

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013
PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Dave Ingersoll presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present: Vernon Townsend, Don Dillman, John Parker and Joy Thompson. Mayor Dave Ingersoll, City Administrator Jill Cornett, City Attorney Ron Holliday, Chief of Police David Vincent, and City Clerk Beth Kar were also present. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall February 15, 2013. The meeting was audio recorded.

Approve Agenda

Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the agenda as posted. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Minutes – February 7, 2013

Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the minutes of February 7, 2013 as submitted. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Public Testimony -- No public spoke.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dave Ingersoll reported that JJ's exploded in downtown Kansas City; someone hit a gas main with a back hoe. The big thing in Savannah is the approaching snow storm. City crews are ready. Mayor attended the Park Board meeting. It was a good meeting and the City Administrator will be updating Council in her report with the good news on the pool.

Police Chief's Report

Chief David Vincent reported on the police department arrests and investigations since the last meeting. The officers are preparing for the snow storms. Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the Chief's report. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

City Administrator's report

City Administrator Jill Cornett reported:

OLD DEBT COLLECTION -- The City has been working to collect outstanding bills due from utility customers. The City often finds that customers who move away still have a balance due. When the City finds them at their current address, the customers are billed for any outstanding balance, no matter how long ago it was incurred. From an outstanding debt balance of approximately \$100K, staff has successfully collected nearly \$5K this past year. This is for water already delivered, as the City bills in arrears. Cornett checked with United Electric and Bethany, Albany and Platte City to see how they handle the same. Both will collect unpaid bills for as far back as they can track them. Staff recommends pursuit of collections as long as possible. The City can write them off the accounts receivable, removing them from the list of assets, but it is still allowed to collect actual payments. Once collected the money simply goes into operating cash. Council needs consensus on a policy for this, and then the policy will be developed and integrated into our City Code. The City needs to set up a policy on how far back to collect debt. And whether the debt has to be paid before a new deposit is taken. The auditor will likely recommend writing older debts off the financial books. Mayor Ingersoll thought there was enough confusion that the City needs to pull this out and clean up the ordinance. Council decided to wait until after the auditor's report and his recommendations. John Parker motioned to bring back an ordinance or resolution on this topic at a later time. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

BIDS ON SALE OF POLICE CAR -- City received two bids for the police car, with the highest bid being \$700. Staff recommended selling the police car to Jerry Brunk for \$700. Joy Thompson left the room due to conflict of interest. Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the highest bid. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 3 yes votes. John Parker would like to see all of the bids when the City receives bids. Joy Thompson returned.

NORTHWEST MISSOURI DWI TASK FORCE RESOLUTION -- In December Chief Vincent described to the Council an opportunity to become a participating member of the Northwest Missouri DWI Task Force. Based on Council response, staff drafted a resolution to be read this evening that would authorize a memorandum of understanding that the City of Savannah will participate. The City of St. Joseph is the lead agency responsible for the organization, paperwork and other coordinating activities of the effort.

UPDATE ON POOL CONSTRUCTION -- Park Board voted to include the "Family Restroom" alternate bid item in the construction at a cost of \$11,000. Fortunately, the contractors believe the main drain of the pool is intact except for a minor hydrostatic valve that should be replaced. This is the part that failed last year, causing the huge loss of water. Replacement of the valve is very inexpensive and will not compromise the total cost of construction. Water Superintendent Dale Watson described it as a relief valve that was stuck open.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND PRICING ON PUMP REPAIRS -- When the City wastewater treatment plant pumps fail, staff often call Savannah Machine to make the repairs on an emergency basis. Savannah Machine has also been contracted in the past to perform work related to the removal and installation of pumps and other equipment. Savannah Machine was instrumental in getting the pumps at the Golf Course up and running. Staff recommends bidding this work out for a year-long pricing agreement. This formalizes the contract and eliminates the need for a separate "contract" for each repair service. This also would lock in pricing for one year, with options for two

additional years. Vernon Townsend motioned to bid out repairs. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

WEBSITE DESIGN -- Municipal CMS has begun working on the home page design for the City's website. Only one of Council returned the form providing input into the design. Staff has also made recommendations, based on how the public might benefit from certain elements on the front page. Council packets contain a sample of the design that was deemed to be most usable and best reflects the City.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING MO SB 13 -- Region D Waste Management District has asked for the City's support in opposing Mo. Senate Bill 13, which would cut funding statewide to the waste management districts and effectively halt their operations. Vernon Townsend is the City's representative to Region D. He asked Cornett to place a resolution of opposition to SB 13. That resolution is in the packets and on the agenda for this meeting. Vernon Townsend provided feedback. The fear is that items will be taken to the country again if the recycling efforts are taken away, redirecting the funding. The money that has been distributed to districts would be at the Jefferson City level and communities would have to go to the state and ask for funding and grants.

FINALIZING AUDIT REPORT -- Cochran Head Vick has indicated that a few last-minute items are required from the City before a final report will be available to Council. The audit report is "due" within six months of the new fiscal year. Traditionally, the City has requested that report no later than end of February; however, it isn't actually required until the end of March. In the next few days we will have a firm date for its presentation to Council. Cornett will update Council as she learns more. Due to the large amount of information expected from Cochran Head Vick, Cornett would recommend a special meeting, rather than attempting to present all the information during a regular council meeting. She will talk to Cochran Head Vick and get an update.

John Parker motioned to approve the City Administrator's report. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Treasurer's report -- City Administrator Jill Cornett reported on January's financial statements. There are two corrections: on the bottom of page 1 under sales tax, the dates on headers 2012 and 2013 should be switched. On the second page under Wastewater, it should read "**In 2013**" the balance was \$173,936.69. Cornett talked about putting asphaltting Ironwood and Barkley out to bid. Don Dillman motioned and Vernon seconded to get bids for Barkley and Ironwood. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. Joy Thompson motioned to approve the Treasurer's report with the two corrections. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Building Inspector Update -- Building Inspector Gene Grossman provided an update on nuisances. The Chinese restaurant is in the process of cleaning up. Grossman understands why some people feel there is abuse of the money distributed on recycling grants. The owner of the recycled taxi got \$11,000 but he has yet to do anything with it and he hasn't contacted local Region D Recycling. Grossman has spoken with the landlord Gary Swanson. Swanson should be back in town in a few weeks then will follow up. Construction is starting up with new homes in the area. The City may look at annexation in the future. John Parker mentioned the house at

2nd and Price appeared to be boarded up. Gene talked to the owner and it had been trashed with a pile of crap inside. It was boarded up as the windows were broken.

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Resolution 2013-4 Opposition to Senate Bill 13 and Support for Solid Waste Districts -- Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the Resolution 2013-4. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Resolution 2013-5 Northwest Missouri DWI Task Force -- Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the Resolution 2013-5. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Bill 2013-6 Approving the City Administrator's contract. John Parker had concerns on the wording of the contract so would like to table the matter, and he motioned to have an executive session to clarify it before it is voted upon. As written today he would abstain from voting on it. Townsend mentioned couldn't really abstain on it. Parker motioned to go into executive session later on the agenda. Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Second Public Testimony -- No testimony.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Don Dillman attended the Golf Committee meeting. The Committee is adding a surcharge fee for water since the Course has to buy water from the City during times of drought. Fees are established by ordinance. In order to change the existing ordinance, Council will need a new ordinance. There are other courses in the area that are charging a fee to pay for excess water bills due to the drought.

Vernon Townsend reported he will take back the City's opposition to Senate Bill to Region D. He thanked city crew for keeping the streets clear. He encouraged police to make sure parking around the Square is cleared. The City is in a much better financial position now so Townsend would like to see the City put in a sidewalk next to Minnie Cline on the south side. His thought it would help eliminate some of the traffic of parents dropping off kids because there now is no sidewalk for the kids to walk on when coming to school. Townsend saw a guy burning trash this weekend.

Joy Thompson stated it was brought to her attention that former Savannah Mayor, Don Bowland's, funeral was on Monday, which was a holiday. She asked who dug graves and handled the funeral burial. Cornett explained they don't dig graves on holidays. The family ended up wanting burial on Saturday. There is an ordinance against having burials on holidays. Every funeral home has a list of City holidays. Thompson asked if we are still looking at having a spring cleanup.

Vernon Townsend saw comments on Facebook about dog droppings in town. He stopped by

Clawfoot store and they provided free dog baggies to pick up droppings. They wanted to know if the City would be interested in putting up dog baggy stations around the town.

John Parker motioned to go into Executive Session for Personnel 610.021 (3) and Joy Thompson seconded. Thompson: aye; Parker: aye; Townsend: aye; Dillman: aye. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- 610.021 (3)

City Administrator Jill Cornett left the meeting. No motions were made in Closed Session. Vernon Townsend motioned to go back into open session and Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 ayes. City Administrator Jill Cornett returned to the meeting.

Bill 2013-6 Approving the City Administrator's contract was read for the second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2593

This ordinance approves the contract with City Administrator Jill Cornett. Vernon Townsend motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2593. Don Dillman seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Townsend: aye; Parker: nay; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

City Administrator Jill Cornett thanked Council for approving her contract and would like to have a meeting after the April election to determine Council's priorities.

Adjournment

No further business to discuss. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. on a motion by Vernon Townsend and seconded by Joy Thompson. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Dave Ingersoll, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Beth Kar, City Clerk