

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL  
PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013  
7 P.M.  
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Connie George presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members present: Don Dillman, Greg Wilson, John Parker, and Joy Thompson. Mayor Connie George, City Attorney Emily Bauman, Lt Bruce Lundy and City Clerk Beth Kar were also present. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall on June 14, 2013. The meeting was audio recorded.

**Approve Agenda**

Don Dillman motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Resolution 2013-16 Interim City Administrator after the closed session. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Minutes – June 3, 2013; June 10, 2013**

Don Dillman motioned to approve June 3 and June 10, 2013 minutes as presented. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Public Testimony:** None.

**Neal Miller, USDA – Overview Financing Options on Storm Sirens**

Neal Miller spoke on the financing available for storm sirens under the USDA's community facility loans program. Savannah might qualify for a grant of \$8,000 to \$10,000 for the sirens project using the City's 2010 Census data, based on median household income compared to state non-metropolitan. If the City financed \$100,000 for 7 years, the current interest rate is 3.5%, which would be an annual interest and principal payment of \$16,366. USDA requires two reserves: debt service reserve and repair/replacement reserve. USDA cannot make a long term loan with a City because it cannot indebt future boards. The City would need to create a spin off not-for-profit organization. Board members would be listed by position, not by names. Savannah would pay a lease to the not-for-profit organization which would make the loan payment to USDA. He included a sample of proposed bylaws. Marshall White, St. Joseph News Press, asked if there was a time limit on the grant money. By June 30, the City would need to make, at least, a verbal commitment. July 31 is the final due date. The whole application would need to come from the not-for-profit organization. Miller described the requirements to bid out the sirens. The City would need to be careful with the wording order. Can the City begin a not-for-profit organization without making a final decision? Yes. USDA would need a written estimate before the City bids out the sirens so USDA knows how much to set aside. Don Dillman asked if the City could use the County's not-for-profit organization. Yes, but then the County would own the sirens. There are other ways to finance the project. The

City was contacted by US Bank about financing but that would not include grants. Even if the City does not buy the sirens, there could be other purchased items that would require financing. Council discussed the requirements of the not-for-profit organization. The positions would automatically be put in each year with elections, and board members would be mentioned by position such as East Ward Alderman.

**Not-for-profit** -- Joy Thompson motioned to set up a not-for-profit corporation which will include City Council members and the Mayor. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. City Attorney Emily Bauman will look through the paperwork and start the process.

**Sirens Project** -- Joy Thompson motioned to proceed with storm sirens, look at grants and USDA financing. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

### **Staff Reports:**

**Police Chief's report** -- Chief of Police David Vincent reported:

**Weather Alert Apps** – Chief Vincent is collecting information on weather alert applications for cellphones. He also provided the application from Roger Latham, Emergency Management Director, which is a free service to sign up for texts. Latham sends out pre-warnings for storm watches and other bad weather. Blue Valley provided storm siren tests last Wednesday with Mayor Connie George, Public Works Director Kenny Lance, Fire Chief Tommy George, Chief of Police David Vincent and City Clerk Beth Kar.

**Security at City Hall** – Vincent asked for Council's input on security at City Hall. It had been mentioned to put up some kind of barrier not necessarily to stop a bullet but to provide enough time to get out if needed. The only problem with a glass barrier is the perception from the community of no longer having personal access. Another option for security is to set up an alarm system including hooking up a panic button similar to what banks use. The City has a lot of historical documents that need protection too. ADT security systems are not that costly. Joy Thompson asked Chief Vincent to contact security organizations and see how much an alarm system would cost. John Parker suggested looking at adding an electric lock on the doorway where a push button from the desk can let someone in. Vincent will work with Building Inspector Gene Grossman on that option.

**Police Vehicles** – One police vehicle is in the sales tax budget at \$13,750. Vincent would like to take the 2001 Ford Expedition out of full time rotation. It does not obtain good gas mileage and gas is too expensive on it. The police are allotted \$20,000 each year out of the sales tax. The next item on tonight's agenda is to bring on a sixth officer which means needing another vehicle. Vincent requested the City approve a little more sales tax money for police vehicles for this year. The police will remove the other items that had been in their sales tax budget like firearms and Tasers. Police vehicles are \$11,500 for 2009 Impalas which are identical to what the City purchased last year. He would like to set aside the Expedition for winter time since it has four-wheel drive and if the officers have to pick up any loose dogs. It was a K-9 vehicle and would not have much trade-in value. The police left a message with Missouri State Highway Patrol in Jefferson City to see how many 2009 police cars were available but had not heard back yet. A 2010 Impala is \$12,750 but the mileage is the same on all of the cars including 2009, 2008, etc. It is cheaper to buy the 2009 with the same mileage. The auditors mentioned needing to track mileage but the odometer does not work in a few of the police cars and it is too expensive to replace. Lt Bruce Lundy's and Chief Vincent's vehicles are 2006 models, were bought new and

have approximately 77,000 City miles on each. The state vehicles are highway miles. Fords are available but the cost is significantly higher \$14,950. The Chevys are front wheel drive. When the Expedition was not available, three officers had to share one car. Would the City need additional equipment for the 6<sup>th</sup> officer? No additional costs are expected. Greg Wilson asked what else was involved with getting the new vehicles road-ready. Vincent explained that the Public Works crew would dismantle the car and take it to Haug Communications to wire it. It would cost approximately \$1200 to totally wire and ready the vehicle.

**Appointments** – Vincent has spoken before about bringing back a sixth officer. He spoke to Officer Dustin Atkins who had been laid off in April 2011. Atkins thought about it but the money is better in Jackson County at his current job. Vincent asked Council to consider hiring Officer Phillip Dalsing who has been working for Savannah four days a week for a few months and has been a part-time officer since January. Vincent has received compliments from area business people about Dalsing. He took the initiative when he started to introduce himself to area businesses and has been an asset to the department. Vincent would ask to start Dalsing full time \$25,000/year. John Parker asked if included the across-the-board raise of employees in the budget. No. A 5% increase would be \$26,500/year.

**Police Vehicles** -- Greg Wilson motioned to approve two police vehicles (2009) for a total of \$23,000, and keeping the 2001 Ford Expedition for backup purposes. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes.

**Sixth Officer** -- Joy Thompson motioned to hire Philip Dalsing as full-time police officer at \$25,000/year. John Parker asked to amend the motion to pay \$26,250/year. Don Dillman seconded. Joy Thompson asked if that is how much Officer Gary Cook makes. Cook was present and said he thought that was less than he makes. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Don Dillman motioned to approve the Police Chief's report. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Firemen Pay** -- Mayor Connie George would like to see the City firemen make the same pay per call as the Rural Fire District pays. Currently firemen receive \$15/call. Don Dillman motioned to raise firemen pay to \$20/call to match the County's rate and Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

### **Public Works Director Report –**

Director of Public Works Kenny Lance provided an update on street projects and bids.

**Ironwood** – Herzog is scheduled to start the end of June/first part of July.

**East Main** -- The contractor is waiting for it to dry out. They need to pour the apron north end of box, move the sewer. It needs to be dry to work on the back part.

**Barkley** – The City sent out bids. Due: June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Slurry Seal** –Park Street is done from Highway 71 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace. Does Council want to bid out the rest on the 2013 budgeted street program? The remaining streets are: Benton, Park, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. Of the 2013 budget, the City has spent \$16,300 and \$22,500 on the slurry seals. Joy Thompson motioned to bid out the remaining four streets in the 2013 budget street program. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Cemetery** -- Bids on cemetery roof and mower are due on June 26<sup>th</sup>. A skidloader was in the budget. John Parker asked about the road grater. Public Works uses it in the winter on streets.

Lance is currently the only operator. It is not easy to learn. There are a lot of things to watch for like manholes.

**Skid loader** -- John Parker motioned to bid out the skidloader. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. The cost will be split between the four departments that use it.

**Damaged fence by water plant** – Near the new water plant, a girl had a wreck at marker 417 and went through the City's fence. Lt Bruce Lundy received a call from the girl's mother. Do they need to pay for the damage to the fence? Water Superintendent Dale Watson reported the damage was breaking off the fence post and the top wire is loose. Watson does not see ever having livestock on the property and if the damaged portion is fixed, they would still have to fix other parts of the fence to make it work. The property is approximately 60 acres. Ralph Strasser collects the hay and has other places in the area. Strasser farmed it before the plant was there. He pays the City for the hay and rent on the land. Council discussed that since it was not a safety issue, it may not be worth replacing the fence. City Attorney Emily Bauman suggested the City could ask for restitution if the driver was ticketed. The City will find out if the driver received a ticket. John Parker motioned to charge \$100 for replacement of the post and tacking the top wire, if the driver received a ticket. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Water Superintendent Dale Watson**-- He provided information from Layne on pumps and motors inspection. Layne recommended having Well 2 cleaned. As part of the inspection, Layne checked the two high service pumps and two backwash pumps. The backwash pumps checked out okay. On Pump #1 the upper bearing had a vibration and Layne recommended pulling the motor and replacing the bearing. Estimates: \$2,100 and \$2,500 = \$4,600 from R & S Electric out of St. Joe. The repair would need to be bid out. While it is pulled, the recommendation is to also replace the lower bearing so it is reconditioned by the time it is returned.

Pump # 2 was outside the specifications a little but not bad. Recommendation is to budget this for next year. Watson described that iron in the water has a tendency to plug it up. The tests are for maximum capacity. The City is not running at maximum. The results are an indication that the gravel packet is starting to plug up. The City will need to acidize it to get to normal flow. This process needs to occur every five years. If the City does not do it next year, it definitely needs to the following year.

**Pump repair** -- Greg Wilson motioned to bid out the repair on the pump motor and Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Ground tank storage** – Cleaning the ground tank was in the budget. He had a few examples in Council packets. The tank needs to be cleaned every three to five years and it has been 4 ½ years. Inland Potables did it last time. Don Dillman motioned to bid cleaning the ground tank storage. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Paint Tower** -- The City will be bidding out for painting Savage Tower. It is in the budget. Watson provided examples with estimates. Estimate: \$130,000. Joy Thompson motioned to bid to paint the Savage water tower and Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Treasurer's Report** – City Clerk Beth Kar provided the highlights of the funds. Joy Thompson asked about the fire department's annual sales tax allotment of \$30,000. She would like to see it set aside. The amount could be put in restricted cash until the City is ready to purchase a new

truck. Don Dillman asked about the City's ISO ratings. Fire Chief Tommy George explained that the biggest part of the rating is water pressure. Savannah's rating is hurt by small lines.

John Parker motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

### **BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Bill 2013-16 Establish a Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was read for second reading, consider passage -- Don asked if Chester Baum could be put in Perpetual Care.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2603**

This ordinance pertains to establishing a perpetual care fund for the Cemetery. Joy Thompson motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2603. Don Dillman seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Wilson: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

Bill 2013-17 Amend Planning & Zoning: Accessories Structures was read for a second reading.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2604**

Don Dillman motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2604. Greg Wilson seconded. Vote: Wilson: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: nay; Dillman: aye. Motion carried.

Bill 2013-18 Change City Clerk title to City Clerk/Treasurer was read for the first reading.

### **Second Public Testimony**

Marshall White, St. Joseph News Press, asked about passing items not in the budget. Does that require a budget amendment? The City auditor and state auditor said unless the expenses for the fund go over as a whole, not on individual line items, it does not require a budget amendment.

Marshall White asked about the item on the Closed Session. If there is a specific reason for a Closed Session, doesn't that general subject have to be listed on the agenda? City Attorney Emily Bauman explained that the general nature has to be reflected, citing the statute and number, but not the specific. White responded that the listing only refers to the general; it does not say specific information. White objects to closed meetings for any purpose.

Tommy George asked about the new swimming pool. Has anything been done in the kiddie end of the City pool? His granddaughter has come back with scraped knees. Joy Thompson said it should be smoother. Mayor Connie George mentioned that the kids she watched had that problem the first two weeks but then they have gone to the pool fine since that time. Joy Thompson will check it out.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS**

**Mayor's report** – Mayor Connie George reported that she had two people complain about the cost of cemetery lots. The people bought lots in January when they were higher prices. They want reimbursed since rates have been lowered. They paid \$4775. The question would be where to draw the line. It is unfortunate but would affect anyone who bought lots the last four years. Council did not think the general public would expect it.

Mayor Connie George did a proclamation at the Pool Open House. There were over 300 people. She has received complaints about Deffenbaugh not picking up trash or recycling. All of Council also received complaints. One complaint Joy Thompson receives is about Deffenbaugh tossing the recycling in as trash. George reported the 4-H fair is on. The Draft-horse-pull was packed with 16 teams. The parade was excellent.

### **Council Discussion**

Joy Thompson reported it was a busy week with the pool grand opening, Chamber picnic and judging at the County fair. The pool open house was awesome. The Boy Scout group will paint fire hydrants and she is coordinating with Fire Chief Tommy George. The City will pay to provide the brushes and other equipment. There are ten fire hydrants to paint. She is having them weed-eat, too. She has had another group also volunteer. It is about \$35 to \$40 for gallon of paint.

John Parker stopped by the pool opening. He has received several complaints about Deffenbaugh. The City does receive a list of those who do not put out trash or other trash problems. On 12<sup>th</sup> Terrace the complaint is that they pick up the trash on the driveway and the neighbor's trash is picked up but not his trash. Parker asked if the City deducts from Deffenbaugh if trash is not picked up. Deffenbaugh has a lot of new help. John Parker would like to see the list of who did not have trash out.

Greg Wilson thought the pool was well painted and the event went well. He has received complaints about trash. He had a complaint about a dumpster where the handle was yanked out. The resident bought another dumpster and the wheels were knocked off.

Don Dillman reported the annual Lions Club Fishing Derby went well.

Mayor Connie George asked if there is anything requiring people to move a trash can out of the street after it is dumped. Building Inspector Gene Grossman will look into it.

Greg Wilson motioned to go into Closed Session for Personnel 610.021(3). Joy Thompson seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Wilson: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

Marshall White, St. Joseph News Press reporter, objected.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 610.021 (3) PERSONNEL**

The Board of Alderman may enter into closed executive session, if such actions are approved by a majority of the board members present, who constitute a quorum to discuss matters regarding personnel, the lease or sale of real estate, or legal or privileged matters under sections 610.021 (1), (2), or (3) RSMo.

No motions were made in Closed Session. Joy Thompson motioned to go back into Open Session. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 ayes.

### **RESOLUTION 2013-16 Interim City Administrator**

Joy Thompson motioned to approve Resolution 2013-16 appointing Bruce Lundy as Interim City Administrator/Police Lieutenant. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

John motioned to add to the agenda the second reading of Bill 2013-18. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2605**

This ordinance changes the title of City Clerk to City Clerk/Treasurer. Joy Thompson motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2605. Greg Wilson seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Wilson: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson aye. Motion carried.

Joy Thompson motioned to send a letter to the Edward Jones representatives who had provided the presentation at the previous meeting, thanking them for their professionalism. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Council discussed increasing City Clerk/Treasurer Beth Kar's pay for added duties. She is currently making \$37,800. Don Dillman motioned to raise her pay to \$40,000 and John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

No further business to discuss. Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m. on a motion by Joy Thompson and seconded by Greg Wilson. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

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Connie George, Mayor

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