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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2009**

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**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ken Mundy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and City Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Steven Braser, Terry Kessler, Rich Neubauer, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, Gregory Taylor, and Janice Tripp.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Steve Persson of the First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve the agenda and Aldersperson Braser seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Michelle Donahoe, Sycamore History Museum Executive Director, reported about their progress at the Engh Farm. She said their success in moving to the Engh Farm is the result of many generous people with over 3,000 volunteer hours and \$125,000 in-kind local donations. She encouraged Council to stop by and participate in some of their programs. She said the new hours for the Museum are Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She thanks the City for their support.

Peter Smith said he was here on behalf of John Pappas and Brickville & Peace Road Development and said they were available for questions regarding the preliminary plat for the entire subdivision and the final plat for the assisted living portion.

Mike Fogelsanger, 845 Sunset Ln., said the tax revenues were not bringing in the dollars expected and asked Council to review the budget and cut out discretionary spending. He said he wanted to know who would stand up and take the blame when the City finds itself in trouble next fall.

City Manager Nicklas said Mr. Fogelsanger was confusing two sources of revenue and funding. He said the proposed Capital spending on the agenda is in line with the revenue.

Aldersperson Neubauer said that Council was looking for about \$1.3 million from the Home Rule Tax and Gas Tax and it did not look like the figures were that far off.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of June 1, 2009.
- B. Payment of the Bills for June 15, 2009 in the amount of \$1,636,563.16.
- C. Plan Commission Minutes for the Meeting of May 11, 2009.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda 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 8 - 0.

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

Aldersperson Bauer said he has seen a lot of grass blown into the street and said that caused more work for the Street Division and encouraged residents to keep their grass up on their lawns.

Mayor Mundy said he received thank you notes from DCEDC, VAC, and DeKalb County Community Foundation for grant money. He said he accompanied DCEDC Director Paul Borek on some retention business calls and said that many businesses were reducing work days, hours, and in some cases reducing staff. He said the Sycamore Economic Development Commission is doing the final touches on a new Sycamore Business Directory. He said there will be 41 Sycamore businesses in the directory. Mayor Mundy encouraged residents to shop locally.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas reminded Council the City tour would be Wednesday and start at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works.

Engineer – John Brady, Sycamore Municipal Engineering, reported the bid opening for the Waste Water Treatment Plant would be held Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty – no report

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle presented awards to two interns, Mike Hardesty and Shawn Warren, both of whom completed the 3-year intern program.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory said the audit began this morning and he anticipated it going smoothly. He said the Treasurer's Report for May reflected sales tax numbers for February and said the recession was reflected because the sales tax numbers were down. He pointed out that February was a particularly bad month and noted that nationally car sales dropped 41%. He said the City depends heavily on car sales and we have been assured that Sycamore dealerships are safe. He noted that IML has lowered the income tax projection from \$90.50 per capita to \$88.30. He reiterated Mayor Mundy's words to shop locally. He said La ZaZa's restaurant has reopened which was good news.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported that Friday three pigs fell out of a truck trailer as it traveled through the intersection of Peace and DeKalb Avenue.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse reported that Assistant Public Works Director Ebe Smith and Engineer John Brady worked hundreds of hours compiling the list. He said the list was based upon the condition of the street, amount of traffic, and how much work they cause the Street Division each year. He said he felt it was an unbiased list regarding how the streets were ranked. He said there are a few streets that may look more like they need to be repaired are not on the list because of the amount of money that will be required to address infrastructure work. He said that Water Superintendent Mike Swedberg helped with the mapping on the project. He suggested everybody wear walking shoes for the tour of the City Wednesday evening

because they would walk over to the Treatment Plant. He reported that the traffic light at Peace and Route 64 will need a cable replaced and they would complete that within a few days.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report  
Public Safety – no report  
Public Works – no report

**PUBLIC HEARING** - None

## **ORDINANCES**

### **A. Ordinance No. 2009.17—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Sycamore Plan Commission With Regard to the Preliminary Plan and Preliminary Plat of the Villagio Estates Planned Unit Development in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas noted that this was a necessary review that leads up to approval of final plats. He said there have been some changes such as fewer lots than were conceived in March. He said otherwise the layout looks the same in terms of park land, access, bike paths, and conservation area. He said that City staff supported Plan Commission's recommendation for approval.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2009.17 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 8 - 0.

Aldersperson Paulsen said he thought this was a good plan and asked if the house numbering on Villagio Drive would be a problem after the curve.

Engineer Brady said that would not have to be changed at this point, but he did talk to John Pappas about that and said where the street changes direction the name would have to change and that would be done on a final plat.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2009.17 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

#### **Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Bauer, Braser, Kessler, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 8 – 0.

### **B. Ordinance No. 2009.18—An Ordinance Concerning the Recommendation of the Sycamore Plan Commission With Regard to the Final Plat for Villagio Estates Unit 1 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that this was a final plat for that portion that would feature the assisted living facility.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinance 2009.18 on first and second reading 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 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2009.18 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Neubauer said he felt this was a fantastic development with no impact on the schools yet it would bring in revenue to the school district, the park district will get land and money to develop that land, the City will get a road impact fee, and the developer has indicated he would hire locally so it will bring jobs to the area. He said he felt this was a model of how a developer and the City can work together to have a development plan where everybody wins.

Aldersperson Bauer asked how the assisted living will be accessed.

John Pappas, developer, said the access would be from Stonegate Drive.

Mr. Nicklas said that a portion of Villagio Drive will be constructed.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Bauer, Braser, Kessler, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 8 – 0.

Mayor Mundy said that this development was good for the community because the City does not have nearly enough of this type of housing that will be required by the baby-boomers.

**C. Ordinance No. 2009.19—An Ordinance Ascertaining the Prevailing Wages for Public Works in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to hear Ordinance 2009.19 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 8 - 0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to approve Ordinance 2009.19 and Aldersperson Neubauer seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Bauer, Braser, Kessler, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 8 – 0.

**RESOLUTIONS** - None

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Works and Engineering Departments Regarding the 2009 Summer Street Maintenance Program.**

City Manager Nicklas thanked staff for their work on the project. He said that Council wisely chose not to shift street maintenance dollars to other uses in this year's budget because that was done in the 1980's and 1990's when operating shortfalls were funded with capital funds and infrastructure has suffered. He said he hoped Council would see this as a thoughtful approach to the program.

Aldersperson Neubauer thanked staff for their work and said he appreciated the map and said he thought his constituents would be happy.

Aldersperson Bauer said he drove to the locations on the map and he felt like staff had done a good job prioritizing.

Aldersperson Taylor asked if the County would help with N. Locust Street.

Mr. Nicklas said that area would have been included in the downtown streetscape, but we needed what was left of the bond proceeds for what we had started. He said that street is not used just for County, but is an alternate route for those avoiding the traffic at the intersection of State and Main. He said that street uses a lot of Public Works' patch mix each year.

Aldersperson Taylor also questioned Crosby Avenue because he thought that a significant amount of that was in pretty decent condition.

Public Works Director Busse said it is not decent in the spring when it is soft and trucks pull over into the grassy area and break up the side of the road. He said they will widen the east side of Maertz Drive for the trucks and drainage issues will be addressed.

Aldersperson Taylor said he thought it was a wonderful document.

Mr. Nicklas said our Public Works part in the maintenance projects is essential to keeping down the cost of the repairs.

Aldersperson Kessler said part of the criteria for prioritizing is the amount of traffic and she asked how some streets that have very little traffic would ever be addressed.

Mr. Busse said that work will definitely get done in time because when they start falling apart they must be addressed to make them passable by cars. He said once they cost more to repair than to address the problem, they will be addressed at that time.

Aldersperson Kessler said she did not know how to start prioritizing streets that will most likely require infrastructure work.

Mr. Nicklas said the City does not have the revenue to address underground unless we raise taxes and he said he has heard Council say they were not ready to do that. He said that is a question they will all have to wrestle with.

Aldersperson Kessler said the Water Division's GPS mapping has been helpful. She said they need to look for ways to get to some of the smaller, less traveled streets.

Mr. Nicklas said they would have to do it incrementally.

Mayor Mundy said he appreciated the flexibility of the plan.

Aldersperson Neubauer said it was better than a couple of years back when nothing was being done, and he said that with this program he could let people know their street would be addressed within a couple of years.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to approve the recommend for the street program in order to solicit bids on June 16 and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

Mayor Mundy called for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Alderspersons Bauer, Braser, Kessler, Neubauer, Paulsen, Stowe, Taylor, and Tripp voted aye. Motion carried 8 – 0.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 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 8 - 0.

Approve:

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Mayor - Ken Mundy

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith