

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2012
CITY HALL
3:15 P.M.**

Mayor Dave Ingersoll presiding.

Purpose of Special Meeting: discussion of proposed pool bond election.

Council Members present: Vernon Townsend, Don Dillman, Joy Thompson and John Parker. Mayor Dave Ingersoll, City Administrator Jill Cornett, Chief of Police Dave Vincent, and City Clerk Beth Kar were also present. The meeting was posted at City Hall August 10, 2012. The meeting was audio recorded.

Jack Dillingham, Piper Jaffray – Pool Bond Debt Service Financing

Jack Dillingham, Piper Jaffray, described a bond election for a tax levy to pay the debt service for pool renovations. He has handled the City's other debt issues. The City is at the end of the payment schedule of the current bond debt on the pool renovations from 1994. Over time the debt levy has reduced down to 0.1303 for the final year with the existing bonds paying off in March 2013. Looking at keeping the current tax levy on a 20 year payment schedule, the City has the ability to do a bond issue of \$650,000. Jack Dillingham had prepared a debt service schedule on this amount. The average interest rate is 3.65 percent. The issue would have to go to the voters. There is still time to get this on the November ballot. The County Clerk's filing deadline is August 28. It would need a 4/7's majority in order to pass. Normally the only election dates for cities is the General Election in April. In even number years cities also have August and November for bond elections. If the City opts to wait until next year, April would be the only election date available for 4/7ths majority in 2013.

Pool Bond Election Discussion

Several members of the Park Board were present. Mayor Ingersoll provided the floor to the Park Board. Janice Hatcher, Park Board member, reported that at the last Park Board meeting they approved to go for the bond issue of \$650,000. Kevin Rost, Ellison-Auxier, described the items on the proposed renovations of the pool. A few contractors had looked at the pool to give firmer numbers on the costs. Some of the items included are making the pool ADA accessible and adding a pool house, shade areas, new bathrooms, and electrical and pumping work. There would be a contingency for any unforeseen items. The idea had been raised to add a 2,000 square foot splash park. Estimated cost of this: \$250,000. It was decided to not do a splash park at this time and to stay with the \$650,000 bond issue total.

Don Dillman asked when the City has a tax issue, is there an obligation to do all of the items. Jack Dillingham answered that the wording on the ballot will dictate what the

project entails. The ballot will not have a laundry list of all of the items. It will say “for the improvements of” and reference the pool and pool facilities. Ellison-Auxier donated the preliminary engineering services. Once the bond issue is approved, engineer and construction services would be bid out. The previous renovation in 1994 was discussed. The plan is to put the issue on the November ballot and start construction in January, weather permitting. The Park Board would like construction completed in time for the pool to open for the summer. The concern is that if the pool was closed, people would go somewhere else that summer and then not come back the following summer when the pool re-opened. Todd Benson, Park Board member, wants to let the public decide if they want a pool or not. Without the money, the renovations will not be done. If the bond issue does not pass, the pool will likely close. Park Manager Donnie Knorr described a leak at the pool. The pool will need to be drained to look better at the problem.

John Parker motioned to put the pool bond issue before the citizens for the November election. Joy Thompson seconded. Don Dillman would like to have it postponed until the next Council meeting: August 20. Vernon Townsend would like to see more engineering information. Council discussed the process for selecting an engineering firm. Mayor Dave Ingersoll was under the assumption that the Park Board will recommend and Council will choose. City Administrator Jill Cornett asked what happens if the engineer reviews the pool and says the renovations will cost more than the \$650,000. Can the City decide not to do the project? Jack Dillingham affirmed that if the bonds have not been issued, the project can be stopped. Mayor Ingersoll asked Dillman if the vote was delayed what more could he learn about the project before Monday to make a decision. If there had been time, Dillman would have liked to have an independent party look at the pool. Mayor Ingersoll called for a vote.

Vote: 3 yes votes: 1 no: Townsend. Motion carried.

Adjournment

No further business to discuss. John Parker motioned to adjourn and Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Dave Ingersoll, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Beth Kar, City Clerk