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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 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: Michael Chambon, Candy Smith, Patrick Balentyne, James Huntley, Keven Dahl, Alan Bauer and Cheryl Maness. Alderperson Pam Blickem was absent. Seven Alderpersons were present and one was absent.

INVOCATION

Father Frank Timar of St. Mary's Catholic Church gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Edwards stated that the Workshop Minutes of November 6, 2000, would be added the agenda as Item 5D, he stated Item 10F would be moved to follow Item 9A, and the scheduled closed session would be canceled.

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda with the amendments 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

Debbie King, 115 West Exchange Street, addressed Item 10F and stated she was opposed to the closing of East Exchange Street. She said that based on the traffic study she had performed she felt the street should not be closed because of traffic problems and safety in the area.

Noel Smith, 129 West Exchange Street, stated she was opposed to the closing of East Exchange Street because of the City's growth and if the street is closed it will cause more traffic problems.

Matt Woodstrup, 313 North Locust Street, stated that he agreed the County buildings should be kept in the City, but asked that the Council keep a opened mined and consider what might occur in the next twenty years.

Ray Bockman, Administrator for DeKalb County, stated he was available for any questions from the Council or members of the audience.

Tom Denig, 317 North Locust Street, stated he felt he had not received any satisfactory answers regarding the County's future plans. His concerns focused on the safety of the children and the value of the homes in the area. He further stated that he does not agree with the idea that having the Courthouse in the City helps the downtown businesses. He said that Kane County has their Courthouse outside the City and it works for them.

Greg Fagerberg, 214 North Maple Street, asked if the Council had looked at the agreement with DeKalb County and asked why no one knew about the vacating of the street. He thought the Council should give consideration to what else can be done to keep the County in the City and suggested that possibly the County could use the Henderson building as it has plenty of parking. He said the City should make the County live with what is here and not just give them anything they request.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of November 6, 2000.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2000, 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.

2. Payment of bills for November 20, 2000.

#### **Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve payment of the November 20, 2000, bills in the amount of \$630,151.02 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.

3. Plan Commission minutes for the meeting of October 9, 2000.

The Plan Commission minutes of October 9, 2000, were accepted by the Council.

4. Workshop Minutes of November 6, 2000.

### **Motion**

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve the workshop minutes of November 6, 2000, 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.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Aldersperson Balentyne stated that a flyer had been distributed in his ward recently which listed his telephone number. He said that in the future if his number is listed he would appreciate being notified so that he can be prepared for the calls.

Aldersperson Dahl said he had received a call regarding traffic near a day care center on Coltonville Road and East Stonehenge Street. The caller requested that a “caution, speed limit or children playing sign” be posted. Administrator Nicklas said the item could be studied by the staff who can decide if it needs committee action.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Aldersperson Maness inquired regarding an appointment to the Plan Commission to fill the vacancy of Brenda Hopkins. Mayor Edwards said he was waiting for a response from an individual.

Aldersperson Bauer encouraged the Alderspersons to attend the Plan Commission meetings as he felt it was important for them to have the information to make decisions on issues recommended by the Plan Commission.

### **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Administrator - Bill Nicklas - reported that Lyle Doty would not be present at the meeting due to a family commitment and Aldersperson Blickem was out of town attending to the needs of her mother. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

John Brady - Engineer - reported that construction on the retention pond at the intersection of Bethany Road and Somonauk Road would be place on hold until spring. Aldersperson Dahl asked if the pond

would be dug deeper and Engineer Brady answered that it would be some deeper but more berm would be added to the top.

Treasurer - Ken Mundy - presented to the Council the financial reports for October, 2000, and stated that at the half way point in the fiscal year the City is ahead in revenues and behind in expenditures.

Fire Chief - Bill Riddle - reported that the Fire Department began participating in the Red Wreath Program for Holiday Safety on November 23, 2000. He said that last year there were no related holiday incidents.

Police Chief - Roy Garcia - stated that the snow ordinance is in effect and that the Police Department would be assisting the Street Department in keeping the streets open for plowing. He reported that recently promotional examines for the position of lieutenant were held and he stated that Officer Cary Singer would be promoted to Lieutenant in charge of Operations and Darrell Johnson would be promoted to Lieutenant in charge of Investigations effective December 1, 2000.

Public Works - Gene Listy - reported the Street Department would finish with leaf pick-up in the next week.

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - Alan Bauer - no report.

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

Streets & Walks - Cheryl Maness - reported the committee had met prior to the Council meeting and that the committee recommended that "no parking" signs be placed on Albert, Esther and West Streets. The no parking rule would be in effect from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, on school days only.

Sewer & Water - Patrick Balentyne - no report.

Fire & Police - Keven Dahl - reported that the committee had met prior to the Council meeting to discuss a Task Force Agreement and the City Attorney would bring back additional information next month.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing on the 2000-2001 Corporate Levy.

Michael McVey, 143 North Avenue, he reiterated his feelings to the Council regarding locating new businesses in Sycamore in order to bring in new sales tax monies. He said in was in agreement with Alderperson Dahl and Bauer to not raise the corporate levy and felt that would help to bring business to Sycamore.

- 10F. Ordinance No. 2000.53 - An Ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to 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. First and second reading.

Alderperson Balentyne suggested that the ordinance be heard on a first reading only.

Mr. Bockman stated that the County would be holding their own Public Hearing and Alderperson Smith asked if a date had been set for the hearing. Mr. Bockman stated no.

Alderperson Smith stated that in the intergovernmental agreement between the County and the City the County approved access points on Peace Road in exchange for the vacating of East Exchange Street and she asked “where does it stop, what will the County ask for next?”

Mr. Bockman stated that the County was not aggressively seeking property located near the complex, but that last summer a couple of homes became available near the campus and the County was able to purchase them. Alderperson Smith asked what else the County was planning to purchase. Mr. Bockman stated that the community is growing and the County will need to expand its services. There have been greater demands placed on the legislative center, the jail will most likely need to be expanded and he said it is very difficult to make everyone happy in these types of situations.

Mr. Bockman and Alderperson Smith asked each other questions regarding the plans the County has for the governmental complex and Mr. Bockman said that construction for the legislative center would begin next spring with completion scheduled for December, 2001.

Mayor Edwards stated that on a first reading no action would be taken by the Council until the Monday, December 4, 2000 meeting.

Administrator Nicklas thanked the audience and Mr. Bockman for coming and sharing viewpoints regarding this issue.

Mayor Edwards said it was very important to keep the County building located in downtown Sycamore. He said retailers have been lost and the City needs to do what it can to bring more investment into the downtown. He stated the Peace Road by-pass has hurt the downtown and many things are being done to keep the downtown alive, such as the upcoming Street Scape program. He added the County government is important in keeping traffic in the central business area. He said that comments are welcome at the December 4, 2000, meeting and asked that everyone to keep an open

mind.

## ORDINANCES

1. Ordinances 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. First Reading.

No action was required as it was read on a first reading only.

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 fiscal year 2000-2001. First Reading.

No action was required as it was read on a first reading only.

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

No action was required as it was read on a first reading only.

Administrator Nicklas requested that if the Council had any alternate suggestions to let him know as time was running-out and action must be taken at the next meeting. Alderperson Dahl asked the value of the Ford/Mazda building/property and Administrator Nicklas said the value was just under \$2,000,000.00.

The general consensus of the Council was to proceed with the abatement.

4. Ordinance No. 2000.51 - An ordinance concerning adoption of amendments to the combined annual budget and appropriation ordinance for fiscal year 2000-2001 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second reading.

### **Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No. 2000.51 and Alderperson Bauer seconded the motion.

### **Voice Vote**

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

### **Motion**

Alderperson Balentyne moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.51 and Alderperson Bauer seconded

the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

5. Ordinance No. 2000.52 - An ordinance approving the execution of an agreement between the City of Sycamore, Illinois and the Sycamore Park District for the transfer of property for a well-site. First and second reading.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No. 2000.52 and Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Huntley moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.52 and Aldersperson Dahl seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

6. Ordinance No. 2000.54 - An ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of John D. Ward for the approval of a petition to annex certain property located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Illinois Route #23 and Peace Road and Plank Road with zoning classification of "C-3" Highway Business District and "R-3" Multiple Family Residence District with a Special Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois. First and second reading.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No. 2000.54 and Aldersperson 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.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Dahl moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.54 and Aldersperson Chambon seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Ordinance No. 2000.55 - An Ordinance concerning the recommendation of the Plan Commission with regard to the request of John D. Ward to approve the preliminary and final plat for the commercial property on certain property located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Illinois Route #23 and Peace Road in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and second reading.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to have a first and second reading for Ordinance No. 2000.55 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 Balentyne moved to approve Ordinance No. 2000.55 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.

## RESOLUTIONS

None.

## CONSIDERATIONS

1. Consideration of a historic preservation ordinance.

Administrator Nicklas stated he had provided some background and suggested that this be a topic for a workshop session and explained why preservation is important. Alderperson Huntley asked if an Historic Preservation Committee should be appointed and wondered just how far government should go with regulations and who is responsible for expenses?

Administrator Nicklas stated he felt it was important that the downtown businesses be involved and recommended the City proceed.

Alderperson Huntley was asked to bring back to the Council copies of historic preservation ordinances from other cities. Alderperson Chambon suggested that he check to see if the cities have “lessons to be learned” and what each city actually does.

The Council decided to discuss the issue in a workshop session and Alderperson Chambon suggested that the Alderman talk to people in their Wards and ask for opinions. Alderperson Maness suggested that business owners be invited to attend the workshop. It was decided that the topic would be discussed at the February, 2001, workshop.

2. Consideration of a request from Sjostrom & Sons, Inc. for an extension of the time permitted to complete the second phase of the route #64/Route #23 Project.

Administrator Nicklas explained the request by Sjostrom. Following discussion by the Council and information provided by Ron Priebe of Sjostroms & Sons, it was decided that the company should meet the deadline stipulated in their letter and they would be allowed five more days following November 23, 2000, to complete the work.

## APPOINTMENTS

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion**

Aldersperson Balentyne moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 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