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SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2000

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CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James Edwards called the meeting to order and Clerk Nancy Marchiando called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Candy Smith, Pam Blickem, James Huntley, Patrick Balentyne, Alan Bauer and Cheryl Maness.

Alderpersons Michael Chambon and Keven Dahl were absent. Six Alderpersons were present and two were absent.

INVOCATION

Gill Larimer of the United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council of the Closed Session scheduled at the end of the meeting to discuss collective bargaining.

**Motion**

Alderperson Blickem moved to approve the agenda as distributed and Alderperson Smith seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the regular City Council Meeting of March 20, 2000.

**Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2000 and Alderperson Huntley seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Payment of the bills for April 3, 2000.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve payment of the bills for April 3, 2000 in the amount of \$181,676.60. Aldersperson Blickem seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderspersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

## NEW BUSINESS

Aldersperson Balentyne introduced Steven Blackhurst who was present to observe the Council meeting for a Scouting project.

Aldersperson Bauer asked that the street lighting be checked near the 400 block of Home Street and Engineer Brady and Supt. Listy are to check and report back.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator - Bill Nicklas - reported that the Comprehensive Plan would be available in the Clerk's Office for public review for thirty days and that the Plan Commission will be reviewing the plan at the April 10, 2000 Plan Commission meeting. He stated that it must be posted that the use of bicycles skateboards and rollerblades are prohibited on the downtown streets. He reported that he had checked with Attorney Peter Smith to find out if posting that information on the sidewalks as has been done in the past was enough notification. Attorney Smith stated that it was and Supt. Gene Listy will oversee the project.

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty - reported that he had issued 16 permits: 7 single family, 7 miscellaneous residential and 2 miscellaneous commercial.

Treasurer - Ken Mundy - stated that he had given the March Financial Reports to the Council.

Fire Chief - Gene Ege - reported that the Fire Department had responded to 51 calls in the past two weeks. There were 30 EMS calls and 20 fire related calls. He stated the department saw 32 patients and transported 20 to the hospital. He thanked the citizens for responding well to the open burning restriction and asked that they continue to use good judgement.

Police Chief - Roy Garcia (Patrick Solar was present) - No report.

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - Alan Bauer - stated the Public Hearing for the Budget 200-2001 was on the agenda.

Ordinance - James Huntley - reported that all ordinances were on the agenda. He inquired about the street sign for a sight-impaired child and Supt. Listy will report back.

Streets & Walks - Cheryl Maness - no report.

Sewer & Water - Patrick Balentyne - no report.

Police & Fire - Keven Dahl - no report.

## PUBLIC HEARING

### A. Public Hearing on the FY 2000 City Budget.

Administrator stated the purpose of the hearing was to hear comments from the citizens of Sycamore regarding their concerns with the document. He stated that two new positions were proposed within the City and those included an assistant for Building Inspector Lyle Doty and changing the Fire Department Secretary from a part-time position to a full-time position. He stated that the Building & Zoning assistant was greatly needed and Chief Ege reported that there would be enough work for a full-time position. Alderperson Maness asked if Becky Hepker was willing to go full-time. He answered yes.

Alderperson Bauer reported on information concerning the rebuilding of Police vehicles. He had learned of a location in Lansing, Michigan and thought this might be an option to purchasing three new vehicles. Lt. Pat Solar stated the Caprice had a good resale value and had a concern that in rebuilding a vehicle items would be fixed that were not broken. Administrator Nicklas proposed three squad cars: one new purchase and two to be rebuilt. Alderperson Bauer stated that previous cars had been paid for in cash and was not sure about borrowing the monies. Administrator Nicklas stated it was a matter of cash flow and explained how the monies would be borrowed on a low interest loan.

The Hotel/Motel Tax Fund was discussed with Alderperson Bauer asking if Tourism Grants were being applied for and Administrator Nicklas stated that others in the community were doing that and the project was not high on his list of tasks.

City Clerk Nancy Marchiando answered questions from the Council concerning the Clerk's Office budget.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tami Armstrong stated that grants have been applied for and some received. Alderperson Balentyne stated he would like to be more frugal with the Tourism fund. Alderperson Blickem stated she believes that the events should pay for themselves and would like to be more frugal with how the Tourism monies are spent.

Mayor Edwards stated that the mission statement of the Tourism Committee is economic development for the City and the monies being spent are investments in our community. Administrator Nicklas asked if the Council wished to allocate a different amount to the Committee and Alderperson Blickem stated she felt it would be fine for this year but she would like to see the amount decrease each year. Alderperson Balentyne said he did not have an alternative amount. Mayor Edwards stated that each group under the Tourism Committee was told to be self-sufficient in three years. He said a method of measurement is needed so that numbers are available to show income so it doesn't appear to just expenses.

#### ORDINANCES AND AGREEMENTS

None.

#### RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution No. 354 - Dedicating one-third of the overall receipts from the Home Rule Sales Tax to the Capital Assistance Fund for Capital Projects.

Alderperson Balentyne stated that the new Council would not be bound by what is voted on today.

#### **Motion**

Alderperson Bauer moved to approve the resolution and Alderperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

#### **Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### A. Consideration of the proposed FY 2000-2001 Capital Plan.

Administrator Nicklas referred to the three-year capital plan identifying major capital projects for FY 00-01 through FY 02-03.

Aldersperson Maness asked if the design for the new City well would be completed this month. Administrator Nicklas stated no that it would be in the next fiscal year as it is not possible to get it done now. He stated that City Engineer John Brady would have approval by June 30, 2000 and construction would begin in 2001.

Aldersperson Blickem asked about the Oakland Drive and Crosby Avenue projects. Administrator Nicklas stated the City would not spend monies on a project without the approval of the surrounding property owners. He said Aldersperson Dahl and Huntley were attempting to get more involvement from the businesses in those areas. Administrator Nicklas reported that Cortland Township had contacted the City to request help with the reconstruction of Bethany Road. He stated that all the projects prioritized on the list for FY 00-01 are funded except for the new well.

### B. FY 2001-2001 and Beyond.

Administrator Nicklas stated the Capital plans for FY 02 and FY 03 are aggressive in terms of the number of projects and their costs. He stated the staff has identified the most urgent capital projects and direction is needed from the Council in order to give the staff guidance.

### C. Consideration of an Administration Report on the Community Center Feasibility Study.

Administrator Nicklas presented to the Council a drawing for the proposed renovation of the Sycamore Community Center. He stated that the project was estimated to cost \$1, 600,000.00 and informed the Council of two families, who wish to remain anonymous, who are interested in funding the project as long as it is used for community activities and be flexible for a multitude of uses.

Aldersperson Blickem asked if the City would still own the building and Administrator Nicklas said yes. Aldersperson Maness asked if a Board of Directors would need to be appointed for the overseeing the building and Administrator Nicklas said that the Stage Coach Players would most likely be the principal tenants and would be responsible for the operations of the building.

Administrator Nicklas stated the first task would be to decide if the Council wished to proceed. Alderperson Huntley felt the plan had merit and Mayor Edwards asked if there was anyone who did not wish to proceed. Alderperson Bauer said he felt it would be a good idea to set up a not for profit Board and Alderperson Balentyne stated that although he is not opposed to the renovation plans he would rather spend money on City Buildings.

- D. Consideration of the recommendation of the City Engineer to award the contract for sanitary sewer and manhole rehabilitation work on DeKalb Avenue to Visu-Sewer Clean & Seal of Pewaukee, Wisconsin in the amount of \$98,154.00.

**Motion**

Alderperson Huntley asked Engineer Brady if the bidder was a good company. Engineer Brady stated yes. Administrator Nicklas said the monies would come out of the sewer funds and the money would be spent in this year's budget but work will not be done until next budget year.

**Motion**

Alderperson Huntley moved to approve the bid with Visu-Sewer Clean & Seal in the amount of \$98,154.00 and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Consideration of an administration report on a charity Bike-a-thon to be held in Sycamore on Saturday, April 29, 2000.

**Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to approve the request and Alderperson Smith seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

**Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to go into closed session at 9:20 p.m. and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to return to open session and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting and Alderperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Edwards called for a voice vote to approve the motion. All Alderpersons present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve:

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Mayor - James S. Edwards

Attest:

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City Clerk - Nancy Marchiando