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**SYCAMORE CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**

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**ROLL CALL**

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

**INVOCATION**

Retired Pastor Gil Larimer of the Sycamore United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Taylor moved to approve the agenda and Aldersperson Adee 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**

Chandra Swedlow, 314 E. Elm Street, said there is an urgent need for mosquito abatement and control. She said there are significant dangers in not addressing this issue such as West Nile Virus and other diseases as well as a nuisance factor. She said that Sycamore should follow DeKalb's example and fog for mosquitoes.

Brendon Swedlow, 314 E. Elm Street, encouraged the City to do something about the mosquitoes.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting of August 20, 2007.
- B. Payment of the Bills for September 4, 2007 in the amount of \$1,659,312.78.

**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.**

- A. Swearing-In of Full-Time Firefighter Andy Powers.

Chief Riddle said that Firefighter Powers is the final hire for manpower to man Fire Station Two. He said he is also one of our first KEC High School students who has been with the City for five years.

City Clerk Candy Smith swore in Firefighter Andy Power with his grandfather, Retired Firefighter Terry Morris, standing beside him.

Mayor Mundy reported that the State sharing revenue will increase 4 to 5% next year. He mentioned an article by Roger Hopkins stating that job growth is exceeding the housing growth in DeKalb County. He noted that the Spartan Challenge football game at Huskie Stadium between Sycamore and DeKalb would be Friday night and the Block Party would take place September 15<sup>th</sup> in downtown Sycamore. Mayor Mundy also commended the City and area emergency responders and the Red Cross for their response to the flood on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Proclamation declaring the month of September 2007 as "Save a Life Month" in the City of Sycamore, Illinois.
- C. A Representative of the Sycamore Economic Development Commission will introduce Don and Dawn Sukach, owners of Cooper's Diamond Jewelers at 303 W. State Street, who will describe their retail business.

Dawn Sukach said she they purchased the store over 8 years ago and soon they will change the name to D & D Jewelers. She said she has worked there for 17 years, first under Clyde Cooper and then worked for his son Steve, as the store manager. She said they also purchased the building and are improving the façade and the interior. She said they live, work, and play in Sycamore. She said they pride themselves in their excellent customer service with a staff that is educated and informed in the most current gemological information available. She said they offer diamonds, gemstones, pearls, time pieces, custom design of jewelry, watch repair, and fine gifts. She said they offer several one-day events over the year and their best event is Ladies' Night Out that raises awareness for breast cancer. She said she sits on the Board of Discover Sycamore and Don sits of the Midwest Museum Board and they look forward to a long history in Sycamore.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

Manager – Bill Nicklas said he had provided for Council copies of the formal request for proposals for the Engh farm that would be due September 21<sup>st</sup>. He said the Illinois State Treasurer's office has limited funds that backup a loan program for flood victims and DeKalb County residents have become eligible. He said that DeKalb and Sycamore and DeKalb County officials, Red Cross, and private individuals stepped up to provide shelter for residents of Edgebrook and Evergreen Village trailer parks. He said shelter was provided by NIU Rec Center, DeKalb Park District Rec Center, and most recently St. John's Lutheran Church. Mr. Nicklas said he researched information from DeKalb County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control Prevention, Illinois Department of Public Health to create a memo regarding mosquito abatement. He said the reason Sycamore will not spray for floodwater mosquitoes is because we are in a mostly rural environment surrounded by ten's of thousands of acres of farm land. He said the mosquitoes can be windborne 8 to 10 miles each day and fogging would not be effective for more than one day. He recommended residents take control of their immediate environment by emptying water in pooling areas. He said he feels for the public, but cannot recommend fogging because of the expense and the lack of effectiveness.

Engineer – John Brady reported that if the weather holds for 10 days the remaining sanitary and storm sewer and curb and gutter should be completed on the S. California Street project.

Building & Zoning – Lyle Doty said a Matt MacAlister has purchased the blighted property at 344 N. Main Street and will tear down the house and redevelop it with apartments.

Fire Chief – Bill Riddle commended his department for their work during and after the flood event. He recognized the Department of Conservation Police for furnishing security and a boat to transport flood victims. He also commended Nicor and especially ComEd for the prompt response.

Treasurer/Asst. City Manager – Brian Gregory reported \$228,040 for the first four months of Transfer Tax gross revenues. He said the audit report will be in Council mailboxes next week and the following meeting the auditor will present. He said the newsletter should go out the end of the week.

Public Works Director – Fred Busse said his department was busy over the flood weekend. He thanked the Sycamore High School Sophomore football team for helping to fill 600 sandbags. He said the flows in the wastewater treatment plant were stretched to the max and the excess flow clarifier discharged for five days.

Police Chief – Don Thomas thanked the Public Works Department for placing signs and barricades during the flood. He said at one point Somonauk Street and Route 23 were the only open streets into town.

Mayor Mundy said he was impressed with how well Public Works, Fire, and Police worked together with Mr. Nicklas acting as Emergencies Services Director. He said he has visited St. John's Church shelter each day and said the community is stepping up with food and items for those in the shelter.

Aldersperson Kessler asked when FEMA would be here. She also reminded residents not to mow their grass into the street because it clogs up the storm sewers.

Fire Chief Riddle said FEMA toured the area with Dennis Miller earlier in the day and he expects a report of their findings at a later date.

Mr. Nicklas referred to the aerial photos of the flooding at Council desks and said there were remarkable amounts of acreage under water at the Park District. He said thanks to higher standards and Engineer Brady's engineering of retention ponds, some areas prone to flooding in the past did not experience flooding. He suggested they have collaborative work with the Park District in looking at their facilities in the future.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance – no report  
Ordinance – no report  
Police & Fire – no report  
Sewer & Water – no report  
Streets & Walks – no report

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **ORDINANCES**

- A. Ordinance No. 2007.17—An Ordinance Requesting Permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street from 7:00 P.M. Until 8:30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 To Allow for the Sycamore High School Homecoming Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to hear Ordinances 2007.17, 2007.18, 2007.19, 2007.20, 2007.21, and 2007.22 in omnibus fashion and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

**Voice vote**

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

- B. Ordinance No. 2007.18—An Ordinance Declaring Wednesday, October 24, 2007 Through Sunday, October 28, 2007 as Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**
- C. Ordinance No. 2007.19—An Ordinance Requesting Permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street Between 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, October 28, 2007 To Allow for the “Road Run” as Part of the Pumpkin Festival in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**
- D. Ordinance No. 2007.20—An Ordinance Requesting Permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation to Close Illinois Route 64 from Governor Street to Sacramento Street from 12:00 Noon Until 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 28, 2007 To Allow for the Pumpkin Festival Parade in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**
- E. Ordinance No. 2007.21—An Ordinance Authorizing the Use of City Parking Lot #3 at the Corner of Sacramento Street and State Street for a Carnival to be Held from Wednesday, October 24, 2007 Through Sunday, October 28, 2007 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**
- F. Ordinance No. 2007.22—An Ordinance Authorizing the Use of City Parking Lot #1 at the Corner of Somonauk Street and Elm Street for a “Kiddee Carnival” to be Held from Wednesday, October 24, 2007 Through Sunday, October 28, 2007 in the City of Sycamore, Illinois. First and Second Reading.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to hear Ordinances 2007.17, 2007.18, 2007.19, 2007.20, 2007.21, and 2007.22 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 Kessler moved to approve Ordinances 2007.17, 2007.18, 2007.19, 2007.20, 2007.21, and 2007.22 and Aldersperson Paulsen seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

- G. Ordinance No. 2007.14—An Ordinance Amending Title 1, “Administration,” Chapter 6, “City Council,” Section 1-6-5, “Committees,” Subsection C, Paragraph 2 of the City Code of the City of Sycamore, Illinois. Second Reading.**

City Manager Nicklas explained this ordinance regarding five-member committee was tabled in July and has since been signed into law by the State Legislature and he recommended approval.

**Motion**

Aldersperson Bauer moved to approve Ordinance 2007.14 and Aldersperson Kessler seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution No. 496—Approving a Plat of Easement for Public Utility Purposes on Property Owned by Steven Wells.**

City Manager Nicklas explained that this and the next resolution would assure certain utilities on S. California Street and in the nearby alley would be accessible in the future.

**B. Resolution No. 497—Approving a Plat of Easement for Public Utility Purposes in Municipal Parking Lot #4.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to approve Resolution 496 and Resolution 497 in omnibus fashion and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**E. Consideration of an Administration Request for a Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation.**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Kessler moved to go into Closed Session at 8:10 p.m. and Aldersperson Adee seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**Motion**

Aldersperson Paulsen moved to return to Open Session at 8:25 p.m. and Aldersperson Taylor seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote**

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

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Aldersperson Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 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