



## Office of the Mayor

### *Proclamation Appointing Joseph J. Kozma as Poet Laureate of the City of Jacksonville, Illinois*

**WHEREAS**, Joseph J. Kozma, City of Jacksonville resident, and known professionally as Joseph J. Kozma, M.D., has been writing poetry as a Jacksonville resident for more than 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph J. Kozma has published his creative poems and haiku poetry in books, chapbooks, anthologies, and journals consistent with the character and values of our Country, State, and the City of Jacksonville; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph J. Kozma has read his poems at official Town celebrations and commemorations like those held on the Square, at significant gatherings including those at the Asa Talcott House, in academic settings, at numerous special occasions, and at friendly encounters at local restaurants; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph J. Kozma created the celebrated Poetry Variety Show, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, along with other poetry centered community events; and

**WHEREAS**, 1972 Pulitzer Prize Winner Wallace Stegner proclaimed that “no place is a place until it has found its poet”; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville has designated Joseph J. Kozma as its Poet Laureate to express our collective appreciation for his poetic excellence and his significant contribution in increasing the awareness of importance of poetry in our lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville may call upon its Poet Laureate to compose poems for Town occasions and other government events worthy of commemoration; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville Poet Laureate is an honorary position and carries with it the esteem and appreciation of the City of Jacksonville citizens,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Mayor Andy Ezard, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Jacksonville, on this day appoint Joseph J. Kozma as **POET LAUREATE** of the City of Jacksonville.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Jacksonville to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2016.



*Andy Ezard*

Andy Ezard  
Mayor