

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 18, 2013
PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Dave Ingersoll presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance

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 March 15, 2013. The meeting was audio recorded.

Approve Agenda

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

Minutes – March 4, 2013

Vernon Townsend motioned to amend the Council meeting minutes of March 4, 2013 to add his verbatim statement from during the State Audit presentation; after Mayor Dave Ingersoll spoke about the Park Board, Townsend stated: “I think it would help us to begin a healing process because there are so much divided issues in that regard that we do need a healing process. And that’s one of the reasons why I look forward to your report because being a something of a bridge.” Townsend’s motion included approving the minutes with this amendment. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 3 yes votes; 1 no. Parker said he voted no because he didn’t have a copy of the Townsend’s statement.

Mayor Dave Ingersoll pointed out that the City audio records the Council meetings and everyone is verbatim on the recording if someone wants to listen to it.

Public Testimony -- No testimony.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Dave Ingersoll reported that everything he wants to discuss is already in the City Administrator’s report.

Police Chief’s Report – Chief of Police David Vincent reported a list of incidents. The investigation continues on the robbery at Shop & Hop with no arrests at this time. The day after the robbery he and Lt Lundy responded to a report of two suspicious suspects. In pursuit, Vincent injured his foot. March 11 Vincent attended a conference with Chiefs and Sheriffs from the area with Governor Nixon. The importance issue was that there are a lot of people on Medicaid with mental health issues who would not get services without the funding on the upcoming bill. March 8 & 13, the police investigated internet crimes with a total loss of approximately \$17,000. John Parker motioned to approve the Police Chief’s report. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

City Administrator's report

City Administrator Jill Cornett reported:

BID RESULTS: LABOR FOR WASTEWATER PUMPS – The City received one bid for hourly labor on the pumps at the Wastewater Facility and Lift Stations in the amounts listed in the Bid Tab in your packet. The sole bid received was from Savannah Machine. Staff recommends awarding the pricing agreement with Savannah Machine for one year with two annual renewal options.

BID RESULTS: ANNUAL INSPECTION OF WATER FIELD WELLS AND PUMPS – The City received one bid for the annual inspection of the Amazonia Water Wells and Pumps in the amount of \$975 per pump for inspections, and \$225 per pump for oil change and packing. The sole bid received was from Layne Water Resources. Staff recommends awarding the annual inspection for one year: \$975 x 3 pumps. Don Dillman motioned to approve Layne's bid for well and pump inspections. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. John Parker asked if Council would review this agreement each year. This will be the first year the City has had an outside company do the inspection. Currently Water Superintendent Dale Watson has been handling the inspections and maintenance. Watson thought the service agreement may not need to be done every year; it could be every other year.

UPDATE ON POOL CONSTRUCTION – Pool updates include: the underground plumbing installed; above ground plumbing in progress; bathhouse framing, water supply, and electrical work in progress at bathhouse. The construction is on schedule and doing well. Estimated opening date: July 1. Kevin Rost, pool construction architect, was laid off. Rost was the most recent hire at Ellison Auxier. Ron Auxier is taking over the pool project oversight.

ESTABLISH PREPAID POSTAL ACCOUNT -- Each month the City cuts a single check to cover the cost of postage for mailing utility bills. The average cost per month is \$560. The City can establish a deposit account at the Post Office, eliminating the need for a single check each month. Staff recommends depositing a total sum of \$7000 with the US Postal Department to cover one year's worth of postage. Each month the actual cost of that month's postage will be pulled from the account to cover water bills. This saves staff time and money used to determine the cost of mailing, cut checks and get signatures. Vernon Townsend asked if the City had investigated the USPS website and getting stamps online. The City doesn't use stamps for mailing utility bills. The bills are taken to the post office. John Parker asked how much of the \$7,000 budget had much had been used this year so far. John Parker motioned to create an account using the existing balance of the budgeted figure to finish out the year. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

ESTIMATED WATER BILLS LAST MONTH -- When the City installed the new Neptune server for the automatic meter reading software and data, there was a significant delay in the software upgrade. The delay was caused by the difficulty in determining the correct IP address for the data transmission, as well as inclement weather that prevented the technicians from getting to City Hall to fix the problem. In order to complete the billing for last month's water, Staff estimated water usage based on an average of the previous 12 months. Estimating kept the bills down to a 30-day average usage, rather than a late billing, which would have resulted in several additional days usage and higher utility bills. The next billing cycle will "true up" the

actual usage. Staff does not anticipate this being an issue in the future, as it was limited to the installation of a new server and a software upgrade.

GOLF COURSE FEE SURCHARGE FOR WATER -- The forecast for the Spring and Summer of 2013 is a continuation of the current weather patterns of drought. The Golf Course spent considerable money and effort last year installing a water supply line to refill the lower pond where the main irrigation pump is located, with City Water. The pond was filled and then the irrigation system carried the water throughout the Golf Course. In order to defer the additional cost of this drought, the Golf Committee is requesting an upcharge of \$50.00 on all memberships and \$1.00 on all Green Fees until the drought is over. Golf Course Manager Mark Christopher estimates the cost of City Water for irrigation for 2013 will total \$50,000 - \$60,000, based on an estimated cost of \$7,000 per month for 8 months. Last year the Golf Course implemented an irrigation program in September and used a very limited amount of water only on tee boxes and greens. Total cost for that short time was \$7000. Irrigation must begin soon in order to implement a seeding and fertilizing program. Spring irrigation is important to the new growth of grass, particularly on the greens and tee boxes, but in the fairways, practices green and garden boxes, as well.

The Golf Course is self-supporting, without any taxes or transfers from the General Fund. Additional costs for watering must be captured through additional revenues. There is an ordinance in the Council packets to approve the temporary 2013 upcharge. Golf Course Manager Christopher reported many courses in the area are adding the fee; Moila's course is looking at \$250 assessment. John Parker asked about the ordinance; it says a temporary fee. Who will say when the drought is over? The Golf Committee will make the recommendation when to remove the fee. Parker asked if Savannah's proposed charge is a legitimate figure since other courses are charging more. At this point the Golf Course feels the proposed fees will be sufficient. The Course does not want to make golfing not affordable or to lose revenue on daily golfing or memberships. Last year there were 22,000 to 23,000 rounds which were down from the previous year. Joy Thompson asked if the increased cost hurt the course. If the course greens would die, that would be very costly to replace. The greens need water.

MDNR SITE INSPECTION OF SAVANNAH LANDFILL -- On Thursday, March 14, Director of Public Works Kenny Lance and Cornett accompanied inspectors from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) on a tour of the closed landfill off D highway. The landfill appears to be in satisfactory condition. No immediate remediation is required. MDNR will follow up with a formal report to the City, which will be shared with the City Council. The City has sufficient funds in the required Financial Assurance Instrument ("FAI") to satisfy MDNR requirements. Additionally, the requirements decrease each year and money may be used for other solid waste projects, such as a Spring Cleanup. Reminder: This property actually belongs to Andrew County. Once MDNR has deemed it in "post-closure," the County will be responsible for determining a land use plan. She asked MDNR about the 30 year closure. The representative said the City will need an engineering firm to say it's clean and take a core sample; it's hard to find an engineering firm to do that. The formal, official post closure date is 2027.

PARK BOARD MEETING -- The Park Board meeting on Wednesday, March 13, was short. The focus was on the update of pool construction. The meeting adjourned about 7:50 p.m... After adjournment, quorum remained and a group began discussing new business regarding leash laws and dogs running in the parks. Cornett recommended that Park Board either reopen the official meeting or hold off on business until the next meeting. The Missouri Sunshine Law prohibits

quorum discussion after a meeting is adjourned and minutes are no longer being taken. Cornett reminded Council, Council liaisons to Boards and Committees: All appointed boards are considered public governmental bodies and are held to the same laws and standards as the elected Council. Meetings are public events. That is why agendas are posted and minutes are taken. It allows the public to know what's going on even if they cannot attend.

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

Treasurer's report – Cornett spoke with the City's auditor, Michael Keenan. The City is still obligated to put aside more money in reserves for the 2004 and 2007 bond issues. The City's water rate increase was not going to solve the problem in one year. The City still needs to catch up on the reserves. The City needs to look at raising the amount of money put into the debt reserves to reach the thresholds. Until caught up, this shortage will be a finding each year from the auditor. Joy Thompson asked if there are monies at the end of the year that is extra, can the City add that in reserves. Yes. After the election, staff will look at the next 5 months including the approved rate increase of water in May. The City will also be looking at refinancing the water bond debt. Mayor Ingersoll reminded everyone that the City is still not funding capital improvements. John Parker asked about the 2004 and 2007 water debt and reserves. Why was that money not restricted before? When Cornett started her position as City Administrator, Council perceived the City as one pool cash account and there was not a lot of focus on the individual funds. From the water rates study with Carl Brown, the City knew it would not be able to catch up the reserves all in one year. When Jack Dillingham, the City's financial advisor, comes back to talk about refinancing, he will want to look at the reserves. The goal is that the City holds the reserves so at the very end there is enough to make the final payment. Vernon Townsend asked about Carl Brown's report, did he factor in the amount that would come out of the rate increase that would go into reserves and capital improvements. Mayor Ingersoll responded that it is a process that will take time. Cornett reported she will be meeting with the auditor this week and hopes to get a date when the final audit will be presented.

In the Treasurer's Report, City Administrator Jill Cornett provided the highlights of the February financial statements. Mayor Ingersoll asked about monies on the East Main grant. Cornett explained the grant process. Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION

Bill No. 2013-7 authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with Savannah Machine was for the first reading.

Bill No. 2013-8 drought Charge Added to Golf Memberships was read for the first reading.

Second Public Testimony

Greg Wilson asked about the golf course water issue. He wanted to know instead of spending money on city water, if there was the capability of drilling wells, which could make more sense. Golf Course Manager Mark Christopher had called state. There were funds at one time but funds are depleted. Mayor Ingersoll told about when he was Mayor before the City had tried to drill a well to help with water usage but it did not work out. It had lowered the pond.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Joy Thompson received several calls on the estimated water bills. She attended the Park Board meeting. She sent in a work order to City Hall for potholes and an abandoned car and was pleased how quickly both items were resolved.

John Parker received calls about the water bills being estimated. He believed once he was able to explain why bills were estimated, people were comfortable and satisfied.

Vernon Townsend had four or five people comment about the water bills being estimated. He explained the situation and they were satisfied. He noticed the cold and asphalt patch in front of the dog grooming place and the street looked better.

Don Dillman received a call about the estimated water bills.

Mayor Dave Ingersoll asked if anyone noticed the article in the News Press about the City of St. Joseph having problems collecting delinquent sewer bills.

Vernon Townsend was at King City; the water there had a horrible smell but looked clean. They are having a lot of problems with their reservoir being low. It made him think about how lucky Savannah is to have the water we have and the personnel that do a good job.

Adjournment

No further business to discuss. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 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