend much time working the events the Discover Coordinator eliminates much of the coordinating time. She named 10 stores that have closed in the last few years, said they don't want to lose anymore, and asked Council for approval of the 3-year contract with Discover Sycamore.

Anita Turner, 714 Somonauk, said she was newly elected to the County Board, thanked Sycamore residents for their support, and told Council she would like to work with them.

Craig Mathey, National Bank & Trust Co. and Chamber Ambassador, asked Council to approve the contract with Discover Sycamore.

Nancy Higdon, 531 Birch Lane, said she has a home-based business and although she is not directly involved in the downtown, she felt that the partner of the Chamber and the Downtown is important. She urged Council to support that relationship.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of December 6, 2004;
- B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes for the City Council Meeting of June 7, 2004;
- C. Release of Closed Session Minutes for the City Council Meetings of December 15, 2003; March 1, 2004; and June 7, 2004;
- D. Payment of the Bills for December 20, 2004 in the amount of \$824,301.63;
- E. Plan Commission Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2004.

### **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. Presentation of City Service Awards for Employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-plus Years of Service.

Manager Nicklas, Mayor Swedberg, and Human Resource Director Jean Tritle presented the awards to those who were present. The list of those awards is as follows:

### **5 YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Steven Elbrecht (Police) – 1/18/99  
David Haas (Police) – 3/29/99  
Orval Kingsnorth (Police) – 9/27/99  
Michael Larmon (Police) – 1/4/99  
James Rossi (Police) – 7/6/99

### **10 YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Kevin Mikkelson (Fire) – 9/1/94 (POC); 10/1/01 (Full-time)

## **15 YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Lyle Doty (Building/Zoning) – 4/29/89  
Tal Hickey (Fire) – 3/25/88 (POC); 8/14/89 (Full-time)

## **20 YEAR PLAQUES**

Fred Busse (Public Works) – 11/12/84

## **25 YEAR AWARDS**

James Lyon (Fire) –9/25/79 (POC); 6/27/81 (Full-time) – certificate to Johnny's  
C. Scott Mayeda (Police) – 5/8/1979 -gold watch  
Rob Rosenberg (Police) – 12/17/79 (Part-time); 2/23/81 (Full-time) -gold watch

## **30 YEAR PLUS AWARDS**

Alice Bennett (Police) – 35 years on 5/1/69 – certificate to Johnny's  
Eugene Listy (Fire) – 40 years on 8/31/64 – mantle clock  
George Spartz (Fire) – 40 years on 12/1/64 – gold watch  
Jacob Spartz, Jr. (Fire) – 30 years - 10/1/74 (Part-time); 8/16/76 (Full-time) – certificate to Johnny's

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas reminded Council that the DCEDC State of the County dinner will be held January 27, 2005. He said he is working on the budget and will have preliminary general fund projections the second week of January.

Engineer – John Brady reported that the Bethany Road project will shut down after a couple of weeks of clean-up work until April 1, 2005. He said Nicor and ComEd still have some utility work to complete.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty reported that his new employee left the position after 2 days because it was too physically taxing. He said they will advertise for the position again.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said none of the jobs on the Service Awards list were indoor jobs and commended all the people for their work and dedication.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said Sycamore was fortunate to have missed the snow Michigan City got. He said they received 2 feet of snow in 24 hours.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith thanked Public Works for their help and the staff of Kindred Hospital for their patience during a watermain break at the entrance to Kindred Hospital. He said, because of the hospital, they could not shut off the water and worked all morning to repair the break.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported 2 replacement officers that will be presented to the Police and Fire Commission for their final approval. He and Lieutenant Scott Mayeda presented a plaque to Harry Kellog for 8 years of service as an Auxiliary Police Officer.

## **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. 2004.60—An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Sycamore for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2004 and Ending April 30, 2005. Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said the Corporate Levy consists of the City and the Library combined levies. He said the City portion of that will amount to a rate lower than any since the 1960's.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2004.60 and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, Bauer, Larson, and Leach voted aye with no Alderspersons voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 0.

### **B. Ordinance No. 2004.61—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 1999 Revenue Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said this ordinance and the next two ordinances explain how the City pays debt service. He said this ordinance abates the debt service on the 1999 refunding bond that refinanced a portion of the 1996 bond series at a lower interest rate. He said that all of the 1996 bond series that remained outstanding at the time of the issuance of the 2003 A.O. Bond were redeemed in September 2003. The debt service obligation for FY04-05 is \$223,325. The levy is \$155,000 and the abatement is \$68,325. He said the debt service will be paid from the 1999 Bond Fund (Fund 19) which gets its revenue from transfers from the General Fund, the Water Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, and the Road & Bridge Fund.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2004.61 and Aldersperson Larson seconded the motion.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, Bauer, Larson, and Leach voted aye with no Alderspersons voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**C. Ordinance No. 2004.62—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2002 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said the intent is not to impose debt service on the taxpayers by abating all of the debt service for the 2002 General Obligation Bond and paying out of the General and Capital Funds.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2004.62 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, Bauer, Larson, and Leach voted aye with no Alderspersons voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**D. Ordinance No. 2004.63--An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2003 General Obligation Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said the levy of \$330,990 will be abated in its entirety and paid from the 2003 Bond fund which receives its primary revenue from the Capital Fund, MFT Fund, and the 1999 Bond Fund transfers.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2004.63 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a roll vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Maness, Paulsen, Stowe, Tripp, Bauer, Larson, and Leach voted aye with no Alderspersons voting nay. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**E. Ordinance No. 2004.64—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Respect to the Petition of R.A. Fagenal Builders for the Final Plat for the Townhome Development Within the North Grove Crossing P.U.D. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said the plat depicts 25 four-unit townhouse buildings that comprise the roughly 11-acre "M-3" Multiple Family residence portion of the planned development. Mr. Nicklas said some interior subdivision streets will need to be named and some north-south and east-west roadway designations will be necessary before recording.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2004.64 on first and second reading 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2004.64 and Aldersperson 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.

**F. Ordinance No. 2004.65--An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Respect to Proposed Amendments to Sections 8.02, 8.03, 9.01, and 12.04 of the Sycamore Zoning Code to Create a "Hospital Hospitality House" Use. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained this ordinance will revise sections 8.02 (R-2 Two Family District), 8.03 (R-3 Multiple Family District) and 9.01 (Neighborhood Commercial District) of the Sycamore Zoning Code to allow a "hospital hospitality house" as a special use. Section 12.04, "Schedule of Parking Requirements," is also revised to specify "hospital hospitality houses" and to require the same number of parking spaces as would apply to a bed and breakfast guest home. The most important zoning requirement would be the public hearing on requests for "hospital hospitality houses" at the Plan Commission and Council levels as part of the special use process.

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2004.65 on first and second reading and Alderperson Leach 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 Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2004.65 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.

**G. Ordinance No. 2004.66--An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Respect to the Petition of Mary Lou Eubanks and the Langsdorf Trust for a Special Use Permit for the Property at 719 Somonauk Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas explained the Council adopted licensing and code enforcement requirements for "hospital hospitality houses" at the November 15, 2004 meeting and earlier this evening passed the zoning special use for hospital hospitality houses. Mr. Nicklas said that Building Commissioner Lyle Doty has inspected the building at 719 Somonauk Street and has determined it can be remodeled to comply with the newly-adopted code provisions for hospital hospitality houses.

Mayor Swedberg expressed his admiration to the Eubanks for wanting to open a hospital hospitality house.

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2004.66 on first and second reading and Alderperson Bauer 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**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2004.66 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Maness said she had someone stay at Kindred and was thankful she lived in town and said this is very much welcomed.

**Voice Vote**

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

**H. Ordinance No. 2004.67--An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Respect to the Petition of Norm Adshade for a Final Plat for the Brickville Estates Subdivision. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said the plat includes 11 single-family-detached homes with a gross density of 1.63 unite per gross acres. He said the lots vary from 10,767 square feet to 19,681 square feet and the storm water detention is located along the Brickville Road frontage. He said because this is a school path there should be a temporary sidewalk during construction.

Norm Adshade, 1247 Ivy Street, DeKalb, said he would not have a problem placing a temporary sidewalk, but he may wait to start construction after school lets out in June 2005.

Aldersperson Paulsen inquired if the retention area was dry and Mr. Adshade said it would be.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2004.67 on first and second reading and Aldersperson 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**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2004.67 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Paulsen said they a seen a number of plans for this area and said it was nice to finally see one they can all agree on.

**Voice Vote**

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

**I. Ordinance No. 2004.68—An Ordinance Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and AFSCME Council 31, AFL-CIO, On Behalf of AFSCME Local 3957. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas listed the key features of the contract as follows:

- A term of three years (from May 1, 2005 through April 30, 2008).
- A clarification of the positions represented by Council 31 in Article 1. One new classification—community services officer—has been added.
- An increase in the maximum number of comp time hours that may be accrued from year to year from 80 to 120.
- The addition of language to Article XVII dealing with Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) provisions to clarify that paid time off for recuperation from a work-related or non-work related injury or serious health condition shall run concurrently with FMLA.
- A revision to the sick leave provisions to bring the AFSCME contract in line with the benefit enjoyed by all other City union and management employees. The revised Article XX allows the accumulation of 9 sick days per year, versus the current six days per year.
- A revision to the vacation provisions to permit the “cashing” of up to one week’s vacation per year once an employee has served nine years. Currently, management, the FOP, and IAFF have cash-out provisions. This benefit has evolved since senior employees in the City’s departments often have limited opportunities to use the vacation they have earned because of work requirements and scheduling constraints. Some employees regularly lose accumulated vacation days on an annual basis. This is particularly true of AFSCME employees and management employees who will continue to be held to a “use it or lose it” policy.
- One-time increases in the entry wage steps in FY06 to bring the local’s classifications closer to comparable pay ranges in comparable cities and the private sector. In FY07 and FY08, pay increases will be limited to 2.5% per year. Another reason for the one-time adjustment in pay ranges in FY06 is the fact that many of the AFSCME classifications have parallels in the organized construction trades where prevailing wages are, and will remain, substantially higher. This circumstance has traditionally constrained the City’s ability to attract strong candidates for some of these classifications. In addition, the City’s benefit package is no longer a magnet that offsets the negative pay differential, since the organized construction trades now offer comparable health and retirement benefits.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2004.68 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2004.68 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 7 - 0.

**J. Ordinance No. 2004.69—An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and IAFF Local 3046. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said eighteen articles were opened for discussion and five new pages of text were added to the agreement. In addition, a tentative wage package has been negotiated for the lieutenants. No changes were negotiated for the basic wage structure affecting the firefighters represented by Local 3046. The key features of the revised agreement are as follows:

- Freezing of the lieutenants' current salaries until the end of the current fiscal year, when their annual compensation will involve a base wage as with other members of the bargaining unit (see wage schedule, p. 47). The FY06 base wage (beginning May 1, 2005) will result in pensionable gross wages, less bonuses, that are 6.64% lower than the current salary in order to account for the fact that the lieutenants will be able to accrue overtime beginning on May 1, 2005. Presently, the lieutenants are receiving the level of management salaries they received in the last fiscal year (FY04).
- A detailed article on promotions (Article 39). Recent state law has made the promotions process a matter for collective bargaining.
- A detailed article concerning fitness examinations (Article 49).
- A more detailed education policy upgrading the tiers of classes firefighters and lieutenants must take to advance to higher certifications

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hear Ordinance 2004.69 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 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Larson moved to approve Ordinance 2004.69 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 7 - 0.

Mayor Swedberg thanked Manager Nicklas and Assistant Chief Niewold for their long hours of negotiations for these positions.

**RESOLUTIONS**

None

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of a Proposed Contract Between the City of Sycamore and the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development and Tourism.**

Manager Nicklas said the Discover Group has been a part of the general look and appeal of downtown Sycamore. He said there is both tourism and a community development component to the work they have done and the City has partnered with them in a financial way since the late 1990's. He said he thought the contract made sense because of the Chamber's knowledge and expertise and in a strict cost analysis it would be more

expensive for the City to do this ourselves. Mr. Nicklas said if there is support for this he would bring this back in ordinance form in January 2005 to come into affect May 1, 2005.

Mayor Swedberg said there is a lot going on in downtown Sycamore and he fully supported this plan. He said the Chamber has proven their ability to utilize this money effectively.

Aldersperson Paulsen said it is nice to see the activities downtown and he said he supports this contract.

The consensus of Council was to bring this back as an ordinance for approval.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

Mayor Swedberg wished everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Approve:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk – Candy Smith