

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
PROCEEDINGS, REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.**

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 Administrator Bruce Lundy, City Attorney Emily Bauman, Chief of Police David Vincent, and City Clerk/Treasurer Beth Kar were also present. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall on March 14, 2014. The meeting was audio recorded.

Approval of Agenda -- Joy Thompson motioned to approve the agenda as posted. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Minutes – March 3, 2014 – John Parker motioned to approve the minutes. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Water Plant Generator Bids – The City received 5 bids for the 150kw diesel generator. The generator will be on a trailer. The lowest bid \$37,000 was quite a bit less than the second lowest \$47,556. Water Superintendent Dale Watson researched the lowest bid including the model that was bid and the bidder, General Power of Doral, Florida. Through his research he discovered, the generator is a base machine and not set up to run anything else. The second lowest bid, \$47,556, from CK Power of Overland Park, is the same unit but has a bank of plug-ins and switches so it could be hooked up to power other items such as a building. In addition, General Power's model bid only had a 90 gallon fuel tank; CK Power's bid has a 229 gallon tank. It is about \$3,000 dollars for the larger fuel tank. Watson had spoken to a few other places that had used CK Power generators and the users had no problems. John Parker motioned to approve the generator bid from CK Power. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

8th & Main Street Project – There were five bidders. The City's engineer, Snyder and Associates, put together the specifications for the project. There are three boxes made of brick at 8th & Main Street. One of them has collapsed. In order to repair the one, it is best to go ahead and update all three boxes. Engineer's estimate: \$41,000. Lowest bid was M & M Utilities \$28,494. Director of Public Works Kenny Lance talked with Bruce Hanna locally who has worked with M & M. Don Dillman motioned to approve M & M Utilities bid for the street project. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Public Testimony --Bobbie Bell lives on North 6th Terrace. The house across the street from her went into foreclosure; is in bad shape with even the foundation falling apart. No one is living there. Kids have been caught throwing rocks in the windows. The City has sent nuisance notice letters on November 25th and February 28th. City Attorney Bauman will send the next letter.

City's Financial Advisor Tionna Pooler Presentation – Tionna Pooler, Independent Public Advisors, provided a status report. She is reviewing the City's water and sewer rates. Pooler described the process which starts out more general, by building models based on the rates, and then looking at future capital needs. She will be meeting at City Hall tomorrow for follow up

questions. From what she's seen, with the rate increases more recently, the City is going in the right direction. John Parker would like a strong review on the existing rates. Can the City maintain the current rates for awhile? Someday the City will have to replace water and sewer lines. It would be good to have enough reserves so the City does not have to borrow money to finance projects. Pooler will have a detailed summary after reviewing the next financial reports.

Police Chief's Report – Chief of Police David Vincent provided the 2013 statistics, explaining the types of incidents, arrests and tickets. The department expects more arrests and tickets in 2014 with the extra officer added to staff. John Parker asked about the 96 hour hold. It is normally used with suicide threats. It is time for the DWI (Drinking While Intoxicated) Checkpoint. The City has two officers on the DWI Taskforce. John Parker asked if all of the police tickets issued were considered guilty. Some were dismissed. The annual Drug Take Back program will be April 26, 10 to 2, Country Mart. Joy Thompson motioned to approve the Police Chief's report. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

City Administrator's report – City Administrator Bruce Lundy reported:

1. **Shredding** -- An online search for shredders led to a company from Lenexa, Kansas called PRO-SHRED. This company has a large truck with a shredder inside. Every four weeks the truck comes to Savannah and shreds documents for clients. When Lundy called for the next scheduled date, it was that Thursday. He provided the number of boxes the City had to shred. Pro-Shred estimated the cost at approximately \$200. Afterwards they send a document of proof that all the items have been shredded. Pro-Shred came and shredded the documents for \$245.00. Deputy City Clerk Brooke Bell attended a Clerks conference where she learned that the speaker's preferred way to dispose of legal documents is to burn them. When it is time to dispose of other documents no longer on the retention schedule, we will discuss that option then.

2. **Ted Estep Passing** -- Mr. Estep passed away March 9, 2014. Mr. Estep is a past member of the City's Tree Board and Main Street organization. We had talked about sending flowers. His obituary said not to send flowers. City Clerk Beth Kar thought about having a tree planting in his memory at the annual Arbor Day ceremony and having a sign to that effect. Council agreed. When a date is set, Joy Thompson and Gary Swanson can let the family know.

3. **Liquid Carbon Dioxide bids** -- The water plant uses about nine thousand pounds of liquid carbon dioxide a month. The state auditor wanted the City to bid out items like this that we buy regularly and that are over \$2,500 a year. Water Plant Superintendent Dale Watson called for phone bids from the two local companies. Praxair, who they normally use, bid \$.13 per pound and Poet bid \$.09 per pound. Using Poet would be a savings of about \$200 per month over Praxair. When the recent bill/invoice from Praxair came through for the last load they delivered it was at a rate of \$.24 per pound (9,000 pounds at \$2,500). Through research, it was discovered that since the City does not have a current contract with Praxair, we pay the higher rate. Lundy and Watson will start the formal bidding process right away. City Attorney Emily Bauman reviewed both quotes and explained the differences. John Parker motioned to prepare a formal bid on the liquid carbon dioxide. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

4. **Region D** – For 2014 the upcoming recycling dates include two events. The **National Drug Take Back Day** is Saturday April 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Country Mart. The **Electronics Collection Day** is May 10th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the City Lot 303 W. Price St. There is no tire collection scheduled for this year. The clothing and shoe recycling boxes are located at several locations around town: behind City Hall, behind the Police Station

and at the Andrew County Recycling Center at 11th and Davis. Region D is still hopeful a representative from Savannah will attend their meetings. The next one is April 10th at 6:30 p.m.

5. **Storm Sirens** -- Thursday the 6th was the Statewide Tornado Drill. The City's sirens did not go off as planned. Lundy called Steve from Outdoor Warning who provided the sirens. Steve came up the next Monday and found that there was a wire hooked up wrong on the solar panel so the batteries were not charging. The Minnie Cline siren had a malfunctioning receiver that he has taken off and ordered a new one. It will be fixed soon. Emergency Management Director Roger Latham said the county had some sirens that did not work either. Latham will plan an Andrew County Siren day when they are fixed. John Parker recommended when the City's sirens are fixed, don't wait for the county, go ahead and do the tests. Lundy will check with Latham. If the County's test will be within next month, testing will be coordinated; otherwise the City will go ahead with its test.

6. **Golf Meeting** -- He attended the Golf Committee meeting last Tuesday evening. The Golf Course needs to replace the vacancy left by Trevor Moss on the maintenance side. They would like an experienced Greens Keeper but are concerned about finding one at the pay they can offer. The Golf Committee discussed the High School golf team using the course and the charges. The Committee would like to cut the membership fees back \$50.00 which they added to buy water during the drought. Changing the rate would require an ordinance since the rates are set by ordinance.

7. **Bid Openings** -- There were two bid openings this week: Water plant generator and the 8th and Main storm drain project.

8. **Flag at Veterans Park** -- The flag has been put back up at Veterans Park next to City Hall. Building Inspector Mike Malhiwsky purchased some new rope and clasps. Remy Culver donated his time and the use of his bucket truck to put the rope back up on the pole. Just moments after getting it fixed we had a call from Don Lawrence in appreciation of getting the flag put back up.

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

City Attorney's report -- City Attorney Emily Bauman has been working with Utility Clerk Valorie Bush on the collections process for delinquent utility bills. Bauman provided a sample engagement letter for her to start handling the delinquent collection as well as a sample collections letter to the resident for delinquent accounts. Council will need to decide whether to have an incentive for lump sum payments. These are payments to settle the old debt accounts. Bauman would represent the City as the debt collector. John Parker's pet peeve is customers not being able to make some payment arrangements on water bills, but he understood that there would be a few that would make it bad for everyone else. The collection process gives the customer a chance to pay off the debt before they are taken to court. The State Auditor had recommended more detailed procedures for collecting delinquent bills. Bauman would receive a percentage of what was collected on a contingency basis, so she would only be paid for what she collects. State Statutes allow up to 9% interest from the date of delinquency. At the next meeting there will be an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a collections engagement letter with Bauman. City will start with bills \$1,000 and over, then work its way down to lower amounts. Don Dillman motioned and Joy Thompson seconded to create an ordinance for a collections agreement with Bauman. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

John Parker understood that Bauman represented the City on Senate Bill 764 in Jefferson City at the Capital. Bauman explained that she spoke with Missouri Municipal League Richard Sheets and attended the hearing on SB764. She spoke on behalf of the City, testified with other fourth class cities in opposition to the bill. It made her proud of Savannah's elected officials, how they respect people who speak at meetings. She gave a legal standpoint of how the bill would affect Savannah. It proposes that people could get signatures for any ordinance. No one spoke in favor of the bill except Senator Lager. The experience made her realize how much respect and how proud she is of Savannah's local government, and the way local officials conduct themselves. The bill would eliminate any decision-making power from the City government. It shifts power to the people, but without any accountability. Her job as City Attorney would switch from preventative to damage control.

John Parker motioned for Bauman to prepare a letter representing the City to the Governor requesting he veto the bill if it reaches his desk. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes.

John Parker motioned for the Mayor to send a letter to the State asking that Senator Lager be reprimanded for his disrespectful behavior during Bauman's testimony. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

John Parker asked if the session at the Capital was recorded. There was no transcript or recording as it was a hearing before a committee. Council was not happy with Lager's actions. Lager talked all during her testimony and was sitting right next to her which made it more disruptive. Because he was a sponsor, he sat at the table where each person sat who came to speak. City Administrator Bruce Lundy appreciated Bauman going to Jefferson City on this issue. It was above and beyond what is expected from a City Attorney. John Parker expressed his concern about Lager's behavior. If Bauman is needed to go down for another bill, Parker volunteered to go down too. Joy Thompson motioned to approve the City Attorney's report. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Treasurer's report – City Clerk/Treasurer Beth Kar presented the February's financial statements. The City is almost to the end of the first six months of the fiscal year (March 31). John Parker motioned to continue transferring funds from water and wastewater funds until we reach \$75,000 for the Depreciation Reserves... Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. Greg Wilson motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Bill 2014-9 Amend Purchase Policy was read for the second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2636

This ordinance pertains to adding more detail to steps to making purchases as mentioned in the State Auditor's recommendations. Don Dillman motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2636. John Parker seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Wilson: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

Bill 2014-10 Approve 8th & Main Street Project with M & M Utilities -- Greg Wilson motioned to amend the agenda and have the first and second reading for the bill. Don Dillman

seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes. Bill 2014-10 was read for the first and second readings.

ORDINANCE NO. 2637

This ordinance pertains to approving M & M Utilities for the 8th & Main Street storm drain project. Greg Wilson motioned to adopt ordinance no. 2637. Joy Thompson seconded. Vote: Wilson: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye; Dillman: aye. Motion carried.

Second Public Testimony – None.

ELECTED OFFICIALS DISCUSSION

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Connie George declared the City is under burning ban. She attended the Park Board which is getting ready for activities. City Hall is improving through the recent renovations by Building Inspector Mike Malhiwsky. She thanked Mr. Parker for filling in at the Boy Scouts event.

Council Members Discussion

John Parker read the proclamation for the Mayor honoring Troop #60 of the Boy Scouts, sponsored by the local American Legion. He asked about solar panels. Brightergy will come and talk to Council about the solar panel incentives. The credits for Well#3 was approved by the electric company, KCPL. The Andrew County Sheriff contacted City Administrator Bruce Lundy about getting Brightergy’s number; he wants to expand what they are using. Fire Chief Tommy George commented the solar panels have been at Dairy Queen for several months but just got hooked up by KCPL last week. Greg Wilson heard there are only a limited number of people who can connect solar panels.

Parker asked about the traffic cones by the manhole at 12th street Terrace and Pawnee. Wastewater Superintendent Jason Long put them there and will take care of them.

Joy Thompson attended the Park Board meeting. There are several committees looking at different activities. She asked if the City could provide a spring cleanup for residents, even if it is only branches. John Parker asked if there is a cleanup, where would it be taken. Thompson had some calls about the girl scouts cabin. She heard the City owned the cabin. Former City Administrator Jill Cornett was going to talk to someone at the Girl Scouts about maintenance. The scouts still meet there regularly.

Adjournment

No further business to discuss. Council adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on a motion by Joy Thompson and seconded by Don Dillman. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Connie George, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Beth Kar, City Clerk