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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 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: Keven Dahl, Patrick Balentyne, Cheryl Maness, Alan Bauer, Pam Blickem, Candy Smith, Michael Chambon and James Huntley. Eight Alderpersons were present and none were absent.

**INVOCATION**

Alderperson Huntley gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council of the closed session scheduled at the end of the meeting and said that Item #10F would be moved to follow Item #10A(just after A and before B).

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda as amended 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**

Michael McVey, 143 North Avenue, spoke regarding the vacation of East Exchange and stated he felt the County should step back and accept alternatives to their plan. He offered suggestions for moving the County office complex to Peace Road and also suggested using existing buildings within the City. He felt the City and County should listen to the citizens.

Debbie King - 115 West Exchange Street, addressed the issue of vacating East Exchange Street and added that their neighborhood group would be meeting with the County on Wednesday, December 6, 2000. She recommended that the City not approve the closing of the street for the following reasons:

1. Exchange Street is an emergency route during Pumpkin Festival
2. Impact of traffic at the intersection of Route #64 & #23.
3. Traffic will be more congested at Route #64 & #23.
4. School Bus stops
5. IDOT needs to fix stop light at Route #64 & #23.
6. Reconstruction of Route #64 & #23 next year will cause further problems.

Greg Fagerberg, 214 North Maple Street, addressed the issues of parking, campus center and “self-

defined” agreement concerning the vacation of East Exchange Street. He felt there was not an agreement between the City and County and said it was only a “memo” and not a binding contract.

Tom Denig, 317 North Locust Street, addressed the issue of traffic on East Sycamore Street if East Exchange Street is closed. He stated that if 800 cars a day travel on East Exchange Street that the traffic from that street would then use East Sycamore Street and his concern was for the safety of the children in the neighborhood and thought there would be many traffic problems in the future.

Pete Paulsen, 240 West Exchange Street, thanked the Council for listening to the concerns of the neighborhood and he felt that if the County and City worked together they could come up with an alternative plan for all. He made a visual presentation to present an alternative plan and asked that the City adopt the plan and not close East Exchange Street.

Ray Bockman, Administrator for DeKalb County, Informed the Council that he was available for questions when Ordinance No. 2000.53 came up on the agenda.

Greg Fagerberg, 214 North Maple Street, reviewed a statement he read on the Internet (DeKalb County Web-Site) by DeKalb County Board Chairman, Robert Pritchard, in which he indicated the County would not just give away property and asked why the City was just giving away the street.

Mayor Edwards introduced Commander Patrick Solar and Boy Scout Troop #216 from the Federated Church. Commander Solar, of the Sycamore Police Department, stated that the Scouts were working on a Community Service and Merit Badge.

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of November 20, 2000.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2000, and Aldersperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

2. Payment of bills for December 4, 2000.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$414,303.74 for December 4, 2000, and Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

Aldersperson Dahl asked if the Water Department bill with Commonwealth Edison was settled and Water Supt. Ebe Smith responded that the bill had been settled.

**Voice Vote**

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

3. Monthly Budget Report for the period May 1, 2000 through November 22, 2000.

The report was accepted by the Council

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Aldersperson Balentyne asked about the demolition of the house located by Sycamore Mitsubishi. Administrator Nicklas responded that the excavation was scheduled for this week.

In addition, Aldersperson Balentyne asked regarding the annexation of the properties at Sycamore Mitsubishi. Administrator Nicklas stated that the item would be on the agenda for the December meeting of the Plan Commission.

Aldersperson Bauer asked Police Chief Roy Garcia about the “Chief Challenge” and if the department had won a squad car. Chief Garcia said the “challenge” was a year long program so there would not be any notification until next year.

Aldersperson Dahl asked Chief Garcia regarding a sign being posted on Stonehenge per the request of Eve Kietzman. Chief Garcia he would follow-up and report back at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

Administrator Bill Nicklas - introduced new staff member, Steve Garland, Accounting Supervisor for the Finance Department. Steve addressed the Council sharing his background and accounting experience with them and stated he was happy to be with the City.

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty - gave a one month report of activity in his department. He issued 18 permits: 5-Single Family, 6 Miscellaneous Residential, 6 Miscellaneous Commercial and one Demolition.

Police Chief - Roy Garcia - reported on the parking tags for Albert Street residents. He informed the Council that the Sycamore Police Department had been recognized for its efforts with the Teen Reach Program. He stated that thanks to the program there has been less negative contact with juveniles. He added that he has been requested to bring Scott Mayeda to a Teen Reach Conference because of his efforts with the program. He said that the department has begun enforcement of no parking of vehicles on grass and are following the intent of the Council.

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

Ordinance - James Huntley - reported all items on the agenda.

Sewer & Water - Patrick Balentyne - reported there would be a demonstration of equipment for the Treatment Plant prior to the Council meeting on December 18, 2000, in the Street Department garage beginning at 6:30 p.m. Administrator Nicklas encouraged the Council to attend.

Police & Fire - Keven Dahl - reported the committee had one ordinance on the agenda for a first reading.

## PUBLIC HEARING

None.

## ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 2000.53 - An ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard of the vacation of East Exchange Street from the east line of Main Street to the west line of North Locust Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second reading.

Administrator Nicklas informed the Council that Ordinance No. 2000.53 had been before the Plan Commission on November 13, 2000 and explained the reason for vacating East Exchange Street. He stated that the City and County have a legal and binding agreement to vacate the street and explained

the Finding of Fact by the Plan Commission. He said the Plan Commission had voted in favor of and recommended vacating the street.

Aldersperson Dahl asked if a one-way street with diagonal parking had been considered. Administrator Nicklas stated there were more safety issues with a combination street.

Aldersperson Smith asked if the City had to go to the County for access points on Peace Road. Administrator Nicklas said the access points have already been determined and will not be negotiated again.

Aldersperson Balentyne asked about a left turn with an arrow for southbound traffic at the intersection of Main and State Streets. Administrator Nicklas stated that the work for that would start soon and that adding a turn lane would be in a five-year plan.

Pete Paulsen asked what the City had to benefit from the access points on Peace Road. He said the City is not benefitting from the access point just the developer and felt that people who have lived in Sycamore all their lives are being made to pay for development outside the City. Mayor Edwards said the City was gaining a very important access point and said the meeting need stay focused on the issue of East Exchange Street.

Mayor Edwards asked Mr. Bockman if moving the County buildings would have any advantage. Mr. Bockman responded that it would not seem economically feasible as the County has made quite an investment in the City, but that eventually depending on future needs it is possible that some of the offices might be moved, but not at the present time.

Mayor Edwards said that standards could be set for how much of the County should be a part of the City.

Mayor Edwards asked Mr. Bockman how many people were employed with the County and Mr. Bockman responded there were 450 employees with 250 of those positions being located in Sycamore.

Aldersperson Smith asked if the County was looking for alternative parking instead of closing East Exchange. Mr. Bockman stated no the parking would be in addition to the closing. He said the next push would be replacement of the County Jail in 5-10 years and some property for that project was being acquired this month. He said that is in the ten-year plan.

Aldersperson Smith asked if closing of the street was for esthetics because there was really not a lot of traffic crossing Exchange Street and Mr. Bockman answered that it was for both so that a more campus like environment can be established and more parking provided..

Aldersperson Smith asked what if the City would grant a variance and Mr. Bockman answered that they would always take a variance, but would also insist on a vacation of the street.

Aldersperson Balentyne asked when bids would be submitted and Mr. Bockman answered that bids would be let in February, 2001, and construction would begin in the spring with competition scheduled in December 2001.

Aldersperson Balentyne asked how soon the street would be shut down and if it would occur with the letting of the bids or if it would wait until the building is complete. Mr. Bockman stated he was not certain but that the time would probably be later than sooner.

Aldersperson Dahl asked Mr. Bockman if the County would support an upgrade of the intersection of Route#64 & #23. Mr. Bockman said it is not his to give but that he would certainly recommend it. He said the County really does want to be good neighbors.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Blickem moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.53 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

6. Ordinance No. 2000.57 - An Ordinance approving the execution of an agreement between the City of Sycamore, Illinois and the Major Case Task Force to allow participating in and assistance from other regional law enforcement agencies in investigating major criminal cases in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First Reading.

Administrator Nicklas said the matter was discussed in the Fire and Police Committee on November 20, 2000 and is being brought before the Council to give them some background on the issue.

Chief Deputy Kevin Hickey from the County of DeKalb and Lt Jim Kays from the City of DeKalb spoke to the Council concerning the Major Case Task Force. They explained that the communities have previously worked together but it has been an ad hoc operation and that is really not a good way in which to approach a major crime. Lt. Kays said that a major crime can extract every resource of your department. He said the City cannot wait for an outside organization to come in as many things need to be done right now.

Lt. Hays stated that this program is not a “wave of the future” that is happening now and the liability to the City with having their department members working in another city is no greater than if the crime occurred in Sycamore.

Chief Deputy Hickey said that said the Sycamore Fire and Police have worked together many times

with outside agencies and that the Police Department has a good investigative team in Darrel, Sharon and Rod. He said there is a real benefit to training together and that the co-training possesses an immeasurable value. He added the program is similar to what the Fire Department has done with Mutual Aid and it is great to know who one can depend on. He said there would be 23 investigators if all sign on.

Mayor Edwards asked what types of crimes would the Task Force investigate and Lt. Kays said that in the agreement that was left very "broad" in order to cover any crime.

Aldersperson Dahl asked if there would be "bill-backs" and Lt. Kays said no that each department would assume their own expenses.

First reading only - no action required.

1. Ordinance No. 2000.48 - An ordinance levying taxes for the corporate purposes of the City of Sycamore for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2000 and ending April 30, 2001. Second reading.

Administrator Nicklas said the levy was the lowest rate since 1970 and that he highly recommended approval of the ordinance.

Aldersperson Huntley stated he had read various tax levy notices from other government bodies and that Sycamore's 2.57% was reasonable and responsible.

Administrator Nicklas stated the levy was 2% for the City and .57% for the Library.

Aldersperson Bauer stated he would have preferred a flat levy but he would not vote against this levy as he realized the importance of it.

Aldersperson Dahl agreed with Aldersperson Bauer stating that a 0% increase would be better for public relations, but even at the increase of 2% there is a decrease in the tax rate and tax dollars.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.48 and Aldersperson Smith seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

2. Ordinance No. 2000.49 - An ordinance partially abating certain debt service levied for a revenue bond issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois, for the fiscal

year 2000-2001. Second reading.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.49 and Aldersperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

3. Ordinance No. 2000.50 - An ordinance abating certain real estate tax revenue due for revenue on property owned by Sycamore Ford//Mazda/Hyundai in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for fiscal year 2000-2001. Second reading.

Administrator Nicklas said that the disagreement with Sycamore Ford/Mazda/Hyundai is how the rebate is “triggered”. He stated the anticipated EAV of \$1,000,000.00 from Cortland Township will fall short of that amount.

Aldersperson Chambon thought the agreement was very straight forward.

General Manager of Sycamore Ford/Mazda/Hyundai, Mr. Hamblock said there had been a hand shake agreement with the City and that their intentions were good. He said they upheld all that was promised and are trying to up-hold their end of the bargain.

Mayor Edwards said part of the agreement was a property tax abatement based on a \$3M EAV and that the sales tax agreement was 10%, because if there was a slow year that amount would be reasonable.

Mr. Hamblock stated that his understanding in the original agreement was that the City would find a way to rebate the sales tax until the amount of \$300,000 was reached.

Administrator Nicklas said he needed direction from the Council.

Aldersperson Chambon said he felt everything was very clear in the agreement. Aldersperson Dahl asked how the \$3,000,000 EAV was reached and Administrator Nicklas stated it was to be an investment of that amount not an actual EAV amount.

Aldersperson Balentyne asked Mr. Hamblock why the incentive was never executed by them? Mr. Hamblock responded he did not really know why but he would do it differently if he could do it over again.

Aldersperson Bauer stated the intent of the City was to only give \$30,000 in any given year. City

Attorney Peter Smith said the basic intent of the City was to provide \$300,000 over a ten-year period and it was a property tax and sales tax rebate.

Aldersperson Chambon said he felt Sycamore Ford/Mazda/Hyundai should be held to the letter of agreement prepared by former Administrator Fred Snider. He felt the letter was very clear as to the agreement.

Mr. Hamblock agreed that the City was to find a way to give \$300,000 over a 10-year period if the business performed.

Following discussion by the Council it was decided to have Administrator Nicklas negotiate an agreement with Mr. Hamblock.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to hold the item over until the December 18, 2000 Council meeting and Aldersperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

E. Ordinance No. 2000.56 - An ordinance amending Title 6, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Section 6-4-13:B Time Limit Parking: by deleting Albert Street, Esther Street, and West Street from the two-hour parking limit, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and amending Section 6-4-13:A: limited parking by adding a new subsection, No Parking from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on school days only, except for residents fronting on said streets, for Albert Street, Esther Street, and West Street in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second reading.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No. 2000.56 and Aldersperson Huntley seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.56 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

RESOLUTIONS

None.

CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consideration of a recommendation from the City Engineer to contract with Dek-Co Drainage Systems to replace drain tile on the Strong Farm property.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve Engineer Brady moving ahead to replace the drain tile on the Strong Farm property. Aldersperson Balentyne seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

APPOINTMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to go into closed session at 10:15 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to return to open session at 10:29 p.m. and Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

Approve:

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Mayor - James S. Edwards

Attest:

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City Clerk - Nancy S. Marchiando

