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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2001**

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**ROLL CALL**

Mayor John Swedberg called the meeting to order and Clerk Candy Smith called the roll. Those Alderpersons present were: Alan Bauer, Pam Blickem, Michael Chambon, Andrew Larson, Cheryl Maness, Pete Paulsen, Chuck Stowe, and Janice Tripp.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Dale Johnson of the First Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the agenda and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of November 19, 2001;
- B. Payment of the Bills for December 3, 2001 in the amount of \$768,319.01.

**Motion**

Alderperson Maness moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Alderperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

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

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Administrator – Bill Nicklas thanked the Street Division of Public Works for decorating the downtown. Mr. Nicklas reported that the ad hoc group to review impact fees held their first meeting and would meet again January 3, 2002.

Engineer – John Brady – no report

Building & Zoning - Lyle Doty reported that since the last meeting he wrote 6 permits: 2 single-family, 2 miscellaneous residential, and 2 demolitions. Commissioner Doty passed out a copy of DeKalb's permit

fees for review before the next Ordinance Committee Meeting. Alderperson Tripp asked for a list of addresses for the permits and Mr. Doty said they were available on a monthly basis in the Clerk's office.

Treasurer – Ken Mundy reported that revenues were still ahead of expenses and that the motor fuel tax looked healthy. Treasurer Mundy reported that the City had received \$1.2 million of road funds for state ad-ons on DeKalb Avenue. He said the Home Rule sales tax advanced was just under \$56,000. Treasurer Mundy reported that the Fire and Police Pension fund appreciation was undervalued by approximately ¼ million dollars each. He said that they were not in trouble - it was simply the state of the economy. Treasurer Mundy announced there would be a meeting December 5, 2001, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers to review Fire and Police pension funds.

Fire Chief –Bill Riddle extended an invitation to Paramedic Graduation on December 20, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Police Chief – Don Thomas reported 266 calls for service since the last meeting. Chief Thomas also announced that a new recruit would be joining the Police Department December 17<sup>th</sup>, if he passes his physical. Also, Chief Thomas said there would be a "Battle of the Badges Blood Drive" between the Police and Fire Departments December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Public Works Supt. -- Fred Busse asked Council to review the snow ordinance regarding the eight-hour time frame after a 2" snowfall. Mayor Swedberg sent the request to the Ordinance Committee.

Water Supt. – Ebe Smith – no report

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance –no report

Ordinance – Chair Cheryl Maness reminded the Committee they would meet December 17 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss building fees and the snow ordinances.

Police & Fire - no report

Sewer & Water – Chair Alan Bauer stated that the Committee would meet December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Streets & Walks – no report

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. Public Hearing on the 2001-2002 Corporate Levy.**

Administrator Nicklas stated that the hearing was to invite people to comment on the advertised city levy and library levy which together formed the corporate levy. Mr. Nicklas stated that the proposed city and library levy combined amounted to \$2,533,354.

Alderperson Tripp asked Library Director Sarah Tobias to explain vacant position carry-over. Ms. Tobias explained that the library was understaffed during the previous year and the unused wages would carry over to the next fiscal year.

## **ORDINANCES**

**A. Ordinance No. 2001.48—An Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Corporate Purposes of the City of Sycamore for the Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2001 and Ending April 30, 2002. First and Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2001.48 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Chambon moved to approve Ordinance 2001.48 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. Seven Alderspersons vote aye; Aldersperson Bauer voted nay. Motion carried 6-1.

**B. Ordinance No. 2001.49—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 2001-2002. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance would partially abate the debt service of the 1996 General Obligation bond for levy year 2001. Mr. Nicklas said the debt service obligation was \$272,938 and with the approval of this ordinance, the corrected levy amount for the bonded debt service would be \$155,000.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2001.49 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Ordinance 2001.49 and Aldersperson Bauer seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Ordinance No. 2001.50—An Ordinance Abating Certain Debt Service for a Revenue Bond Issue for the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year 2001-2002. First and Second Reading.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that this ordinance would totally abate the debt service for the 1999 General Obligation bond, which refinanced a portion of the 1996 bond series at a lower interest rate. Mr. Nicklas said the debt service obligation was \$153,130 and the corrected levy was \$0.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2001.50 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Ordinance 2001.50 and Aldersperson Maness seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously

Mayor Swedberg congratulated Administrator Nicklas and the staff for keeping the levy down.

**D. Ordinance No. 2001.51—An Ordinance Abating Certain Real Estate Revenue Due for Property Owned by Sycamore Ford/Mazda/Hyundai in the City of Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2001-2002. First and Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Maness moved to hear Ordinance 2001.51 on first and second reading and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Tripp moved to approve Ordinance 2001.51 and Aldersperson Stowe seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

Mayor Swedberg called for a voice vote. All Alderspersons vote aye. Motion carried unanimously

**RESOLUTIONS**

None

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Consideration of a Report From the Greater Sycamore Chamber of Commerce Regarding Activities of the Discover Group and its Visitor Attraction Program.**

Sycamore Chamber of Commerce Director Tami Armstrong explained that the Visitor Attraction Program was started in 1998 as an economic development tool to increase travel-generated hotel/motel tax and sales tax for the City of Sycamore. Ms. Armstrong sited that the number one reason people traveled to Illinois was to visit family and friends. Ms. Armstrong said their budget was divided into four categories: brochures, capitol improvements, Downtown Coordinator, and assistance grants. She also explained that they write grants to fund the promotional materials. Ms. Armstrong described some of the Visitor Attraction Program’s projects as new brochures for Downtown Sycamore and for the walking tour, an audio tour for the walking tour, the kiosk on the corner of Somonauk and Elm, assistance grants for Pumpkin Festival fireworks, Marlyn Majorettes travel expenses, and Christmas banners for downtown.

Aldersperson Paulsen inquired if the Chamber was actively working to fill the vacant downtown storefronts.

Ms. Armstrong responded that Ms. LaPage had compiled a retail-building inventory list.

Downtown Coordinator Michelle LaPage thanked the City for its investment in the downtown streetscape. Ms. LaPage explained that the competition along Route 23 and the threat of a mall near IL 88 prodded the Discover Sycamore Group along with other downtown merchants to realize the need for a person to organize and communicate their group. Ms. LaPage said that she was hired as the Downtown Coordinator in 1999. Ms. LaPage said that her focus was to generate promotions and fund-raising events to enhance the downtown traffic. She reported that the Streetscape promotion using sycamoola generated \$450,000 in retail spending downtown over the summer.

Mayor Swedberg congratulated Ms. LaPage on the successful tree lighting ceremony.

## **B. Consideration of an Administration Report on Recent Regional Planning Initiatives.**

Administrator Nicklas explained that the County had circulated a couple of proposals since August 2001. Mr. Nicklas said that both proposed an advising body that would speak to the 1.5-mile radius outside the corporate limits of all 14 municipalities in the county. Mr. Nicklas said he proposed that the County needed to create a habit of regional planning for trans-regional issues such as: flood plains, storm water, and transportation. Mr. Nicklas said the consensus of the Sycamore Plan Commission was to accept his proposal. Mr. Nicklas said he was not looking for a decision, but a direction since there was another County Planning meeting scheduled.

Aldersperson Chambon said he thought the City should keep an open mind yet maintain authority over our 1.5-mile radius.

Mayor Swedberg suggested that the County was just adding another layer of government.

Aldersperson Paulsen inquired how a countywide committee could have the time to discuss development proposals for 14 communities, when the Sycamore Plan Commission devotes a lot of time discussing one community.

Administrator Nicklas stated that since the population of Sycamore, DeKalb, and Cortland had reached a population of 50,000, a Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation improvements would be mandated in order for DeKalb County to receive federal funding.

The Council encouraged Administrator Nicklas to pursue his proposal.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

None

Administrator Nicklas received a letter from Farm & Fleet assuring the City that there was no truth to the rumor that they were going out of business. Mr. Nicklas asked Council to help squelch the rumor and spread the word that Farm & Fleet was here to stay.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and Aldersperson Tripp seconded the motion.

**Voice Vote**

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

Approve:

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Mayor – John L. Swedberg

Attest:

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City Clerk – Candy Smith