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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2005**

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

**INVOCATION**

William Mills of the Bethel Assembly of God gave the invocation.

**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**

Mary Lou Eubanks, 704 W. State St., thanked Council for their help with establishing the Hospital Hospitality House zoning and invited them and the public to an Open House February 13, 2005 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. She said there would be a tour of Kindred Hospital at 2:00 p.m.

Peter Barick, 433 W. High St., said the radium content in Sycamore's water is alarming. He said according to the Northern Star Newspaper the radium level has been high for 5 years. He said July 2004 City Manager Bill Nicklas was quoted in the Daily Chronicle that the new well on Airport Road should rectify the area's problems. He said he just received a string of water notices with the last notice indicating the radium level in the range of 7 to 45 pico curies and the state limit is 5 units. He said he called City Hall and was told they were working on it, but spoke with an alderman who told him little is being accomplished at the new well site and manpower is being diverted elsewhere at this time. He said 5 years is too long to wait for the town's health.

Manager Nicklas said that like the Star, Peter Barick has made some grossly irresponsible charges. He said it would take 40,000 years of drinking 6 liters of water a day to approach a threshold at which you would be susceptible to cancers caused by the radionuclides reported. Mr. Nicklas said the reason the City notes the radium content is because it is an EPA requirement; he said it is not a requirement based on an assumption by the EPA that it is an unsafe limit. He said it just happens that the law says that 5 pico curies per liter is the legal limit. He said no one from the scientific community has ever said anything less than 20 pico curies over a lifetime would begin to affect personal health. He said the City has an agreement with the IEPA to resolve the radium issue in Sycamore wells by July 2006. He said to infer that he is diverting resources away from the facilities on Airport Road on Well #9 is simply untrue. He said the well head has been drilled, the City Engineer is going to bid within 30 days for the well house, a contract has been

entered with a company that will install the treatment facilities, and then Wells 6 and 8 will be addressed. He said the water is safe to drink and there has only been a radium problem over the past 5 years.

Mayor Swedberg said that Peter Barick was at the previous meeting to hear Engineer Brady say he would be going to bid in March and Mr. Barick spoke with the Mayor at the Saturday coffee on the topic. He asked Mr. Barick to please stop by the office if he needed further discussion.

Mr. Nicklas explained that what is known about radium in the water is a result of research done at Argon Laboratory in Illinois. He said that the chief researcher said that one Brazil nut contains more radium than any amount of water that can be consumed in a lifetime or 6 liter of water per day over 40,000 years.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Meeting of January 17, 2005;
- B. Payment of the Bills for February 7, 2005 in the amount of \$1,271,456.38.

### **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 by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Michelle Schulz will introduce Rondo Ziegler, co-owner of Rondo Enterprises at 1115 East State Street, who will give a brief overview of his products and services.

Rondo and Jane Ziegler thanked Council for annexing the property that enabled them to grow their business. Rondo Ziegler said the business was started in 2001 on Main Street with a few trailers and as it grew they needed to expand and moved and annexed the old Walker-Shork property on East State Street. He said they have doubled their revenue in the past year. He said at the new facility they are able to carry more inventory and now carry horse trailers, flatbeds, and covered trailers. Mr. Ziegler said they also now service their trailers and now employ 10 people.

Jane Ziegler said she and Rondo grew up in Sycamore and are happy to be able to stay in Sycamore to grow their business.

Mayor Swedberg announced that former Aldersperson Gary Smith died a few days ago and visitation would be Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Quiram Funeral Home and the funeral would be Thursday morning at 11:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church.

Mayor Swedberg said that St. Johns congregation accepted a bid by St. John's Friends of the Park to build a park on the old church property on Main and Ottawa.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas reported that the City's retail space will be used February 18 through February 25, 2005 for the showing of the Carlisle of New York collection. Char Johnson and Julie Burggraf will host the clothing show. Mr. Nicklas suggested the Finance Committee meeting to review the budget be held Tuesday, March 22 and with some scheduling differences the meeting was set for Monday, March 28, 2005.

Mr. Nicklas had Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer Lyle Doty introduce Steve Senteney. Mr. Doty introduced Mr. Senteney as the new plumbing inspector. He said Mr. Senteney and his wife live in DeKalb and Steve has been a plumber with CH Plumbing for 17 years.

Steve Senteney said he was excited to be working for the City and this work would be a welcome change.

Mayor Swedberg asked Finance, Street & Walks, and Ordinance Committees to meet at 6:45 February 17 to approve minutes from previous meetings.

Engineer – John Brady reported that bids for Well #9 would be due March 30, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Building & Zoning –Lyle Doty presented his 2004 Building Report to the Council. He pointed out that one section detailed revenue and sewer and water connections generated over \$1 million. He said that total dwelling units increased by 28%.

Aldersperson Kessler pointed out that a lot of building going on was approved before the pacing mechanism was put into place.

Aldersperson Maness said the increase in commercial and industry is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Doty said there is a lot of building occurring and being planned on the Bethany Road corridor.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said they would be going to South Dakota for the final inspection of the new pumper March 3 and it will be in town to get fitted out March 15 and should be in service mid-April.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy expressed his respect for former Aldersperson Gary Smith. He said he was pleased with the work of public and private dollars to purchase St. John's property for a park. Mr. Mundy said he is working with Brian Gregory to get him acclimated to the Treasurer's responsibilities.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse said the new large dump truck was put into use at the last big snow and worked out well.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that the Post Office lost over 2,000 water bills and with the help of the Finance Department they will try to get them remailed by the end of this week. He said the due date of the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will get pushed to the end of the month.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported that Sergeant Keith Snyder has completed 30 years as a Sycamore Police Officer and a reception was held for him last week.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – Chairperson Tripp said they met earlier to discuss water rates at 6:30 p.m. and Mr. Nicklas will submit their recommendation to the EPA for approval before bringing it back in ordinance form.

Streets & Walks – no report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **ORDINANCES**

### **A. Ordinance No. 2004.72—An Ordinance Approving a Lease Between the City of Sycamore and American Aviation Supply, LLC. Regarding the Mezzanine of the Sycamore Center. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said this is a 5-year lease with an automatic option on the part of the tenant to renew the lease for one additional term of five years. He said the base rent is \$750 for the 750 square-foot mezzanine plus \$20 per month for refuse removal and a percentage of utilities.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2004.72 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 7 - 0.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2004.72 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.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

None

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

### **A. Consideration of the Fire Chief's Recommendation to Fill a Vacant Fire Lieutenant Position.**

Manager Nicklas explained this item was tabled at the last meeting and comes back with the Manager's recommendation. He said the proposal is to fill what has been a vacant fire lieutenant position and since that will be an internal promotion, to fill that firefighter vacancy at the same time.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to authorize the Police and Fire Commission to promote a firefighter to lieutenant and hire a firefighter to replace that firefighter 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.

**B. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation to Hold Open Houses for Candidates in the Upcoming Aldermanic and Mayoral Elections.**

Manager Nicklas invited candidates and media to tour the City February 22, 2005 starting with sandwiches at the Sycamore Center at 6:00 p.m. and a series of stops at other City departments throughout the evening.

**C. Consideration of a Park District Proposal To Revise the Park Impact Fee.**

Manager Nicklas said he received a request from Park District Executive Director David Peek to consider revising impact fees to increase the assumed price of an improved acre of land from \$75,000 to \$110,000.

Mayor Swedberg said he wished someone from the Park District would be present for questions and answers.

Aldersperson Kessler asked if the decision should wait until the development study is completed.

Mr. Nicklas said the Park District portion is completed and the report shows that development pays for parks because they are user driven. He said this variable for impact fees is in line with our understanding of what the costs are and he would not recommend delay.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to bring this back in ordinance form at the next meeting and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if the City was liable for how the Park District spends their impact fees and Mr. Nicklas said the Park District is accountable for that spending.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if they discussed land-cash rather than a cash agreement.

Manager Nicklas said it becomes a question of who defines the amount of land that is necessary and it is not uncommon, in those instances, for Cities and Parks to be at odds.

Aldersperson Stowe said he would like somebody from the Park Board in attendance to verify that this is what the Park District wants.

**Voice Vote**

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

**D. Consideration of a Request from Char Johnson and Julie Burggraf, Representing the Carlisle Collection of New York City, for the Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages On City Property.**

Manager Nicklas explained that Ms. Johnson and Ms. Burggraf will be using the retail space in the Sycamore Center for a week in February to sell a line of clothing and have requested permission to serve wine at the opening showing of their collection

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to allow consumption of alcohol at the Sycamore Center on February 18, 2005 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 7 - 0.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Swedberg appointed Lisa Valle to the Public Library Board.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the appointment 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. and Aldersperson 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.

Approve:

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Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith