

## November 2011

The following is a compilation of notes Mayor Mundy has taken from the Sycamore City Council Meeting Minutes during the period from 1879 through 1899 excepting those not available from 1885 through 1892. It took Mayor Mundy nearly two years to review the minutes, make notations, compile them, and print the results seen here for your understanding, education, and enjoyment. City Clerk Candy Smith is credited with having the City Council Minutes available for review as she carefully and accurately records, maintains, and safeguards City records.

### April 19, 1879

Some residents were paid \$2-\$3 for allowing their homes used as polling places. Mayor Lattin paid \$6 for meals for the election judges.

**May 12** – Hose Co #2 petitioned for building for hose cart and hose and Hose Co #3 asked for 23 flannel shirts for Co referred to Fire & Water Comm with \$30 allowed for shirts. Mayor Ellwood appointed Ald to 5 Comm for year: Finance – Waterman, Whittemore, Graham, Streets & Walks – Ellwood, Whittemore, Hubbard, Fire & Water – Hubbard, Whittemore, Knight, Ordinance – Nix, Marsh, Waterman, Miscellany – Graham, Knight, Ellwood.

**May 19** - Petition to open street west of the depot. Ald Hibbard asked for Ord Comm to bring an Ord changing city fiscal year to beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**May 26** – Invitation from Potter Post GAR for Council to attend as a body Decoration Day ceremonies and that Clerk issue invitation to DeKalb City Council to join in. Ald Graham moved to allow \$10 for Decoration Day expenses.

**June 14** – Interesting bills paid: BJ Holcomb boarding provisions \$21.70, Marsh Harvester Manuf Co pumping water \$10, Daily Free Press \$6, Walter Waterman for damages to his roof affixing fire alarm \$6. Invitation from City of DeKalb to join them in 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration accepted.

**June 16** – Fire & Water Comm proposes buying a 22 ft x 10 ft piece of land in alley behind Brannon's for \$25 to build a storage place for gasoline and other fluids used for street lamps.

**July 24** – Salaries ok'd at clerk \$75, treasurer \$75, and attorney \$50 for the year.

**September 15** – Resolution by Ald Ellwood that property owners may choose either stone or planking to set curbs not to exceed 12 ft from fences for ornamenting. Ok'd. Ald Whittemore on behalf of Finance Comm recommends that \$4,000 be raised by taxation for current year expenses.

**October 27** – Ord to raise \$1,500 to pay the indebtedness of the city was ok'd after 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

**November 17** – Petitions to stop butchering at meat market and have a poultry house removed were given to the Marshall. Fire & Water Comm instructed to keep working on a well to see if a good water supply can be attained.

**December 8** – Treasurer reports receipts up to 12-1-79 of \$9,139.19 and expenses of \$9,084.45.

### February 9, 1880

Bill received from Marsh Harvester Co for \$669.81 for steam, coal, and pumping.

**April 29** – Mr Brannon asked to reduce liquor license from \$500 to \$400 and was denied on a 1– 6 vote.

**May 10** – Swedish Church asks for street lamp in front of the church. Cross St to be opened. Clerk instructed to prepare a list of men liable to the poll tax. Clerk to seek bids for arc street lamps through 5-1-81. Fire and Water Comm is to prepare contract with Marsh Harvester Co to keep up steam in city for \$400 per year. Petitions to erect lamps at High & Main and California & Sycamore Sts referred to Sts & Wks Comm. Petition to not open Grant St west of depot is tabled. Ald Graham petition for sidewalk on DeKalb St be connected to walk near Stark Lumber Co offices.

**June 21** – Grant & Cross Sts ok'd to be opened and extended. Ald Nix moved that Moses Dean, James Herrington, and Sam Olden be appointed a Comm. To study damages of opening and improving Grant and Cross St. Approved.

**July 19** – Ald Whalen moved Str & Wat Comm be instructed to use stone chips and gravel in making and repairing walks whenever in their judgment it may be productive. Ok'd unanimously.

**September 13** – “Ordinance in regard to levying tax for present fiscal year for raising money for deficiency in appropriations made June 21<sup>st</sup> 1890 was read on calling ayes and nays it was adapted unanimously.” City Clerk Benjamin Wilson Mayor, Nathan Lattin, Ald: Ellwood, Graham, Nix, Paine, Whalen, Whittemore, and Knights.

**October 11** – Fir & Wat Comm recommends Fire Marshall ok 2 pair couplings for hose and that captain of Hose Co #3 fix the door of the hose house. Also that fire captain buy 4 rubber coats for Hose Co #1. Ok'd Mr Dragoo to tend lamps from now until Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, 1881 for \$100.

**November 8** – Lamp ok'd for corner of Maple and Ottawa Sts.

#### **February 14, 1881**

Fir & Wat Comm reported they could not obtain land sought from Wm Webber.

**March 14** – Places and judges appointed for annual election: 1<sup>st</sup> ward City Hotel Judges Ellwood, Dennis, Smith Clerks Jackman, Patsch. 2<sup>nd</sup> ward Court House Jury Room Judges Shield, Knipp, Whalen Clerks Lawrence, Johnson 3<sup>rd</sup> ward Boyles & Coopers Shop Judges Paine, Walrod, Townsend Clerks Carly, Loomis 4<sup>th</sup> ward Hose House No 2 Judges Graham, Allen, Black Clerks Sivright, Kenyon.

**April 11** – Ald Whalen moved the Mayor appoint a Comm of Council members to draft a resolution paying respects to the late Ald Geo H Hubbard, adopted, and the Mayor appointed Ald Whalen, Whittemore, and Ellwood. Clerk, Treasurer, and City Marshall presented their reports to Council. “Whereas this Council learned with profound regret of the death today of Ald Geo H Hubbard by which the city cares an able and affected officers, an honest and upright citizen his family a kind and affectionate husband and father, therefore resolved that we tender to his afflicted family our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement and that this resolution be spread upon the records and a copy thereof sent to the city paper for publication and that we attend his funeral as a body.” Ald Nix moved for passage and adapted.

**April 20** – Clerk is instructed to draw orders on the treasury for judges and clerks of the wards for \$2.50 each. Motion Council resolves itself into a canvassing board to canvass last election results.

**April 21** – Election results: Mayor Chas T Stuart, Clerk Benjamin Wilson, Treasurer Chas Hyre, Ald Frank Stevens, Chas Knights, Geo Knipp, Theo Stark, and Chris Ohlmacher. Ald Whittemore moved to thank Mayor Lattin for his able manner he has conducted his office of Mayor. Ald Whittemore, Nix and all retiring officers also thanked.

**April 30** – Committees for new year: Finance, Ord, Str & Wks, Fir & Wat, Licenses, Miscell.

**May 2** – Bids from True Republican and City Weekly newspapers received to print city business for the year. Ord proposed to prohibit any disorderly boys on the streets after 8 pm, adopted. Treasurer to pay interest on city debt. Motion to have Str & Wks Comm repair the bridge near the East River. Ord authorizing Northwestern Gas Works of New York to open streets, alleys, and highways for purposes of laying gas mains and pipes to supply gas to city residents, citizens, and manufacturers and for lighting city lamps. Motion for city to draft Ord to allow gas services.

**May 23** – Street lamp ok'd for corner of Somonauk and Charles Sts.

**May 30** – Steam to be purchased from Marsh Harvester Co at \$35 per week. Property owners ok'd to be paid \$135 for damages for extension of Sacramento St plus deed of purchase included. Following appropriations for new year: Str & Wks \$3,500 Fire Dept \$1,500 Officers \$1,200 Printing \$60 Incidentals \$450 Water Bonds & Interest \$2,700.

**June 13** – Letter from Chicago Electric Light Co was read seeking to place electric lights in the city.

**June 18** – Several plank and gravel walks ok'd in city.

**October 10** – Ald Graham moved a notice of condemnation be placed on North Bridge and that city buy best fire hose at \$1 per ft plus couplings.

**September 11** – Ald Ellwood moved that Mayor and Finance Comm borrow \$1,500 payable June 1<sup>st</sup> 1882 at interest not to exceed 7%. Passed on 6-1 vote.

**September 12** – Resolution due to heavy and continuous rains and floods there is a need to borrow \$1,000 to address deficiency in Fir & Wat Comm not to exceed 7%.

**November 14** – City Marshall instructed to thank Mr Boies in regard to opening a ditch in his pasture.

**December 12** – City Marshall to demand report from Police Magistrate of fines rendered against all citizens.

#### **March 18, 1882**

Ok'd to pay Mr Spear \$100 for compensation for damages for extending California St. Judges and sites ok'd for next city election.

**May 1** – Ok'd Ord prohibiting the firing of cannons or anvils within city limits with penalty fixed at \$25.

**May 8** – “City Weekly” ok'd as city paper to publish city business at \$40 per year.

**June 19** – Following appropriations for present fiscal year: Str & Wks \$5,000 Fire Dept \$1,200 Officers \$1,400 Printing \$50 Incidentals \$400 Water Bonds & Interest \$2,433 Other Bonds & Interest \$2,650 General Deficiency \$2,500 Totaling \$15,633.

**July 10** – GW Boardman petitioned Council to reduce his peddlers license from \$20 to \$10 and is ok'd.

**August 7** – “Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Sycamore that thirty one hundred dollars of the sum appropriated for corporate purposes by predecessor passed and approved June 19, 1882 having been raised otherwise than by taxation is not now needed to be levied upon the taxable property of said city and the County Clerk is directed to extend a tax for the sum of \$12,533.32 only. Passed and approved August 7, 1882 Charles T Stuart Mayor. Attest Benjamin J Wilson City Clerk.”

**September 25** – Ord relating to fire limits and construction of buildings therein ok'd on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

**October 9** – Ok'd a bond for \$1,000 sold at 6% interest.

**December 11** – Ok'd payment of \$125 to Mrs Monstron for injury received falling on defective sidewalk.

### **January 8, 1883**

A memorial from state board of health asking appropriation for the presentation of small pox and other diseases was read.

**February 12** – Ok'd Ord in regard to install fire escapes on all buildings 3 stories or more within city fire limits used for public purposes.

**April 19** – Chauncy Ellwood elected Mayor, Ben Wilson Clerk, Warren Peterson Treasurer, GW Dunton City Attorney, Alonzo Ellwood Ald 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, Wm Byers 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, John Shield 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, all joining Ald Whalen, Devine, Black, Hyde, and Tipton.

**April 30** – Bids for printing city business awarded to Boies and Hartman for \$40. Ord ok'd that liquor license holders have their licenses displayed in their businesses in conspicuous places. Some liquor licenses ok'd at \$500 per year.

**May 14** – Str & Wks requests annual appropriation of \$5,000 referred to Finance Comm. Ald Whalen moved that Str & Wks lay walks of gravel. Ord granting permission to erect and maintain a system of telephone and telegraph exchanges was read.

**June 11** – Mayor Ellwood recommends Book of Ord be revised by 2 people since “in the interest of the City of Sycamore I must respectfully call your attention to the unsatisfactory condition of city Ord. Many of them have been repealed, modified, and changed so that it is difficult to determine which are valid and which are not. I therefore recommend that a Comm be appointed consisting of not more than 2 persons to revise the city Ord and recommend such others as may be deemed necessary.” Moved the commendation be “spread upon the record” and adapted. The following appropriations were made for the present year: Sts & Wks \$5,000, Fire Dept \$1,000, Officers \$1,400, Water Bonds & Interest \$2,200, other Bonds & Interest \$2,900, Printing \$150, General Deficiency \$4,500, Incidentals \$1,000. Communication from the Mayor to open Somonauk St was received and placed on file.

**July 9** – Mayor appointed GW Dunton to revise city Ord with power to employ assistance if necessary with the whole expense not to exceed \$400 including printing and binding in book form. Passed.

**July 27** – Str Comm recommends paying WC Wear Co per contract for ashphalt sidewalks being 4,077 ft at \$.06 per ft and that 2/3 of said amount be paid amounting to \$163. Mayor Ellwood said he would be away for some time and recommends a Mayor Pro Tem be appointed. Ald Byers nominated Ald Alonzo Ellwood who was appointed.

**July 31** - Council to determine whether to grant Chicago & NW RR Co the ok to lay side track on Coltonville Rd. Adapted after 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Ald Whalen moved that Str and Wks be authorized to gravel Main and Sacramento Sts provided property owners pay half expenses of same and if sufficient funds are in the treasury.

**September 13** – Bids on street lamp maintenance received: J Tasker \$216, J Ferry \$216, L Larkin \$180, R Johnson \$165 with Johnson awarded the job for \$165 for the year. Mayor appointed NR Herrington Pound Master. Passed.

**October 8** – Motion for Comm to ascertain plans to erect a water tower in the city. Adapted. Tax levy passed after 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

**November 19** – Robert Johnson resigned caring for street lamps and note of thanks approved to his mother Elizabeth Johnson. Ald Whalen moved that the night watchman be entrusted to take care of Wm Drake children and provide for their entire proper authorities. Petition from Geo Warren asking privilege to ride his bicycle on High St referred to Sts and Wks.

**December 10** – Communication from GW Willington asking Council to appoint C Stenrod Special Police at the Free Methodist Church was read on motion.

**December 28** – Bids read to publish city business: Hef & Van Gelder \$82.50, Arnold & Nichols \$80.79, Boies & Hartman \$74.00 with Boies & Hartman given the job for the year.

### **February 11, 1884**

Ok'd paying City Atty \$275 for revising Ord Book and printing it. Officer salaries: Clerk \$100, Treasurer \$75, Atty \$100 for the year payable at year end. Ald Ellwood moved Fir and Wat Comm be entrusted to consult with Marsh Binder Manuf Co regarding water works and water production for city and proposal to contract with them to furnish a boiler for the city and to furnish water at rate of \$7 per day. Ald Ellwood moved Printing Comm preserve necessary blank pages for the city with the atty and also to find cost of binding 50 Ord books in leather or cloth. Passed. Motion adapted to print notices to saloon keepers against selling liquor to minors and perpetual drunkards. Judges and polls assigned for city election.

**April 28** – Ok'd Mayor to appoint special Comm. to go to Elgin and see a machine that produces asphalt sidewalk and they be authorized to procure said apparatus to provide asphalt walks in Sycamore. In city election 2 ties at 55 votes each the City Atty was authorized to draw one name to determine the winner. Joe B Stephens won the draw and was sworn as 1<sup>st</sup> ward Ald. The following standing Comms: Str & Wks, Fir & Wat, Ord, Finance, Licenses, Health, Printing, and Miscell. Ald: A Ellwood, Paine, Stroberg, Stephens, Shield, Byers, Stevens, and Hyde. Persons applied for permission to sell liquor for medicinal, mechanical, ornamental, and chemical purposes. Motion to amend Ord changing fiscal year to end April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ok'd raising liquor licenses from \$500 to \$600 per year payable every 6 months.

Passed. Druggist permit ok'd at \$40 per year. City Marshall to be paid \$500 per year. Adapted. City Weekly ok'd as city official paper for the year.

**May 12** – Invitation from Potter's Post #12 GAR to participate in Decoration Day services. Adapted. Clerk to give Marshall Poll Book in order to collect delinquent poll taxes. Ok'd county surveyor to find the eastern boundary of city. Ok'd Str Comm to procure water tank at not to exceed \$50 and place it at the Ward House for public use. Finance Comm recommends Clerk paid \$125, Treasurer \$75, Atty \$100. Passed.

**May 29** – Comm reported seeing asphaltum sidewalk machine but found it too expensive and did not buy it.

**July 8** – Council expressed appreciation to deceased Ald Driver for his uniform kindness and courtesy which he at all times extended the members of this Board and for the ability with which he has discharged the duties of the office of Alderman. Unanimously passed. Wm Cass elected 1<sup>st</sup> ward Ald.

**July 14** – Appropriations for current year: Sts & Wks \$5,000, Fire Dept \$1,500, Officers Salaries \$1,400, Printing \$150, Incidental Expense \$1,000, totaling \$9,050.

**August 12** – Resolved Marshall visit the Soap Factory immediately to arrange for Mr Shurtleff to stop the condensed steam from entering the highways. Motion adapted to send notice to trim shade trees within city. Marshall to turn over Poll Tax delinquent list to Atty to be paid within 10 days or be sued. Ok's Fir & Wat Comm be empowered to fix lamps. Ok'd Mayor and Atty General with Fir & Wat Comm be empowered to make such arrangements for protection of city from fires as they deem proper. Ok'd Str & Wks to gravel and repair the road leading from PM Alden's house to the street leading to the Swedish Church this being necessary to save the road.

### **January 12, 1885**

Recommended building a stand pipe 135 ft high and 15 ft in diameter. Petition to place the stand pipe question before the voters is passed.

**March 9** – "Proceedings of the last meeting read and approved. The bills were presented read and on motion referred to Finance Comm who reported favorable and recommended payment and orders drawn on the Treasurer for the several amounts. On calling ayes and nays the report was unanimously passed." Motion that the Ord regarding appropriation of \$10,500 to erect the stand pipe be passed according to the wishes of the petitioners of the city of Sycamore. Adapted. Motion made for Mayor to appoint Comm to secure land on which to erect the stand pipe. Communication received from Womens Christian Temperance Union and read and placed on file. Comm for procuring land for stand pipe recommends buying land for \$400 from Fred Waters.

**March 23** – Motion to advertise for bids for stand pipe with said bids to be received until April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. Passed.

**End of Minutes Book No 2**  
**Minutes Not Available From March, 1885 through July, 1892**

**August 8, 1892**

Mayor: Mason Ald: Kenyon, Knipp, Carnes, Loptien, Langlois, Townsend, Jessen, Vacancy. Bill ok'd to Electric Light Co for \$192.62 for street lighting. 3 motions made to lay water mains in DeKalb Ave, State St, and Cross St defeated. Fire Marshall ok'd shutting off water while reservoir is cleaned. Ok'd Atty insert proper title into Ord relative to Sycamore Public Library if necessary and that \$189 be added to the Library Fund.

**September 12** – Ord to levy taxes passed.

**September 29** – Contract awarded to GO Pike to lay mains on Cross St at 32 cents per ft ok'd. All obstructions in Factory Addition streets to be removed forthwith. Clerk: JD Waterman.

**October 11** – Mayor Mason instructed Clerk to serve notice on Chicago Great Western RR to open and plank Maple St. Motion ok'd to defer fine collection of John Luchauer as long as he pays costs and lives up to the city Ord. Fines and costs imposed on Geo Strong for drunkenness. Motion to take down and store street lamps and stow them away is ok'd. Motion ok'd to allow lamp in front of Ald Kenyon's left up as long as he maintains it. Ald Loptien moved to plank west side of North Bridge with 3 inch hardwood planking. Adapted. Motion made and defeated for iron water tank on southwest corner of Court House Square. Motion made and defeated for wooden tank same place. Motion to reconsider iron water tank same place ok'd by all.

**November 14** – N Herrington is City Marshall for \$720 per year, Geo Churchill Engineer \$900. Bill ok'd for Sycamore Electric Co for street lighting for \$175 and GO Pike for waste water exchange for \$552. Ald Kenyon objects to payment of bill for gravel. Overruled by Mayor Mason. Ald Langlois moved to authorize the Mayor to borrow money from month to month as City requires. Passed.

**December 12** – Petition from Mr Mallory to tap water mains for laundry purposes. Ald Kenyon moved Mallory be allowed 5,000 gal per week as long as water lasts by a contract to be drawn. Passed. Paid Sycamore Light Co \$351. Ok'd to fine Sycamore Electric Co \$25 for false alarm due to poor wiring. Ok'd a Comm to find the cost of a well pump and the cost of an artesian well. Ald Jessen resigned.

**December 28** – Mayor ordered Clerk to fine missing Ald \$2 and notify them of same. No quorum. Adjourned.

**January 9, 1893**

Ok'd that Ald Knipp and Kenyon's absences at last meeting be excused and the fines cancelled. Ok's purchase of apparatus to pump 4 wells. Ok'd that if Mayor finds it the duty of the City to take care of tramps infesting the City, that they be locked up by the night watch. Notice to all residents living near electrical lights which do not promptly deliver good light to report same to their Ald.

**March 13** – All ash piles and refuse in public streets and alleys to be cleaned up forthwith. License charged the Opera House not to be enforced as Mayor broke 3-3- tie to not enforce it. Election polls: 1<sup>st</sup> ward Loptien's Carriage House, 2<sup>nd</sup> ward Court House Jury Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> ward Teft's Carpentry Shop, 4<sup>th</sup> ward Hose House #3.

**April 10** – Petition from Lander & Davis for telephone franchise to be governed by Ord. Adapted. Davis & Lander required to furnish a \$500 bond to "keep the City harmless from all accidents and expenses of any kind or nature." Peter Butts ok'd by Fire & Wat Comm to put down a 2 inch line under the supervision of the Water Supt. Passed. Ok'd Nuisance Comm to notify property owners to clean out ditch and deepen it 1 ft where necessary from Johnson's Place on Edward St to the tracks of CGW RR. Ok'd water services by pipe to Chicago Insulated Wire Co. Line to be laid on City property with proper connections.

**April 20** – Special Meeting "Whereas Mr Volaski Hix, today deceased, was City Clerk of City of Sycamore, therefore be it resolved that the sympathy of the City Council be extended to the bereaved family of the deceased in the hour of their sad affliction and that this resolution be spread upon the City records."

**April 27** – Standing Comm: Finance, Str & Wks, Fir & Wat, Ord, Health, Printing, Licenses, Printing, Miscell, Purchasing. Petition for electric light on W State St laid over. Saloon licenses and druggist permits ok'd at \$800 and \$25 per year as was last year.

**May 8** – Clerk petitions Council for salary increase of \$75 per year for a new salary of \$200 per year. Adapted. New Standing Comm of Electric Lights ok'd. In the bills: Van Gelder & Boies printing election notices, \$25.12, City Weekly printing, \$65, Fred Harmes rebated for popcorn license \$5, Electric Light Co \$200. City printing contracted with HH Simons of Sycamore Journal at \$50 per year. Chicago Great Western RR given privilege of taking water for washing boilers at round house at water meter rates. Passed. Ok's City Atty to notify CGW RR to repair bridge on Greeley St.

**May 17** – Annual Appropriations: Library \$1,000, \$95 Printing, \$800 Miscell, Firemen Fund \$250, Sts & Wks \$4,500, Fir & Wat \$1,500, Night Watchman & Special Police \$200, Water Main Extension \$1,500, Street Lighting \$2,100, Debt Service \$1,250. City Atty to draft Ord on restaurant and grocer display signs.

**June 12** – Electric Light Comm will have light moved from Henry Dutton's to near Cam Sivright's Place, a new light on W State St near CNW RR tracks, and new light at Elm and Somonauk Sts. Adapted. Health Comm ok'd an open ditch on Devine property. Str & Wks ok'd 4 ft sidewalk built from T Helson's west line to Geo Knipp's corner, from EM Phelps to the Creamery, north from Edwards to Charles St, a 1 plank walk on Harvester St, from the Wesleyan Church to Ward's Livery Barn, from corner of Main and Holmes to residence of Charles Larson, and from John Carnes to Frank Wymans. Adapted. Property owners north of the jail and south of CGW RR to be allowed cost of crossings of their several lots and allowance be put into drain tile same to be covered by property owner. City is to furnish 9 inch common tile from Carnes' corner to Wyman's corner. Passed.

**June 26** – Ok'd buying enough asphalt to repair walks. Ok'd 2 train cars of brick, 1 from Galesburg the other from Bloomington. Ok'd several 8 and 10 in tiles to be laid running from railroads and for several plank walks to be laid. Ord regulating sale of produce or merchandise that it be displayed at least 2 ft from the ground and not to clutter any street, alley, sidewalk, or any public grounds no more than 3 ft from the front line of the lot on which the business is located. Violators subject to fine of \$3 to \$25.

**July 10** – Among the bills to pay "Bearer, burying a dog, 50 cents" and Addyson Pipe & Iron Co iron pipe \$662.90. Ok'd buying 500 loads of creek gravel for streets to be laid on Exchange from Sycamore High School west to the German Lutheran Church corner of Main and Exchange Sts., on Edward St from Somonauk to CNW RR tracks, on Elm St for 1 block east commencing at Wm Allen's corner, on High for 1 block east of Main, and on State from Ward's Hotel to Levi Winn's corner. Sts & Wks Comm to use own judgment whether gravel or crushed stone to be laid on State St. Pres Blanchard of the library made their annual report. Mayor Nesbitt appointed Luther Lowell, AJ Blanchard, and Fred B Townsend as library trustees. Consent & passed.

**August 14** – Gravel and brick walks ok'd for Main, Somonauk, and Charles Sts. Atty Boies presented appropriations: Public Library \$750, Printing \$75, Miscell \$800, Officer Salaries \$1,500, Firemen's Fund \$250, Sts & Wks \$4,250, Water Main Extension \$2,000, Debt Service \$1,250, Night Watchman & Special Police \$200, Electric Lights \$2,100, Fir & Wat \$1,500, Total Approp \$14,675. "Since \$3,500 is provided from other than tax levy, \$11,175 is the tax levied and taxed on the property within said city subject to taxation as the same is assessed and equalized for state and county purposes for the current year." Since 25% of needed revenue is from other than taxes, 75% of each appropriated item is from taxes. Passed.

### **January 8, 1894**

Ord auctioneer raised from \$25 to \$50 with following Ord presented: "That it shall be unlawful for any person to advertise any auction sale or any sale of any goods, wares, or merchandise by giving or procuring any other person to go about any street or streets of said city sounding and bell, horn, or gong or by calling or crying in a loud or unusual manner or in any way having a tendency to annoy persons passing in the streets or upon the sidewalks, or by parading banners about the streets or other device having a tendency to frighten teams or horses. Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall upon conviction be fined not less than \$2 nor more than \$10."

**April 9** – Petition of Baptist Church to erect addition to the church ok'd. Plats ok'd for K&M Waterman and Ellwood South Addition to the city.

**April 27** – Special meeting due to the death of Mayor GW Nesbitt. Clerk to notify Fire Marshall to have 3 hose companies attend the funeral as a body. Resolution: "Whereas the City Council of the City of Sycamore has met to confer together upon the occasion of the death of the Honorable George W Nesbitt, Mayor of our City and to express their deep sorrow and their sense of great loss which the City has sustained by his untimely decease, therefore be it resolved, that we share in the great and widespread grief and fully appreciate the loss which the community has suffered by the termination of his busy and useful life, resolved that to show our respect for him, this Council attend his funeral in a body, resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of the City to the family of the deceased, and also cause the same to be printed in the newspapers of this City and spread the same upon the records of this Council."

**May 1** – Fred B Townsend voted to serve out Mayor Nesbitt's term. 4 liquor licenses at \$800 granted. 6 druggists permits at \$25 each ok'd. Sycamore Preserve Works granted permit to build a roof over their scales.

**May 14** – Modern Woodman of America petitions for all city licenses to be turned over to them. Passed. Potter Post GAR invited Council to Memorial Day services. Petitions were read from property owners for cobble stones for gutters and were referred to Sts & Wks Comm.

**May 17** – Appropriation ok'd at \$14,975 for new year. Included was a sinking fund at \$1,000 in case bond could be purchased at par.

**June 24** – Ok'd Frank Conley to be City Engineer at \$1,200 per year. Ok'd to pay 75 cents per yard of creek gravel for streets and 60 cents per yard for pit gravel for walks where needed. Ord requiring all users of city water to install meters. Ord also repealed any related Ord and gives city authority to end service to any person or business failing to install a meter. Water rates to be set by Council. Ok'd streets to be graveled: Elm, State, California, Edward, and Main Sts.

**July 9** – Ok'd Kunz & Donnell to number the city. Ald Kenyon, Mason, and Langlois appointed Comm on Numbering. On a 4-3 vote Council ok'd providing water meters to consumers. Ok's Comm of 3 to go to Ottawa to learn how brick walks are built and to examine material for same. Ok's Mayor to use his judgment regarding 2 prisoners now in jail.

**October 16** – Ok'd franchises to Illinois Telephone Controller Co and Central Union Telephone Co.

### **January 14, 1895**

Ok'd to furnish Sycamore Electric Light Co with city water if Co concludes to build new plant. Ok'd electrical franchise to Frank C Patten Co.

**January 17** – Ok'd Special Police to enforce quarantine and hired Chas Buell as nurse for H. Lam for \$25 per week.

**March 11** – Ald Kenyon died of disease and Council resolved to extend sympathy to family and spread same upon the City records and in City newspapers. Ald FB Townsend resigned Council. Ald Mason elected by Council to serve as Mayor.

**April 8** – Ok'd Judson & Co to number the City with State and Main Sts as starting points and to have a number every 25 ft.

**April 17** – Election results: FB Townsend Mayor, Clerk Waterman, Treasurer H Whittemore, Atty EM Burst, Ald 1<sup>st</sup> Ward C Loptien, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Langlois and M Chamberlain, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward J Herrigton, and 4<sup>th</sup> Ward CJ Johnson and Jos Ronin. The following were thanked for their service: Mayor Mason, H Gable, C Boies, I Oakley, and C Anderson.

**April 30** – Ok'd 5 liquor licenses at \$800 and 6 druggists permits at \$25 and a plumbers license to Whittemore & Brower.

**May 13** – Street signs to be considered. Mayor appoints Ald Loptien, Chamberlain, and Ronin as a Comm to study building a calaboose or jail.

**June 1** – Sycamore Electric Light Co ok'd to build steam tunnels under City property to heat the City, repair all streets, alleys, and walks after construction, and hold City harmless forever against all related claims.

**June 6** – k'd DeKalb & Great Western RR to lay track over which its engines and cars and locomotives to be propelled by steam or other motive power. Track to be single track of standard size with necessary turn outs, sidings, and switch tracks. As tracks intersect State St and DeKalb Ave tracks must not vary more than 4 in from existing street grades. RR must provide plank crossings entire width of any intersecting street so that teams can cross with wagons, etc. Any sidewalk impacted will be brought to grade/track level by RR for safe and convenient crossing of tracks. Water drainage near tracks is to be provided by RR including bridges to allow flowage to ravine at all times and seasons. All approaches to tracks to be graveled 30 to 50 ft either side of tracks. Six ft cement or brick walks to be built either side of tracks near Grant, State, and DeKalb Ave. RR to fund all improvements and to guarantee City harmless for any and all events related to RR forever. Passed.

**June 10** – Firemen to be paid \$15 per year except a \$1 fine for any alarm, real or false, they fail to answer. Further firemen to be paid \$1 for cleaning hose unreeled in a fire. Ok'd water mains on Exchange, Governor, Locust, and Main Sts. Ok'd to sign streets with 14 cent signs like the sample from EC Christian and they are to be fastened with 4 wood screws in each sign. Ald Loptien moved to build a calaboose with a contract to Pauly Jail & Building Co, Weeden & Co material and labor, Thomas Tisdelle carpentry, and WM Forward & Co for the roof. Passed.

**August 12** – Annual Approp is \$17,400 with \$5,700 raised by other than taxes resulting in tax levy of \$11,700 and with property taxes prorated among each line of the Approp. Passed. The free telephone from DeKalb County Telephone Co is to be in the Marshall's Office. Also there will be a phone at the pumping



station and at the home of the Supt of Waterworks GO Pike. Passed. Ok'd brick walk from Main St east to pumping station and making a driveway of cinder around the pumping station.

**August 18** – Ok'd flagmen placed at gates on streets where RR crosses. Bids on sewerage survey were returned and read from 7 bidders. Ok'd contract for complete sewerage system to Alexander & Shaw. Passed. Ok'd to change name of Railroad St to Park Ave.

**October 14** - Ok'd Northwestern RR to install gates on Edward, High, and W State Sts, Chicago Great Western and DeKalb Great Western RR for gates on Edward and N Main Sts and DeKalb Ave. and that all gates operate every day from 7 am to 9 pm. Ok'd Ord to regulate train speeds.

**November 11** – Ok'd amending RR gate Ord to require electric warning bells at crossings. Ok'd City paying \$200 to settle suit of John Ingmanson.

**December 9** – Ok'd Alexander & Shaw contract for sewerage services and a \$200 advance to them. Ord ok'd allowing Mayor to borrow funds for the City until the 1895 taxes are paid. Ok'd Ord to paint electric, telegraph, and telephone poles.

### **March 2, 1896**

Special Meeting ok'd Ord to repeal sewer Ord of Jan 20, 1896. Ok'd City Marshall to stop up all sewer drains to abate nuisance. Letter from Dr LM Hoyt to City Atty J Harrington: “As to your inquiry regarding the open sewer in the west part of town, there is no question but that it is a constant menace to the health of the people in that vicinity; contaminating the air and drinking water it is certainly well calculated to breed disease of all kinds, and in my opinion it is perfectly proper that measures should immediately be taken to suppress or carry it in a sanitary (closed) manner to beyond the city limits.” Letter from Sycamore physicians: “We the undersigned physicians of the City of Sycamore believe that the ditch or creek in the third ward of the City which crosses State St at the DeKalb & Great Western RR, to be in a very unsanitary condition being contaminated with sewerage from a number of places, hotels, saloons, etc. In our opinion it is a nuisance to the health of the people who reside near it and on account of the stench arising from it, is a nuisance to everyone whoever goes into that part of town. We believe it should be abated at the earliest possible moment. Dr LA Westgate, Dr GW Nesbitt, Dr AD Blagden, CB Brown.”

**April 22** – Election results: Clerk JD Beckler, Ald 1<sup>st</sup> ward Virgil Bollinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> ward Geo Knipp, 3<sup>rd</sup> ward James Ryan, 4<sup>th</sup> ward John Black.

**April 30** – New Comm: Finance, Str & Wks, Ord, Health, Printing, Misc, Fir & Wat, Sewerage, Electric Lights, Licenses. Salary of Marshall raised to \$75 per month with him in charge of sidewalks and reporting needed repairs to S&W Comm. All liquor licenses issued at \$800 and druggist permits at \$25 per year with all payable in advance.

**May 11** – Ok'd removing all slot machines fastened to buildings and poles about the town and to take same inside their places of business. Ok'd enlarging City pumping station and purchasing material and machinery to furnish its own electric lights.

**May 21** – Ok'd draining stand pipe to paint inside and outside if necessary. Ok'd Atty to draft Ord to license cigarettes and cigarette paper sales at \$300 per year. Ok'd property owners and City to split costs of cement walks at 50-50.

**July 13** – Annual Approp for \$20,600 ok'd as follows: Street Lighting \$2,334, Painting \$100, Officers Salaries \$1,500, Firemen Fund & Sts & Wks \$1,100, Str & Wks Repair, Maintenance & Improvement \$4,000, Fir & Wat \$2,000, Night Watchman & Special Police \$216, Library \$500, Miscell \$1,000, Erect Electric Light Plant \$6,600, Debt Service \$1,250. Since \$8,550 would be raised from other than tax revenue, the new tax levy ok'd at \$12,050 with levied taxes to be spread in proportion over the Approp.

**September 14** – Water users of 3,000 gallons or more per day charged 2 cents per 100 gallons. Adapted. Sam Quist bid of \$494 for pumping station ok'd.

**October 12** – Wildman Bros Co reported stand pipe is in exceptional condition excepting a few minor blisters in certain sections as each sheet, seam, and rivet was inspected.

12-14-96 Ok'd selling water at CNWRR Depot at 10cents per 1,000 gallons with minimum usage amount of 20,000 gallons per day. Ok'd hearing a report next meeting of revised water rates.

### **January 11, 1897**

Ok'd contracting with McCaskey & Holcomb Co of Springfield Il for one standard arc lighting dynamo and 60 single carbon lamps with switch board, instruments, and appliances for their bid of \$1,725 and with Gates Iron Works Co of Chicago for one Fischer Gates 4 valve engine piping erection as per City specs at \$1,290 bid.

**February 8** – Ok'd water rates at 10 cents per 1,000 gallons provided that average daily usage is 10,000 gallons or more.

**March 1** – Bids ok'd for electric company: Mr DP Perry for standard 60 light dynamo with 60 lamps and appliances delivered and erected, to Gates Iron Works Co for the engine, piping, belts and erection of same, to Chicago Insulated Wire Co for wire, and all bids awarded. Cost of electric plant at \$6,600.

**April 21** – Election results: Mayor FB Townsend, Clerk JD Beckler, Treasurer Chas Sivright, Ald 1<sup>st</sup> ward C Loptien, 2<sup>nd</sup> ward EI Boies, 3<sup>rd</sup> ward James W Cliffe, 4<sup>th</sup> ward Chas Anderson, Atty EM Burst.

**May 10** – Ok'd dog licenses at 50 cents per year.

**May 26** – Ok'd paying \$50 to Str & Wks Comm Chair for grading around the monument in Court House Square. Invitation is received from Potter Post GAR for Council to attend Decoration Day Ceremonies in a body. Adapted.

**June 14** – Plat of Swanson's & Nelson's Additions presented to Council. Plat of WH Loomis ok'd by slim 5 to 3 Council vote. Ok'd the report of Wat Wks Supt with the condition that Council see the delinquent water takers names. Contract with Sycamore Light Co ended and is unneeded now.

**July 12** – Ok'd 4 inch water mains laid from State St on North Cross to Loomis and on California St from the Williams House to the Catholic Church. Ok'd Electric Co to place light at State and Somonauk and on Exchange Sts.

**August 9** – Ok'd request of Postal Telegraph Co to use City poles between Great Western Depot and corner of State and Main Sts on condition that free use of wires be granted for City business. Ok'd City to check out the ditch from the Canning Factory to Mill St 3 times a week during canning season. Ok'd Str & Wks Comm repair the gutter in front of business blocks where necessary. Some brick walks are ok'd to be laid in various places.

**September 13** – Ok'd rescinding Postal Telegraph Co resolution and agreed to allow them use of poles at no charge.

**October 29** – Offer of City to pay Mary Doyle \$800 to settle her suit against the City for placing stand pipe in center of State and Main Sts.

**November 12** – Special Meeting with Ald EI Boies Mayor pro tem (see copy)

#### **April 11, 1898**

Ok'd water main of 4 inches run on Mill St from DeKalb Ave up Center Ave to Center Cross St.

**April 30** – Reconsidered proposed \$700 liquor licenses and they are to remain at \$800 a year as they have been.

**May 9** – Ald Boies moved and Council ok'd cement walks on the south side of Court House Square and also brick crossing from Court House corner to City Hotel. Ok'd \$118 to repair City Building best as possible for the sum.

**June 13** – Mrs Jackman asks to leave old house in the street while new house is being built. Ok'd by City as long as she indemnifies City against all harm.

**June 23** – Comm formed to see how much people dumping sewerage into Mill St ditch would "subscribe" to paying for closed sewer there. Ok'd Pond & Hollembeak to write insurance for hose houses for \$66 for 5 years.

**July 11** – Annual Approp: Street Lighting \$1,000, Painting \$100, Officer Salaries \$2,000, Firemen Fund \$1,500, Sts & Wks \$5,000, Fir & Wat \$3,000, Special Police \$600, Library \$500, Miscell \$2,400, Debt Service \$1,250, Water Mains \$2,000, Revision City Ord \$300, Total Approp \$19,650.

**September 12** – Ok'd Board of Local Improvements and referendum to add \$5,000 for sewerage purposes. 10-10-98 Petition of Geo E Dutton to annex his plat. Plats of Dutton's and Marsh's Additions annexed to City.

**October 18** – Local Improvements Board recommends low bid of \$3,555 be awarded to PJ McNulty for main sanitary sewer.

**December 12** – Ok'd to regulate use of sewer by private people in the City.

#### **January 19, 1899**

In matter of the suit of Dr LM Hoyt vs City of Sycamore Mayor Townsend asked each Council member to write a suggested settlement on paper and give it to the Mayor. Then he would average the amounts to award that amount to Dr Hoyt.

**February 24** – Baptist Church ok'd to build new church on their lot and to move old church into road during the building. Church to hold City harmless on all actions. Hereafter all cement walks built only after a contract is drawn between City and property owner and is accepted by the builder.

**April 10** – Bill presented for JS Murray for medical services for \$17 for daughters fall on sidewalk presented and was ok'd and paid to Dr Nesbitt. Petition of legal voters presented to open Maple St across GW RR tracks.

**April 28** – Petition from people on Washington Pl for 2 arc lights presented. Election results: Mayor DA Syme, Clerk JD Beckler, Treasurer FE Lee, Atty J Faissler, Ald 1<sup>st</sup> ward J Cliffe and WF Sell, 2<sup>nd</sup> ward CD Rogers, 3<sup>rd</sup> ward Chas Hennighan, and 4<sup>th</sup> ward AW Anderson.

**May 1** – Officers salaries set, 7 liquor licenses ok'd at \$800 each, and several druggist permits issued at \$25 each. Resolution adapted that only purchases approved by a Comm and recorded in Clerk's purchases book will be paid. Plat for Walrod's Addition ok'd. Finance report as of 5-1-99 Balance On Hand \$1,514.21, Paid Out \$3,119.65, Bond Interest \$140, Account Overdrawn \$1,745.44, Bonded Indebtedness Water Bonds \$25,000, Sewer Bonds \$4,000. Adapted Ord to regulate bottling works and wholesale liquor dealers at \$200 per year. Ok'd the street grader be run over streets where sewer is laid.

**July 10** – Petition of Geo E Dutton for sidewalk on Chauncey St from Somonauk to Railroad St (Park Ave.) Petition for walk on Home St ok'd. Petition for water main on Home St east from Main St to end ok'd. Ok'd walk on Grant St. Bill of Axel Stroberg presented at \$50 due to his basement filled with water. Annual Approp Ord: Street Lighting \$400, Printing \$100, Officers \$4,000, Firemen Fund \$1,350, Sts & Wks \$5,000, Fir & Wat \$2,000, Water Main Extension \$1,350, Special Police \$150, Library \$500, Miscell \$1,250, Debt Service \$1,450, Sewer \$350, Deficit & Overdraft Past Year \$1,745.44, Bonds of City now Past Due \$5,000. Waterworks minimum rate of \$4 ok'd.

(See copy for typical list of bills ok'd to pay)

**July 17** – Petition of Elsie Ingmanson ok'd to annex land known as "Old Fair Grounds" on west side of City. Aldermen serving: Bell, Anderson, Cliffe, Tischouser, Rogers, Stone, Ryan & Hennighan. Ok'd Axel Stroberg's claim of \$50.

**August 14** – Ok'd 4 cars of brick for \$225. Patten's Additon annexed to City. Petition of Fair St residents to have Marsh's Addition to City vacated.

**August 30** – Ord annexing Ingmanson's Addition revoked. Ord to annex "Old Fair Grounds" of Elsie Ingmanson more particularly described in said petition ok'd by Council. Many water mains, arc lights, and sidewalks ok'd in various parts of the growing city.

**September 11** – Ok'd Ord to grant EB McGill, President of Sycamore & DeKalb Electric Railway franchised right of way on Main St from Depot to State St to Cross St and on Cross to DeKalb Ave to city limits toward DeKalb. Ok'd walks laid in front of Boynton and Townsend residences on N Main St. Ok's Sts & Wks Comm repair temporarily North Bridge with Mayor and Township then to discuss a new bridge.

**October 9** – City not to vacate March's Plat unless parties lay street running north and south on east line of plat. Hiram J Kellogg appointed to City Collector.

**November 13** – Ok'd paying SF Armstrong \$360 for 800 ft of 10 inch tile, \$444 for 1,060 ft of 8 inch tile, \$405 for 9 manholes, 1 flush tank, and \$1,690 for tile, manholes, tanks, etc. Board of Local Improvements submitted hundreds of dollars of bills to approve. Plats of Cornwall and Ronin annexed.

**December 11** – Letter about CNW Stock Yards referred to Mayor Syme who sent it to the Health Comm. Council ok'd Mayor to discharge Mr Nolan confined at the County Jail for non payment of fine.

This ends some notes of interest from Sycamore City Council Minutes dated from 1878 through 1899.

This document is intended for use by those interested in the history of Sycamore City Council Meeting Minutes. All of the notes were taken by Mayor Mundy directly from City of Sycamore City Clerk Records and are edited neither for English grammar rules, spelling, punctuation, nor for political correctness. It has been a pleasure to gather notes of interest from Sycamore's history, and the Mayor plans to record, compile, and make available notes from other City Council Meeting Minutes over time. The notes present a snapshot in time of how Sycamore grew from a frontier settlement of rustic cabins to the beautiful vibrant and economically sustainable community she is today. There were many good and faithful public servants who guided Sycamore through her infancy, Industrial Revolution, laying of streets, sidewalks, water,

sewer, and gas mains, erection of a stand pipe, street lights, telephone poles, homes, businesses, churches, schools, library, a jail, and historic actions and events which impacted Sycamore from 1879 through 1899.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Ken Mundy  
November, 2011