

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
PROCEEDINGS REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 7 P.M.
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Connie George presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present: Don Dillman, John Parker, Greg Wilson 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 April 3, 2015. The meeting was audio recorded.

Approve Agenda – John Parker motioned to add to the agenda under Administrator’s report that Mike Malhiwsky passed his certification and to approve the agenda as amended. Greg Wilson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Minutes – March 16, 2015 – Don Dillman motioned to approve minutes as presented. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Public Testimony:

Fire Chief Tommy George announced that his retirement. April 17th will be his last day. John Parker asked if he had any recommendations for his replacement. George is not in that business. Per the agreement between the City and Rural Fire Protection District, the Rural Board decides who the Fire Chief is and the City picks the Assistant Fire Chief. George is taking vacation but will be employed with Rural until the end of April.

Huston Jacobs, a Boy Scout, was present.

Proclamation for State Wrestlers -- Mayor Connie George presented Peyton Smith and Jake Huffman proclamations for their excellent performances at the State High School Wrestling meet.

Roger Pearl – Roger and Terri Pearl were present from Shaggy Dog Pet Grooming to follow up. He asked about the status to a City Code zoning/nuisance enhancement. The Pearls have a roof leaking problem from the neighbors next door. City Attorney Emily Bauman described that the change is more of a maintenance improvement. It has been approved by Planning & Zoning. It is required to be published as a legal notice in the newspaper since it is a changing of zoning code. The change will help with enforcement on maintenance issues and include leaks. Roger Pearl thanked Fire Chief George for his service: top of the line.

Bids – 2015 Street Program – The City received two bids.

Herzog: \$183,510

Keller: \$167,200

Budgeted \$197,000

Director of Public Works Kenny Lance would like to add Twelfth Street from Chestnut to Main, which would be within the difference on the lowest bid and the budgeted amount. Ralph Stanton emailed out his concerns on fly ash and additives to asphalt. Building Inspector Mike Malhiwsky researched and those are approved additives. Kenny Lance had not experienced problems in the past; he has never seen them add fly ash. Stanton had complained about the asphalt near his home. Joy Thompson commented that Savannah’s streets are much better than St. Joseph’s streets. Lance commented eventually the City needs to do something like St. Joseph

and add a tax for bigger street renovations. Greg Wilson motioned to approve Keller's bid including the addition of Twelfth from Main to Chestnut streets to the Street program. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

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

Water Wells – Water Superintendent Dale Watson reported Well II needs cleaning and has a seal that is leaking. This is not in the budget; however, the old water plant came in quite a bit under budget. The estimate for this work is \$12,554. Greg Wilson motioned to repair Well II. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Saturday April 18th -- The Household Hazardous waste pick up provided by Region D is from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the City Barn at 3rd and Price Streets. The Run for Recess starts at 9:00 a.m. The Special Olympics track meet is also that day at the new Middle School. It is also the first day for soccer games at the youth complex and is Kenny Lance's birthday.

Arbor Day Celebration -- This year's Arbor Day Celebration is Friday, April 24th, at 12:30 p.m. The fourth grade classes from Minnie Cline and Lonnie Messbarger from the Dept of Conservation will be helping us plant four trees at the Savannah Cemetery. It is a nice event to see the kids become more educated about tree planting and care. April 25th is the planned day for the Tree Board / Main Street to plant approximately 30 trees along East Main around the Jail and the 4H property. Volunteers are invited for both projects.

Electrician -- When the solar providers inspected City Hall they pointed out electrical issues that were in need of repairs. Electrician Dennis Swink took care of these issues. He is cleaning up abandoned wiring, updating what needs updated, and installing the plug and switch on the back of the building so the generator can power the building if there is an outage.

Demolition Permits – Building Inspector Mike Malhiwsky sent out notices to four parties that had sheds or barns that were in poor condition and about to fall down. Three of the parties bought permits and tore the buildings down. The last resident came in and got a permit and was frustrated that she had to pay \$40 to buy a permit to tear down a shed that the City told her to tear down. If the demolition is required, should the permit fee be waived? He asked for discussion. Joy Thompson asked how to judge the difference between someone tearing it down and the City requiring it to be torn down. It would be different if someone removed a shed to put up something else. This change would require a city ordinance and need to be published as a legal notice. If the resident refused to tear it down, he would receive a fine. John Parker thought a time limit should be included on how many days to complete demolition/60 or 90 days. No refunds on fees. The issue will go to Zoning Commission next.

Reconnect Charge -- Every month customers' water is shut off for non-payment. This last month 26 customers were shut off. Lundy believed the majority of those customers did not pay because they did not have the money to pay the bill. The reconnect fee is \$100 to have it turned back on the same day and \$50 to have it turned back on the next day. The fees were set by ordinance. There is a perception that the water rates are high but there are a lot of factors like salaries, infrastructure, maintenance, tower painting, tank cleaning, sludge hauling etc.... that determine what that rate is. When a customer is shut off they have to pay the original bill, the 10% late fee and then \$100 reconnect fee. Is this too much from people who are already having a hard time paying the bill? Lundy asked Council to reconsider the reconnect fee charge. Would \$50 to reconnect the same day and \$25 the next day be more appropriate or other amounts? He thought even at lesser rates, the cost of workers going back out to turn the water on is still covered. It would require an ordinance to change any fees. Council discussed the shut off/turn on procedure. Director of Kenny Lance described that there are normally two people to a truck., approximately an hour to turn the water off. One person turns it back on after the bill and fees

are paid. Someone stays later on shutoff day with overtime to turn meters back on. Savannah could check and see what other cities charge. At United Electric, they charged \$75 for reconnect and this did not deter the same people. The City does not want to go back to shutting off more people each month. Greg Wilson mentioned that most water and sewer bills are about the same each month. He recommended leaving it as is.

Cemetery Bridge -- The Cemetery Bridge planks have been replaced as requested.

Signs – A couple of signs were installed. There is one more to install and then a few to order. He was contacted by the library that wanted a sign and inquired about ours. He sent her the information and asked her to contact Building Inspector Mike Malhiwsky about signs and placement before she orders anything.

Meetings -- Lundy attended the Zoning Board meeting. They have approved the new zoning map that will be coming for Council approval as soon as City Attorney Emily Bauman finishes the ordinance to adopt it completed. Lundy attended the Chamber Dinner and ribbon cutting for Snap Fitness which is a very nice facility. Lundy recently met with the PTO who has asked him to help them locate available grants for the Minnie Cline playground.

Help Wanted -- City Clerk Beth Kar and Lundy created the help wanted documents for one person for the wastewater plant and two for the water plant. They have been put on Facebook, City's web site, the Missouri Rural Water web site, and will be in the Savannah Reporter for two weeks. Applications will be accepted until May 1st.

City County Cook out -- Lundy has reserved the large upper shelter at Messick Park for the City/County cook out lunch on Tuesday, May 5th. Last year it was on the courthouse lawn but that required someone to bring out tables and chairs so we thought the Park would work out great.

East Main Seeding -- Lundy solicited phone bids for the prep and seeding of the East Main project. Remy Culver did not wish to bid. Pine Valley bid \$950 per acre @ 2- 2.5 acres; Archer Lawn Care bid over \$15,000. Courtney Ray said that he couldn't get to it for two months and that Pine Valley is a good bid. Lundy contacted Pine Valley and told them to proceed. He thought 4H may have seeded some.

Mike Malhiwsky – He attended the drinking water class and passed Drinking Water D Certification for a \$1,000 increase in salary. John Parker motioned: to approve the \$1,000 raise for Mike Malhiwsky. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Zoning Map – Planning & Zoning approved the zoning map. A legal notice needs to be published and then it will be an ordinance before Council. John Parker said there are a few changes to residential sections of the new map.

John Parker asked about the reconnecting water fees. He thought the ordinance was confusing. City Attorney Emily Bauman could reword the section about water restored the same day for \$100 and the next day for \$50. Parker disagreed with the dollar amounts but understood why they were there and didn't know of a better solution. Don Dillman asked to check with other communities on reconnect fees. John Parker asked an escalating fee. Emily Bauman offered there could be progressive amount, but there would have to be a schedule. Would the computer software would be able to even do this? Wilson commented that if a person couldn't pay his bill to begin with, it could be doing more damage by having a progressive amount.

Don Dillman motioned to approve the City Administrator report. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

City Attorney's Report – City Attorney Emily Bauman read over the Andrew County Health department letter and will the ordinance put on the agenda. It is on ordinances that cover incorporated area and does not cover the City unless a resident had septic systems. It could help if the City ever annex any areas in the future that do have septic tanks. Don Dillman motioned to approve the City Attorney's report. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Second Public Testimony -- Police Chief David Vincent reported he has served as Fire Chief Tommy George's assistant and that George has done a great job. He is hard-headed and took over the department when there was a lot of turmoil. His goal was to do what was best for both departments (city and rural) and to make sure the firemen got home safely after fires. He did a fine job with 4 stations and 48 firemen.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Mayor's report – She attended the same meetings as Bruce Lundy. She attended the Planning & Zoning meeting. Don't forget to vote tomorrow.

Council Discussion

Joy Thompson received a complaint about 12th street Terrace and Maple Terrace; next to the cones there is a hole in the street. Thompson mentioned that Savannah got 1st place and North Andrew got 2nd place in horticulture contest out of 45 teams. She is the coach and offered congratulations to the students. Does the sewer problem on 7th Street need to be on the agenda? City Administrator Bruce Lundy thought it didn't need to be on the agenda; it just needs fixed.

John Parker mentioned that his grandson was at the meeting for his merit badge requirements.

Greg Wilson had a question for City Attorney Emily Bauman. On the City Square in front of businesses, who is responsible for the sidewalks? What happens if someone gets hurt? There are some really bad areas of sidewalk on the Square, for example in front of Realty Executives and Andrew County Title. Bauman can research the liability; normally it is the building owner's responsibility. Don Dillman asked if the City could fix the sidewalk then bill the owner.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business to discuss. Council adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on a motion by Don Dillman and seconded by John Parker. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Connie George, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Beth Kar, City Clerk