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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2005**

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**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Grace Adee, Alan Bauer, Terry Kessler, Darren Knuth, Barbara Leach, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen and Chuck Stowe

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Steve Best of Well Spring Chapel gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Alderperson Leach moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Adee seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Mary Lou Eubanks, Executive Director of Pay It Forward House, said it had been a year since the City Council approved the Special Use for the Hospital Hospitality House. She said their doors opened 7 months ago and since have provided 700 nights of rest for families of patients in Kindred Hospital. She thanked the community for their help and support. She said they have over 80 volunteers trained to serve as greeters and in 7 months have worked over 2300 hours.

Joyce Mathey, Pay It Forward House Board Member, thanked the community and invited everyone to their Holiday Open House Celebration Sunday, December 11, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of November 21, 2005.
- B. Payment of the Bills for December 5, 2005 \$1,703,731.73.

**Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

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

- A. Presentation by the Sycamore Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Rose Trembl will introduce Rich Para, co-owner of Ben Franklin at 341 West State Street, who will briefly discuss the expanded range of goods and services provided by his store.

Rich Para said he and his wife Roseanne have owned Ben Franklin for 12 years. He said they are only the 3<sup>rd</sup> owners in the last 80 years. He said he appreciates all the changes in Sycamore because it helps his business. Mr. Para said they have to find unique items and niches to compete with larger stores. He said they offer jewelry and have an engraving system and try to stay on top of trendy items. He said they enjoy the friendly faces and he feels blessed to have a business in this community.

- B. Presentation of Humanitarian Service Awards extended by MABAS and the Illinois Fire Chief's Association to Fire Lieutenant Mark Kessler; full-time firefighters Paul Rubeck, Pat Dulzo, Jim Ward, Kevin Mikkelson, and Dan Marcinkowski; and paid-on-call firefighter George Spartz for their participation in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort.

Chief Bill Riddle presented awards to those firefighters who went to New Orleans for two weeks and thanked them for their time spent away from their families.

- C. Annual Presentation of Service Awards to City Employees. Human Resource Director Jean Tritle will assist the City Manager in presenting awards for employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service to the City of Sycamore.

The following is a list of those receiving service awards:

#### **5 YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Ray Baker (Police Crossing Guard) – 9/5/2000  
Brad Belanger (Fire) – 9/1/2000  
Justin Fleetwood (Public Works – Street Dept.) – 5/22/2000  
Linda Morgan-Sauer (Police Crossing Guard) – 12/11/2000  
Bill Riddle (Fire) – 7/10/2000  
Steve Rubeck (Police Auxiliary) – 11/1/2000

#### **10 YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Bryan Carlson (Water Dept.) – 6/16/95  
Marty Collins (Public Works – Treatment Plant) – 5/22/95  
Megan Petit (Police Dept.) – 12/26/95  
Bob Ray (Public Works – Street Dept.) – 5/17/95  
Sandra Wright (Finance) – 3/7/95

#### **15 YEAR CERTIFICATE**

Gerald Dettloff (POC) – 2/27/90  
Linda Gilbreth (Public Works) – 5/1/90

#### **20 YEAR PLAQUES**

Mark Kessler (Fire) – 2/26/85 (Part-time); 5/1/85 (Full-time)  
Tom Pritchett (Fire) – 8/27/85 (Part-time); 9/14/92 (Full-time)  
Paul Rubeck (Fire) – 7/22/85

## **25 YEAR AWARDS**

Todd Turner (Fire) – 11/1/80 (Part-time); 4/14/84 (Full-time)

Aldersperson Paulsen thanked whoever was responsible for getting the dirt moved off the path at Maplewood Drive. He also thanked Public Works for their work with the snow. He said he had visited another community that still has snow-packed streets.

Aldersperson Maness thanked Engineer Brady for getting the rough level of blacktop on at the corner of Bethany and Somonauk.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas said the Council has School District's 2006 Development Notebook at their stations. He said it was delivered late last week.

Engineer – John Brady said the sanitary is completed at the Oakland Project and storm sewer will begin when the weather warms up a bit.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty reported that the paving has been completed at Kevin Wynn's project. He said he has plans for Captain Vic's Seafood Restaurant and Store and a dry cleaner at Pappas' strip mall north of town and for another building north of the dentist on the corner of Peace and Route 23.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said the Fire Department received a grant from the Federal Government for portable radios and installation is completed giving each riding position his own radio. He said that all vehicles are equipped with 2 radios so each vehicle can perform as a command post if needed. Chief Riddle said that a chief and two firefighters were killed in New Orleans.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported that the census enumerators are out in full force and the City has fulfilled our obligation to Menard's.

Manager Nicklas said the City held a disaster drill last Thursday centering on communication.

Public Works Supt. – Fred Busse introduced the newest Street Division Laborer Frank Pluhm. He said Frank is a long time resident of Sycamore with his wife Lisa and 2 daughters. He said Frank worked for Genoa's Public Works for 2 years and has a degree in Industrial Technology, Class C Water Operators Certification, and a background in electrical, welding, and auto repair. He said the creation of this position was accelerated to allow the Street Division to tuckpoint and paint the Building and Engineering building.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith reported that in the past 2 weeks there had been 5 watermain breaks. He also reported that water was pumped out of Well #5 last Thursday. He said the Well must pump 2 days with no bacteria in the water before it can be put into service. He said they found a trace of bacteria and will try samples again tomorrow and Wednesday and hopefully have the Well in the system by Friday.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said Sergeant Mike Anderson completed 10 weeks of training at Northwestern’s Center for Public Safety and Officer Tiffany O’Neil completed 12 weeks PTI. Chief Thomas asked neighbors to watch out for neighbors during the cold weather.

### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report  
Ordinance –no report  
Police & Fire – no report  
Sewer & Water –no report  
Streets & Walks – no report

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2005 Corporate Levy.

Mayor Mundy opened the Public Hearing.

Manager Nicklas said the background points out that the City prospective rate will be the lowest since 1966.

Hearing no public comment, Mayor Mundy closed the hearing.

### **ORDINANCES**

- A. Ordinance No. 2005.63--An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Sycamore for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2006 and Ending April 30, 2007. First Reading Only.**
  
- B. Ordinance No. 2005.64—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 2006-2007. First Reading Only.**
  
- C. Ordinance No. 2005.65—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 2006-2007. First Reading Only.**
  
- D. Ordinance No. 2005.66—An Ordinance Abating the Debt Service Levy for the 2005 Refunding Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. First Reading Only.**

**E. Ordinance No. 2005.67—An Ordinance Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Sycamore and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, Representing the City of Sycamore F.O.P. Lodge No. 133. First and Second Reading.**

Manager Nicklas said all three collective bargaining units have reopener before next fiscal year. He said the FOP and administration have agreed on the following:

- a) No change to Article 35, "Health Insurance." However, the FOP has taken leadership within the City's health insurance committee, which consists of representatives of all the City's bargaining groups, management and retirees, to review retirement health savings plans that may be of benefit to all city employees. Presently, city employees have the opportunity to participate in "457" plans that allow them to defer a portion of their annual wages through payroll deduction. Such contributions and related interest are untaxed until withdrawn. These plans can provide an additional pool of money for the employee after retirement, while reducing current payroll taxes. The retirement savings plan under investigation by the FOP and other city employee groups is similar, except the deferred income is not taxed when withdrawn after retirement but must be used for health-related expenditures. After this idea is widely discussed by the City's employee groups, the FOP and/or other bargaining groups may approach the City to authorize individual members to make such contributions at no cost to the City.
- b) A 4% wage step increase in FY07 (beginning May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007; and
- c) A 4% wage step increase in FY08 (beginning May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008).

Mr. Nicklas said if approved, Sycamore police officers will receive wages at about the median pay for officers in comparable cities.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2005.67 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve Ordinance 2005.67 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler commended the FOP and City Administration for successfully negotiating this contract. She said she thought this is where they should be and she appreciates their work.

**Voice Vote**

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

**RESOLUTIONS - None**

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of an Engineering Department Recommendation to Award a Contract for the Abandonment of Well #1.**

Engineer Brady said three bids were received and recommended accepting the low bid of \$11,303.00 from Municipal Well & Pump.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Municipal Well & Pump's bid of \$11,303 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**APPOINTMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

Approve:

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Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith