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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 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, Rich Neubauer, Pete Paulsen, and Chuck Stowe. Alderpersons Darren Knuth and Gregory Taylor were absent.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Rita Root of the Federated Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

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

**Voice vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons voted aye. Motion carried 6 - 0.

Alderperson Gregory Taylor arrived at 7:03 p.m.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Rose Trembl, Executive Director of the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber appreciates and applauds Council's implementation of the 2003 Comprehension Plan. She said the Plan, over the last four years, provided controlled residential growth which allowed for significant growth in our community and the Chamber has grown from 260 business members in 2003 to nearly 500 businesses today. She said it is important that the Chamber take part in the Comprehensive Planning process and their intent is to be the voice of their 500 businesses. She invited Council and the Mayor to a meeting the Chamber will host Friday at noon regarding the Land Use Plan review.

John Swedberg, 118 Center Cross, said he would like to reserve his thoughts for the Engh Farm Consideration item on the agenda.

Tim Beasley said he was in the audience on behalf of the YMCA and wanted to reserve his comments for the Engh Farm item on the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of October 1, 2007.
- B. Payment of the Bills for October 15, 2007 in the amount of \$693,573.37.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2007.

**Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent 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.

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

Alderperson Paulsen said he has received many comments and emails concerning the Engh Farm use and he appreciated the residents input. He also noted that with all the animals T.A.I.L.S. took in over the weekend, they are in desperate need of old towels, blankets, and newspapers.

Alderperson Kessler said she went to the Airport where the animals are being housed and was surprised how social they are and said they also need help cleaning cages, feeding and watering, walking, and monetary contributions.

Mayor Mundy introduced the Webelos Den from South Prairie School who were in the audience. He announced that FEMA will remain on the third floor of the Sycamore Center indefinitely and noted that turnaround time from application to inspection is one day and payout time averages 8 to 10 days. He said that Pumpkin Fest is right around the corner and wished everybody a safe and happy weekend. He said the "gold" line bus service should be up and running early November and besides the dozen stops there may be some flexibility to the route.

- A. Presentation of a plaque honoring Jerry Lane for fifteen years of service in various capacities as an emergency manager with the City of Sycamore.

City Manager Bill Nicklas said he has worked with Jerry Lane for the past nine years and thanked him for his devoted work.

Jerry Lane said it has been a privilege to serve in a community that he considers home and thanked the staff and City Council for the support he has received.

- B. Presentation of a plaque honoring George Spartz for forty-three years of service as a paid-on-call firefighter with the City of Sycamore.

Fire Chief Bill Riddle said George Spartz' retirement is bittersweet because he has earned his retirement, but his daily presence will certainly be missed. He said George Spartz served his country in the Army and has served his community as a coach, baseball umpire, long-time Scout Master, and the word no is not in his vocabulary when it comes to volunteering. He said he estimated that George ran between 7,000 and 8,000 calls including going to New Orleans after Katrina. He said there will be a community reception when George returns from Arizona in the spring.

George Spartz thanked his wife and family and the firefighters for a great 43 years.

- C. City Manager Bill Nicklas will introduce Phyllis Kelley, DeKalb County Historian and director of the Joiner History Room, who will discuss the new pictorial history, Images of America: Sycamore. This book has just been published by Arcadia Publishing, and is authored by Mrs. Kelley and the Joiner History Room staff. The Council will recall that Mrs. Kelley is the 2006 recipient of the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award for her championship of the humanities in our county.

Phyllis Kelley said nine volunteers helped her with the book and said she could not have done it on her own. She said since the book has been completed pictures and stories have been pouring in that she wished could have been included in the book.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas noted that the last of three open houses kicking off the Comprehensive Planning process will be Saturday, October 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. He said he spoke with VAC Friday and it looks like the bus line will not be called the “gold” line.

Engineer – John Brady said 43 trees were sold in the tree program and they would be planting in a week or ten days.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said they will be meeting with the Pumpkin Fest Committee Wednesday to go over electric safety rules.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle said that teams from the Police Department and Fire Department will have a burger eating contest at Culver’s Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the benchmark for September is 42% and the revenue is running 42% with expenses at 25%. He said both Fire and Police Pension Funds appreciation were over \$200,000 each.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said the RV dump site at the treatment plant will no longer be available due to changes in the EPA regulation regarding septic dumpers. He said Sycamore RV Resort has a dump site that can be used for a minimal charge.

Assistant Public Works Director – Ebe Smith reported that Well #8 is back into operation and they are waiting for water testing and the radium removal media will be installed next week. He said Well #6 has tested zero for radium for its first quarter on line.

Police Chief – Don Thomas said planning is almost completed for Pumpkin Fest and the 10k race will start at 9:35 a.m. with detour routes and the parade will start at 1:00 p.m. He said daylight savings has been extended an additional week, so do not change clocks back that weekend.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report

Ordinance – no report

Police & Fire – no report

Sewer & Water – no report

Streets & Walks – Chairperson Kessler noted that South California Street is open and commended Engineer Brady for a job well done.

**PUBLIC HEARING** - None

**ORDINANCES** - None

**RESOLUTIONS - None**

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of Community Proposals for the Future Use of the Engh Farmstead.**

Mayor Mundy said that Council will review the projects at the next meeting.

John Swedberg, 118 Center Cross, said that several years ago Mr. Harold Engh approached him and the City Manager about leaving the farm to the City and they discussed the Sycamore Historical Society moving there and Mr. Engh said that would be fine. He said he was there unsolicited to ask the Council to go ahead with the use for the Sycamore Historical Society and the Park District and the YMCA.

Tim Beasley, President of the Board of Directors of the Kishwaukee YMCA , assured everybody that they will work together as a collaborative effort with the Park District and the Sycamore Historical Society. He said they would have a visual presentation for the next meeting.

Mr. Nicklas said there would be a meeting Friday afternoon with representatives of the Park District, YMCA, and Sycamore Historical Society.

Aldersperson Paulsen encouraged all residents, not just those living near the farmstead, to stay abreast of this issue and said he hoped they would keep the comments positive.

Mayor Mundy listed the issues before the residents for input as Comp Plan revision, funding of the street maintenance program, and the Engh Farmstead.

**B. Consideration of an Administration Recommendation for a Closed Session to Review Closed Session Minutes.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to go into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m. and Aldersperson Taylor 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 Taylor moved to return to Open Session at 8:14 p.m. and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

Approve:

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Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith