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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2007**

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**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Grace Adee, Alan Bauer, Terry Kessler, Darren Knuth, Rich Neubauer, Pete Paulsen, and Gregory Taylor. Alderperson Chuck Stowe was absent.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Bob Weinhold of St. John's Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Alderperson Paulsen moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Craig Anderson, 16022 Whipple Road, said his property borders the ComEd easement adjacent to the proposed property. He asked with the number of available homes, lots, and possible foreclosures why the City would even consider another annexation. He said that six years ago that area was not even on the land use map.

Karen Lyons, 310 Garden Court, expressed concern about growth and losing the fabric of Sycamore. She said she worried about a divide between kids that have and kids that don't. She said she would like to see everyone work together to improve the heart of the town by giving aid to people to fix up old houses.

Mike Liszka, 470 Lincolnshire Street, said he appreciated the City getting a start on street maintenance and asked to have a list of all streets requiring maintenance posted on the website.

Ann Scharlau, 15586 Whipple Road, said the Comprehensive Plan is a guide and not set in stone. She said she read several years of past Council minutes and found people were asking for slow growth, not no growth. She said the question of straightening out Plank Road without this subdivision was not the City's problem, but is the County's responsibility. Also, she said the subject of the gateway was brought up with Sycamore Creek II and Sycamore Creek III and said that gateway keeps getting bumped out. She asked if the City wanted the gateway filled with rooftops. She said there is nothing that says the City has to fill up the land use now. She asked City Council to wait to see what happens with what is annexed already.

Phil Cuthberg, 27572 Devine Way, said "ditto to everything Ann just said."

Mark Gudenkauf, said he was speaking on behalf of his mother who lives at 27872 Moose Range Road. He said it would be a negative to have the subdivision go across her back and along the side of her property. He said they are opposed to the subdivision.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of July 16, 2007.
- B. Payment of the Bills for August 6, 2007 in the amount of \$1,836,055.87.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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 7 - 0.

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

- A. Ken Andersen will report on County Board issues of interest to Sycamore residents. Ken represents District #3 (Sycamore) and serves on the Economic Development and Law and Justice Committees of the County Board.

Ken Andersen explained that one reason he ran for the office was to improve communication and get the public involved. He said he heard earlier that fixing Plank Road is a County problem and he said we are all in the County. He extended an offer for people to call or email him. He said the overcrowded jail is an issue and two referendums have been voted down so they will need to figure out another revenue source. He said they will have some issues with the casino and the Indian tribe in Shabbona. He suggested having somebody outside the corporate limits, but with a Sycamore address on Sycamore's Plan Commission. He said he wanted to keep the lines of communication open.

Aldersperson Bauer asked if the County had considered going to referendum to raise the money required to house prisoners elsewhere.

Ken Andersen said they will take that idea back to his Committee. He said they have talked about halfway houses and home monitoring.

Mayor Mundy announced there will be a Vet's Fair Saturday at Kishwaukee College with 35 booths involving employment workshops, blood pressure checks, and CDL training. He also said that August 7<sup>th</sup> is National Night Out and residents could help by keeping porch lights on. He said we are a neighborhood watch community and that should be worked on more with all the new neighborhoods. He said the Vietnam Traveling Wall Memorial will be in Sycamore in September and currently Vintage Aircraft is at DeKalb Taylor Airport for rides and viewing until mid-August.

Aldersperson Kessler said the Turn Back Time Car Show was a huge success and thanked City staff and Chamber and the Committee for their work.

Mayor Mundy said that Chuck Criswell and members of that Committee will be here at the next Council meeting.

Aldersperson Neubauer related that Michelle Schulz of the Park Board asked him to report that the brick memorial sidewalk at Laing Park is in and bricks are still available to memorialize a loved one.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas said City staff works hard behind the scenes of the Car Show and said the Committee would be at the next meeting. He said the 2006 downtown facade projects have been completed within the 90-day extension Council allowed. He said applications are out for the 2007 program and are due in August 31 to be reviewed by the Architectural Review Committee and back to Council for approval in September.

Engineer – John Brady said there will be two to three more weeks working on the underground on the California Street Project then they will get ready for curb and gutter.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty distributed a mid-year report on building permits and projected 260 residential units by years end which is the slowest year since 2003. He said along with the slowed activity his department is still very busy with commercial projects. He also pointed out that the slowed activity would result in lowered income from the Building Department.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said for whatever reason this has been a good year for hornets, wasps, and soon yellow jackets. He urged people to check their bird houses, firewood piles, and decks for nests.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual newsletter would be completed soon and mailed out the first of September.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said all except two of the street areas listed for maintenance on the agenda just blew up this spring. He said they realize there are a lot of other streets that need attention, but with the limited budget they needed to focus their efforts on those that were nearly emergencies.

Asst. P.W. Director – Ebe Smith Well #6 is pumping through the radium vessels that remove the radium.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said they are in the process of creating a hiring list. He reported that the officer that was shot and wounded two weeks ago is doing well and will return to limited duty in 2 or 3 weeks and back to full work in about a month.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – no report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **ORDINANCES**

- A. Ordinance No. 2007.10—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Plan Commission With Regard to the Petition of IRED Sycamore, LLC., Inland Real Estate Investment Corporation, and Yvonne Wolfenberger for the Approval of an Annexation Agreement with the City of Sycamore, Illinois for Property Located on the North Side of Plank Road and East of Moose Range Road, and also South of Plank Road Both East and West of Moose Range Road, and the Subsequent Annexation and Rezoning to “R-1,” One Family**

**Residence District, Planned Unit Development and to “C-1,” Neighborhood Business District, Planned Unit Development. Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to leave Ordinance 2007.10 tabled until the August 20 meeting for a full Council vote and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**B. Ordinance No. 2007.11—An Ordinance Annexing the 201.64-Acre Property Located on the North Side of Plank Road and East of Moose Range Road, and also South of Plank Road and Both East and West of Moose Range Road in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Neubauer moved to leave Ordinance 2007.11 tabled until the August 6 meeting and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**C. Ordinance No. 2007.16—An Ordinance Authorizing a One-Year Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois to Provide Health Insurance for the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that this time of year the City’s health insurance renewal is due and Human Resource Director Jean Tritle was in attendance to answer questions. He said this year the City is proposing to fund 75% of the premium for the HSA plan option to try to entice employees to take that plan because the premium are lower.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if the City has researched the Illinois Municipal League or larger governmental agency to get a better rate through a larger pool.

Human Resource Director Jean Tritle said that Blue Cross Blue Shield is part of a pool and they have researched government rates and those were higher.

Aldersperson Kessler said the dental plan was contingent on the budget being able to provide it and was glad it was going to be continued with no increase. She asked if the employees could pick up optional life insurance at their own expense.

Jean Tritle said not presently, but the new dental carrier, Assurant, will offer voluntary life insurance and if enough employees in participating in the voluntary plan, Assurant will lock their dental rates in for two years.

Aldersperson Kessler asked about short-term disability.

Jean Tritle said the City currently provides short-term disability to every full-time employee for 60% of their wage up to a \$700 maximum for 26 weeks. She said that IMRF and Police Pension and Fire Pension address long-term disability. She said that AFLAC offers a disability policy through payroll deduction.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear ordinance 2007.16 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve Ordinance 2007.16 and Aldersperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**RESOLUTIONS - None****CONSIDERATIONS****A. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Engineering Department for a Street Maintenance Schedule in 2007.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that \$300,000 was budgeted for street maintenance and this year there were some extraordinary repairs that needed to be made to streets that did not fare well in the freeze and thaw cycle in the spring. He said, although there is \$100,000 more than last year, it does not go very far. He said the paving of the Peace Road median is not a street repair, but is included on the list.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to fix the streets for \$283,762 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Kessler asked Ken Andersen, County Board Representative in the audience, if the County would consider lowering the speed limit along Peace Road at DeKalb Avenue.

Mr. Nicklas said that would have to go through the County Engineer.

Aldersperson Neubauer said he was looking forward to seeing the City Manager's funding options for a more substantial street maintenance program in future years. He asked if they could consider sharing the cost with new development. He said that Locust Street is ripped up because of increased traffic from new development. He asked what it would take to impose a small road impact fee.

Mr. Nicklas said he could mention that. He said impact fees cannot be used to repair existing streets and he did not think they would get too far opening existing annexation agreements for transportation fees.

Aldersperson Neubauer said he realized it takes time to get impact fees enacted and that is why he would like to get started now. He said he would like to consider a special service area for new development.

Mr. Nicklas said he will be duty bound to mention special service areas for existing streets.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

Mr. Nicklas asked if when Alderperson Bauer moved to “fix the streets” he was including the median. Alderperson Bauer said the motion was for the total amount of \$283,762.

**B. Consideration of Contractor Bids for Construction of New Sidewalk on South Main Street and North Avenue, and the Repair of the Driveways Serving the Fire Apparatus Bays at the Fire Station on DeKalb Avenue.**

City Manager Nicklas listed the bids received as Stenstrom Excavating & Blacktop Group for \$99,216.60, Weaver Construction for \$106,757.75, and Alliance Construction for \$111,648.20. He recommended awarding the contract to the lowest bidder Stenstrom Excavating & Blacktop Group for \$99,216.60.

**Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to award the contract to Stenstrom Excavating & Blacktop Group for \$99,216.60 and Alderperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**C. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Imminent Litigation.**

**Motion**

Alderperson Kessler moved to go into Closed Session at 8:20 p.m. and Alderperson Knuth seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**Motion**

Alderperson Taylor moved to return to Open Session at 8:45 and Alderperson Adey seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderpersons Adey, Bauer, Kessler, Knuth, Neubauer, Paulsen, and Taylor voted aye. Motion carried 7 - 0.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. and Alderperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

Approve:

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Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith