

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL  
PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2012  
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Dave Ingersoll presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members present: Don Dillman, Vernon Townsend, Joy Thompson and John Parker. Mayor Dave Ingersoll, City Administrator Jill Cornett, City Attorney Ron Holliday, Chief of Police Dave Vincent, and City Clerk Beth Kar were present. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall on August 31, 2012. The meeting was audio recorded.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Minutes – August 20, 2012 Special Meeting; August 20, 2012; August 22, 2012; August 29, 2012**

Don Dillman motioned to approve the minutes of the August 20 Special and Regular meetings, August 22, and August 29, 2012. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Public Testimony**

No public testimony.

**Mayor's report**

Mayor Ingersoll reminded everyone that the next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 25, at 7 p.m.

**City Administrator's Report**

City Administrator Jill Cornett reported:

**Delinquent Utility Payments and Penalties** – Cornett proposed to revise the City Code to read, regarding delinquent utility payments: “All bills not paid before 8:00 a.m., start of City Hall business hours, as herein provided, shall be delinquent and subject to penalty and provided by ordinance. Payments retrieved from night drop box prior to 8:00 a.m., on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month shall be credited as non-delinquent. All payments retrieved from drop box after 8:00 a.m. shall be deemed delinquent.” She asked for feedback. When should bills be due; when should they be considered delinquent and the penalty for late payment added? Bills are currently due on the 10<sup>th</sup> and penalty added on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Council discussed the due date for bills and what day and what time the penalty should be added. Cornett researched

other utilities. The places she checked had the penalty fee added to the bill immediately after the due date. Mayor Ingersoll suggested specifying a time due, like 12:01 a.m., since the City accepted payments in the drop box located at City Hall. He thought it would be a mistake to make the penalty date earlier than the 15<sup>th</sup> since many citizens were used to that date. He recommended making bills delinquent as of 12:01 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month. Don Dillman thought customers should have the extra time because of paying higher bills now. Joy Thompson wanted the bills to reflect the same information on delinquent dates on the front and back of the bill. John Parker recommended providing the issue to the Public Utility Advisory Board to review. The Board meets next week. Parker also suggested putting on the delinquent fee after 8 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Council further discussed the date bills would be due. Don Dillman described that where he works at United Electric, the bills are due upon receipt and then delinquent after the 20<sup>th</sup>. The City currently does the automatic withdrawal payments on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Mayor Ingersoll recommended keeping that date for those payments. Bills will be due upon receipt and delinquent after 12:01 a.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Public Utility Advisory Board will review that recommendation. Cornett will bring an ordinance on the issue to the next Council meeting.

**EMERGENCY OF WEST OXIDATION DITCH OLD HEADER PIPE** – At the Wastewater Plant, the end of liquid fiberglass pipe had blown out and splintered and required new piping. It is an emergency situation and the City contracted with Edward FRP from Sedalia. Estimated cost: \$3,765 for two skilled laborers and special materials. Work was to begin September 4. Vernon Townsend motioned to approve the emergency purchase. John Parker seconded. Motion carried by 4 yes votes.

**ORDINANCES** – The agenda included ordinances for East Main Street construction, Health Insurance contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Slurry Seal contract with Vance Brothers, Amending the City’s Sign Regulations, and a Resolution for Richard and Carolyn Dick’s lot split.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** -- City Administrator Jill Cornett described August’s bills. The bills were ordered paid on a motion by Don Dillman and seconded by Joy Thompson. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

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

**Discussion Items:**

**City Hall Hours** – There was the suggestion to change the hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Andrew County Courthouse closes at 4:30 p.m. and not many customers come in to City Hall between 4:30 and 5. Mayor Ingersoll explained part of the reason this item was on the agenda; it is a perceived security issue. Vernon Townsend did not want anyone left alone at City Hall with an irate customer; he thought that would be less apt to happen if there were more people at City Hall. Mayor Dave Ingersoll thought it made sense to match City Hall with the courthouse hours but the City still needs to explore security options including security cameras and a security alarm button. Ingersoll asked Police Chief David Vincent to check into fixing the security cameras and installing a system to call the dispatcher. Vernon Townsend motioned to change City Hall’s closing time to 4:30 p.m. and John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. Beginning immediately City Hall will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The 2013 budget is an ordinance on the agenda. Mayor Ingersoll thanked City Administrator Jill Cornett and City Clerk Beth Kar for their work on the budget. He has seen 8 budgets and thought this was the best one.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**Resolution 2012-7: Approve Lot Split Carolyn Dick's property at 201 North Cedar** – Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed the lot split and recommended approval. Don Dillman motioned to approve Resolution 2012-7. Vernon Townsend seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. The date on the resolution needed to be updated to 2012-7 to correct a typo.

**BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**Bill 2012-29 Change Zoning on Sign Regulations** – Bill 2012-29 was read for a second reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2570**

This ordinance amends the section Article 8 in the City's Zoning book on Sign Regulations. John Parker motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2570. Joy Thompson seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Townsend: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

**Bill 2012-30 Approving Health Insurance Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield** – Bill 2012-30 was read for first and second readings.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2571**

This ordinance approves an agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield for City employees' health insurance. Vernon Townsend motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2571. John Parker seconded. Vote: Townsend: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye; Dillman: aye. Motion carried.

**Bill 2012-31 Approving a Contract with Vance Brothers for Slurry Sealing Catalpa** – Bill 2012-31 was read for first and second readings.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2572**

This ordinance approves a contract with Vance Brothers for the slurry sealing on Catalpa Street. Don Dillman motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2572. Vernon Townsend seconded. Vote: Parker: aye; Thompson: aye; Dillman: aye; Townsend: aye. Motion carried.

**Bill 2012-32 Approving 2013 Budget** – Bill 2012-32 was read for first and second readings/

**ORDINANCE NO. 2573**

This ordinance approves the operating budget for the fiscal year 2013 beginning October 1, 2012. Don Dillman motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2573. John Parker seconded. Vote: Thompson: aye; Dillman: aye; Townsend: aye; Parker: aye. Motion carried.

**Bill 2012-33 Approving a Contract with Auxier Construction for East Main Street Extension** – Bill 2012-33 was read for first and second readings.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2574**

This ordinance approves a contract with Auxier Construction for the construction of the East Main Street extension. Joy Thompson motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2574. Don Dillman

seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Townsend: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried. Floyd Auxier, from Auxier Construction, was present at the meeting.

**Bill 2012-34 Amending Ordinance No. 2565 Lease Agreement with Football Boosters – Bill 2012-34** was read for the first reading. The second reading will be at the next meeting.

**Second Public Testimony:**

Linda Lambright thanked Council for moving forward with East Main. Joy Thompson would like to see Auxier get started immediately. Mayor Ingersoll explained the City would coordinate with the items Andrew County will be completing on the project.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Don Dillman received a call expressing confusion over when a penalty was added to utility bills.

Vernon Townsend attended the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. The correction was made on the Lot Split form for Resolution 2012-7, resolving the issue brought up at the last Council meeting. He saw the tree on 1<sup>st</sup> and Main had been nicely trimmed. There were a couple of other trees that need trimmed on Main Street. City Administrator Jill Cornett reported she received notification that the City received the TRIM grant to trim trees. Townsend commended the police department for handling the unfortunate accident the other night. He received more complaints on tall grass.

John Parker has been working with Building Inspector Gene Grossman in regards to improperly placed election signs. Grossman has talked to the property owners. Parker would like to have a notice posted with sign regulations on the City's public access TV channel 19 and in the newspaper. The signs are too big compared to comply with the ordinance. He missed the fact there was not a police department report on the agenda this evening. The police chief's report is on the second meeting of each month. Parker thanked the senior citizens for their input on the East Main Street project. The project has taken longer than it should have.

Joy Thompson received complaints about the traffic and safety when parents pick up kids after school at Minnie Cline Elementary. Recently an emergency vehicle could not go through 6<sup>th</sup> Street because of the traffic congestion. Parking is not allowed on T Highway but is allowed on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Joy Thompson expressed concern that City police officers had to be tied up every day helping with school traffic issues. John Parker felt part of the problem was that the school system changed its bussing policy and more kids were walking or being picked up by parents. Police Chief David Vincent reported there were also traffic problems when the Middle School lets out. Council discussed different solutions including adjusting the line up times. The City will work with the schools on resolving the issue.

Water Plant -- City Administrator Jill Cornett thanked Water Superintendent Dale Watson for working with Layne Christiansen on Well #2. The repair is finished and the cost came in under budget. She had the Public Works crew pull down the brass plaques from the old water plant. The plaques were presented at the meeting for Council members and will be displayed at the new water plant.

**Adjournment**

No further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. on a motion by Vernon Townsend and seconded by Don Dillman. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

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Dave Ingersoll, Mayor

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