

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
PROCEEDINGS  
OCTOBER 1, 2012  
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 on September 28, 2012. The meeting was audio recorded.

**Approval of Agenda**

Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the agenda as posted. John Parker motioned to amend the agenda and read Bill 2012-37 and Bill 2012-38 only for the first reading, instead of the first and second readings as posted, because he thought neither bill was an emergency where it needed to be read twice at the same meeting. Don Dillman seconded Townsend's motion. Vote on Townsend's motion: 2 yes (Dillman, Townsend); 2 nay; (Parker, Thompson). Mayor Ingersoll broke the tie by voting nay. Motion failed to approve the agenda as posted. Joy Thompson seconded John Parker's motion to amend the agenda. Vote: 3 ayes; 1 nay (Townsend). Motion to amend the agenda passed. Dillman asked why Bill 2012-37 and Bill 2012-38 had been posted for first and second readings. City Administrator Jill Cornett responded that each bill helped Building Inspector Gene Grossman proceed on zoning issues.

**Minutes – September 25, 2012**

Joy Thompson motioned to approve the minutes of September 25, 2012 as submitted. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Public Testimony**

Mike Yuille, Park Board Vice President, reviewed Ellison Auxier's proposal on the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an A&E firm (architectural and engineering) working on the reconstruction and repair of the City's swimming pool. The City only received one proposal but had provided the request information in several places including the City's web site, Facebook, and MML web site as well as in the newspaper. The City received phone calls about the project but it is a smaller scale project and some of the larger construction companies were not interested. Ellison Auxier is a local company and has employees who live in Savannah. Yuille encouraged Council to consider passing the ordinance to approve Ellison Auxier's RFQ on the pool engineering. Mr. Auxier and Kevin Rost, of Ellison Auxier, were present at the meeting.

Laura Muse attended the meeting with her daughters who are members of Savannah Swim Team and who use the local swimming pool. Kids would be disappointed if the pool does not open next year. She would like to see the City move ahead with the project.

**Rafael Perez Ascencio, Request for Retail Liquor by the Drink Resort License for Senior Barrigas restaurant, 107 Hwy 71**

Ascencio was present. He has experience with restaurants and has worked at El Maguey restaurant in St. Joseph since 2002. Don Dillman motioned to approve the request for Senior Barrigas restaurant to have a Retail Liquor by the Drink Resort License. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. The restaurant hopes to be open in November.

**Tom Alley, U.S. Solar – Presentation on Solar Panels**

Tom Alley's company U.S. Solar put solar panels on the new Andrew County jail. He offered to look at the City of Savannah's locations and research how the City can save on electricity by using solar panels. Alley would need copies of the City's electric bills. Then he would provide a cost analyst for the best locations to install the panels. Potential locations would include the Clasbey Center, Golf Course Pro Shop, and Water and Wastewater Plants. The City's electric company KCPL covers many of the charges. Payback is generally after 2 ½ to 3 years. Mayor Dave Ingersoll recommended allowing U.S. Solar to do an assessment for the City and attack the highest bills first. Don Dillman asked about solar power to heat the City's pool. Currently if the outside is not above a certain temperature, the pool does not open. Vernon Townsend commented it would be a way to extend the season. Dale Watson reported that everything at the water plant is 3 phase. Alley said that is not a problem. Alley described that he would have to put a disconnect switch at each meter for the City's electric company so if the power goes out, the energy does not backfeed into the system. Mayor Ingersoll described the 33 solar panels installed on his roof. His meter used 208 kilowatt hours but produced 73. Vernon Townsend motioned to allow Alley to do preliminary research on solar power for the City's facilities. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. If the City moves ahead with solar panels, the project will be bid out.

**Ron Clark – Law Enforcement**

Ron Clark wanted Council to look at the structure of the City's law enforcement. The Andrew County Sheriff is in charge of the whole county. He felt there were competing agencies for police service (City and County) in the City. He would like Council to see if the City is able to rely more on the Sheriff's department since the County has an updated new facility, and thus reduce the City's law enforcement budget by a great deal. Mayor Ingersoll asked Police Chief David Vincent for comments. Vincent disagreed with the term "competing." It is not a game. Vincent described that City Attorney Ron Holliday made a point earlier: what if there was an accident and only two County police cars on a road? How would he propose the sheriff cover the whole City? Ron Clark responded that the sheriff takes the oath to serve and protect the whole county. Clark does not have anything against the City police department. As it is now, he felt citizens were paying twice for law enforcement. Vernon Townsend commented that the City's police budget comes out of property tax collections and he did not think Clark would find a city in the state of Missouri that would fall into line with that thinking. Joy Thompson reminded him that Andrew is a big county with outlying areas like Helena and that would be a lot to ask for the Sheriff to take care of. Ron Clark thought it appeared to be a money saver. John Parker asked what the sheriff said about this suggestion. Ron Clark thought he was sure the Sheriff would balk and want to keep their money for their domain. Ron Clark had suggested this idea to the Mayor. Mayor Ingersoll thought it was good to evaluate what the citizens expect from the police and sheriff's departments. He had spoken earlier to Chief Vincent about it. The City does not pay for the jail or dispatcher. John Parker commented he slept easier knowing if he

needs a police officer; the officer doesn't have to come from a distance outside the city like from Helena. Chief Dave Vincent reported there are more crimes in the country. The City has the same number of officers as in 1987 and has more crime than in 1987. Mayor Ingersoll wondered what the local businesses would think. Joy Thompson is a local business owner who is not located downtown and appreciates officers nearby.

### **Mayor's report: Board Appointments and Resignations**

Mayor Dave Ingersoll reported:

**Planning & Zoning** – Zoning member Carolyn Dick has not been able to attend the Planning & Zoning Commission for over a year. She cannot attend but did not want to give up her position on the commission. Mayor Ingersoll wanted to remove her and replace her with Ron Clark. Clark is a retired Mo-Dot employee so has experience that fits into Planning & Zoning. Don Dillman motioned to remove Carolyn Dick from the Planning and Zoning Commission and replace her with Ron Clark. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Park Board** -- Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the resignation of Janice Hatcher from the Park Board. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 3 yes votes; 1 no: Thompson. Thompson stated that it did not feel right that Hatcher resigned.

### **City Administrator's Report**

City Administrator Jill Cornett reported:

**SLURRY SEAL PARK STREET** -- The 2013 Budget included the slurry seal of Park Street, from Hwy 71 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace. Staff requests Council approval to solicit bids for said project. Estimated cost: \$13,000. Vernon Townsend motioned to bid the slurry seal on Park Street and Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**UPDATE ON WASTEWATER PROJECTS** – The latest update on Wastewater projects is:

1. Drained east oxidation basin and discovered head pipes were split and required immediate replacement. Work scheduled for October 1. The City will have more information by the end of day, October 1.
2. New submersible motive pump will be installed by next week. Installation should go well. Cost =\$8711.

**UPDATE ON BANYON STREET** -- Concrete work is completed. Finished work includes “feathering” new asphalt between the concrete and existing asphalt to create a smooth transition area so cars do not bump hard from one level to the other. Andrew County requested assistance from the City, but the City does not have the proper asphalt rolling equipment to perform the work. Andrew County will seek a contractor to finish the job.

**UPDATE ON OLD WATER PLANT** – Cornett had conversations with Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) who suggested the City may drain the old water plant's water tank and demolish it without an extensive engineering study. The City would have to acquire land disturbance permits and ensure that no asbestos is present in the facility. Water Superintendent Dale Watson did not think asbestos was present. MDNR would like a formal

letter from the City with assurances that no asbestos is present. City staff can look for any areas of concern. Vernon Townsend's concern is that when the old water plant building is taken down that there is no disturbance to the dam. Cornett did not believe the City needs to take down the building. She is more concerned about standing water in the tanks. The City could look for a demolition firm that might trade services for the scrap metal but that would not take place until at least next spring.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING** -- Jerry Baker will provide a training session on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., Clasbey Kitchen. Grilled food will be provided and it will be casual. Mayor Dave Ingersoll is refereeing a football game so will not be available before 7:30 p.m. He will get there as soon as possible.

**IDEAS & INFORMATION FROM MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE**  
Cornett and Deputy Clerk Brooke Bell attended the MML conference. Cornett's insights from the conference included three items:

**1) WEBSITE** -- The Conference featured vendors/contractors whose services focus on city government. Several website design and maintenance companies were present. Cornett would like for Council to consider requesting bids for the design, construction and infrequent upgrades of a better City website. The City continually struggles to share information with citizens and businesses. A fully functional website, including downloadable documents and forms, brochures, and a dynamic calendar would enhance our communication with citizens. Most communities Savannah's size, with no IT department, must contract for this service. Once set up, the vendor can instruct City staff on how to post new information, documents, etc. Someday people may be able to download audio from Council and committee meetings. Vernon Townsend commented that doing this would be the right step. Joy Thompson wondered if there was someone in Savannah who could provide web design. Cornett would not contract with someone without putting it out for bid. John Parker felt it was beneficial to look at costs and see who is available.

**2) WASTEWATER AFFORDABILITY** -- Missouri Public Utility Alliance presented EPA plans to tighten wastewater operations. Concerns were:

- sanitary sewer overflows
- bypasses at wastewater treatment plants
- use of stormwater clarifiers

Solving the inflow and infiltration (I &I) problem is expensive. In 2013 the City needs to begin working on I&I repairs. The City may be able to take advantage of personnel cost savings and reallocate to infrastructure repairs.

**3) SALES & PROPERTY TAX REVENUES** -- This was a common theme, especially among larger cities. Lower tax revenues, resulting in service cutbacks, layoffs, and project deferrals was a problem for many cities. Savannah has been fortunate. Economic Development is very desirable in order to increase sales tax and property tax allowing for more street improvements, park improvements and public safety. Mayor Ingersoll reminded everyone of the need to keep an eye on sales tax revenue and not to spend money we don't have.

**ORDINANCES ON THE AGENDA:** There are three ordinances on the agenda.

**1) Ordinance Revising Requirements for Secondary Driveways --** Planning & Zoning Commission recommends revising requirements for “secondary” driveways, stating that hard surfaces extend either ten feet from the street edge into private property, OR two feet from the interior edge of sidewalk into private property. Ordinance is in each packet.

**2) Ordinance Revising Chapter 77 “Rate Schedule” --** Planning & Zoning Commission recommends including fees for:

“Foundation repair or replacement” = \$30.00

“Interior Walls” (if walls are moved or added) = \$30.00

There was nothing for either of these items in the current schedule.

**3) Ordinance Approving Contract with Ellison Auxier--** The City received one set of qualifications from one architectural firm, Ellison-Auxier of St. Joseph. Savannah advertised RFQ in the newspaper. Also Yaeger Architects in KCMO (designed Schlitterbahn) was called. Two firms asked for more information, but did not bid. This project is small in scope and specialized. Ellison-Auxier is qualified. Staff recommended awarding the project to EA.

### **RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT 2012 ICC Codes**

Planning & Zoning Commission recommends adopting 2012 ICC CODES for:

- Building
- Residential
- Mechanical
- Plumbing
- Fuel Gas
- Existing Building
- Electrical

Building Inspector Gene Grossman can explain the advantages and opportunities. Council may wish for deeper discussion before making a decision. No ordinance was presented tonight.

**RECOMMENDATION TO CONSIDER A SIXTH POLICE OFFICER –** The International Association of Chiefs of Police recommends 2.1 officers per 1,000 residents. Savannah has less than half that number. For comparison: Bethany, (population. 3,200) has 1 chief, and five officers. Savannah has one policeman on duty at most times. There is no back-up in event of an emergency. Also, there is no officer to respond to second call and no time to conduct investigations. Only one officer to manage school traffic for three large schools is insufficient. Scheduling five officers to cover holiday and vacation has become a burden. If one officer becomes ill during a holiday or vacation, reserves are called in if any are available. The City spent \$10,000 on overtime and reserves last fiscal year. A full-time officer salary and benefits would cost approximately \$34,000. Additional traffic patrols and citations would help offset this cost. Chief Vincent can speak on other concerns regarding a small police force. Cornett reminded that Economic Development is the key to increasing tax revenues to support public safety. Cornett asked Chief of Police David Vincent for any more feedback. Vincent talked about three school campuses being in the City. He read off the numbers: there are over 2,000 people in 3 buildings. Vincent would love to see Savannah have an investigator with investigation as his main focus. Savannah is more of a reactive department. If an officer has time to follow up he does; if not, he goes onto the next call. It’s all about manpower. Cornett described the earlier layoffs because the General Fund was paying for the water and wastewater debt. Savannah needs to be recruiting businesses. DREAM is no longer active but a new program like the state’s Main Street Initiative is more possible. Don Dillman suggested

contacting electric company KCPL and see if they can talk about what they offer. Joy Thompson described how Annette Weeks, Great Northwest Enterprise Facilitation, works with new and existing businesses. Thompson suggested the City, Weeks and the Chamber of Commerce need to work together on economic development. Mayor Ingersoll recommended adding Andrew County to the group. Regarding a 6<sup>th</sup> police officer, City Administrator Jill Cornett suggested looking at the City's revenues and expenses after 3 months (after the start of the new calendar) and see how much property taxes and sales taxes revenue have been collected. Mayor Ingersoll reminded that the City would have to amend the budget; the City budgeted for 5 officers.

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

**Payment of Bills** -- City Administrator Jill Cornett described September's paid bills. Bills were ordered paid on a motion by Don Dillman and seconded by Vernon Townsend. Motion: to approve the payment of bills. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

### **BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**Bill 2012-36—Selecting Pool Engineer Request for Qualifications** – Vernon Townsend questioned about the pool ballot on November's election. Should the City wait to approve an engineer on the pool renovations until after the election? City Administrator Jill Cornett reported she had asked that question and Kevin Rost, Ellison Auxier, had a good answer. Rost explained that a lot of times schools bring on the engineers ahead of the campaign so they can provide material for handouts. The engineer can gather information and provide graphics ahead of the bond issue election. If that bond issue does not pass, the engineer does not get paid. Don Dillman asked if the engineers thought they would be able to see about the leak. Kevin Rost commented that's something the contractors will have to get into. Council discussed the leak in the pool and where the water was going. There is a stormwater inlet on the northwest corner of the drive. The contractor's suspicion is that is where the water has been going. There were no major cracks in the walls or in the floor. Mayor Ingersoll asked what happens if the repairs end up being fairly simple. Would there be a way to add something to the pool like splash park? An alternate bid could be provided if there is contingency money left at the end of the project.

Bill 2012-36 was read for the first and second readings.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2577**

This ordinance approves selecting Ellison Auxier's proposal for request for qualifications on the architecture and engineering for repairs and renovations of the City's swimming pool. Don Dillman motioned to approve ordinance no. 2577. John Parker seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Townsend: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

Townsend questioned why wasn't there adult only time at the swimming pool. This is an issue that people have asked him. Mike Yuille, Park Board, asked to clarify: did Townsend mean a portion of each hour or a separate time for adults? John Parker asked about having a day out of each month. Yuille will bring that topic up at the next Park Board meeting.

**Bill 2012-37 Amend Chapter 77 Building Permit Fees** was read for the first reading.

**Bill 2012-38 Amending Zoning Article 7 Off-street Parking Regulations** was read for the first reading.

**Second Public Testimony**

Mike Yuille, on behalf of the Parks Board, expressed appreciation that Council approved putting the pool issue on the ballot and now the approval of A & E design firm.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Joy Thompson attended the Park Board meeting, and mentioned money was transferred between funds and now the one Park fund is out of the negative. Parks have enough money for the October debt payment. Joy Thompson asked City Attorney Ron Holliday what elected officials legally do to promote the renewal of the pool tax. Holliday said they can only present the facts; they can't campaign for a ballot issue. Over the weekend, trash was not picked up on West William from 3<sup>rd</sup> to Arbor. Trash has since been picked up. John Parker asked if City picked up the trash. No Deffenbaugh picked it up.

Vernon Townsend didn't have a Region D meeting this month but will have one next month. He has a committee meeting Wednesday on the St. Joe Steering Committee on Rails to Trails to finalize the work they have been doing. He went down Catalpa after the slurry seal was put down and was disappointed at how it looked. He thought it looked like it was patched in different areas. City Administrator Jill Cornett described that City crews filled in a few holes; the colors of the street is a little bit different. Townsend had higher expectations of slurry seals like it was done in New Hampshire and was seamless like glass. It didn't have the appearance he was expecting. He checked out Banyon to see where the street stopped.

Don Dillman had nothing to report.

**Adjournment**

No further business to discuss. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a motion by Vernon Townsend and seconded by Joy Thompson. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

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Dave Ingersoll, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Kar, City Clerk