

SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL
JULY 5, 2016 7:00 P.M.
PROCEEDINGS REGULAR SESSION
CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Connie George presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members present: Don Dillman, Kenny Maxwell, John Parker and Joy Thompson. Mayor Connie George, City Administrator Bruce Lundy, City Clerk Beth Kar, City Attorney Emily Bauman and Chief of Police David Vincent were also present. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall June 30, 2016. The meeting was audio recorded.

Approval of Agenda – Joy Thompson motioned to approve the agenda as posted. Kenny Maxwell seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Minutes – June 20, 2016 – John Parker motioned to approve the minutes of June 20, 2016. Joy Thompson seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Public Testimony -- Anne Davies-Speer was present with her mother and offered appreciation on the City's efforts to enforce codes on trailers. She addressed the three trailers at 3rd and South Benton next to her home. She distributed pictures and described the garbage, wild animals and other issues. The trailers were too close to her property boundaries per zoning regulations. They are 13, 14, and 9 feet from her property boundary instead of the required 25 feet minimum. Another regulation requires trailers have skirting. Trailer 2 has holes in the skirting and appears to have been abandoned since April. She has seen wild animals such as feral cats, possums, and rats. There are brush piles against her fence which is a potential fire risk. Trailer 3 has a pile where numerous cat litter boxes have been dumped. She quoted from the zoning code where trailers are required to have at least two points of egress and the ones she mentioned do not appear to meet that requirement. Davies-Speer formally requested the City address the issues and make it safer for residents and neighbors. Joy Thompson added she had smelled the stench from when she delivers newspapers. Ethel Bledsoe owns the trailers. City Administrator Bruce Lundy thanked Davies-Speer for coming to the meeting. The City will address what can be done on the issues. The trailer court is non-conforming so the City cannot do anything on the trailers distance but can look at the rest of the issues.

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

Officer opening – Chief of Police David Vincent introduced David Glidden who has been a Savannah reserve officer for a few years. Vincent spoke to other officers who have worked with him and they thought it was good to bring him on as full time. Vincent suggested \$13.50/hour. Glidden has been a Deputy at Nodaway County since 2012. Since Glidden has experience with the City, he is familiar and will not require training time. Joy Thompson motioned to hire Officer David Glidden full time at \$13.50/hour and Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Auditor -- It is required by Missouri Statutes that cities bid out for an Auditor at least every five years. It is that time again. Bids will be accepted until July 27th at 10:00 a.m.

Girls Night Out On the Square -- The Ivy Cottage is again hosting the Girls Night Out on the Square, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on July 27th. Many of the local businesses will be participating. Someone inquired regarding whether vendors need to obtain business licenses. Based on the City Code, it appears anyone that sets up a temporary business during this event must also have a business license. Joy Thompson asked if that would apply to the October Homecoming weekend event too. She asked if a small craft person working out of her home would have insurance. City Attorney Emily Bauman thought if the crafter was going to fairs or bigger operations, probably they would have insurance. Thompson asked about the craft shows at the Clasbey Center. Business licenses help residents by requiring applicants to show proof of insurance.

Wastewater Plant -- Jason Long, Wastewater Plant Supervisor, would like to get started replacing some of the large grinder pumps at the plant. Last year the City approved replacing Motive pumps that mix the waste in the oxidation ditches. Pumps are \$36,000 each; there are three. This year one has been replaced. A second pump has had new seals installed so it is good. He has ordered the third. The pumps that Long is looking at now are the three main influent grinder pumps that grind all the raw sewage that comes into the plant. He called and received a phone bid of about \$40,000. The pump takes about five months to get so it will be a purchase put in the upcoming year's budget. There are three of these at the plant and Long would like to replace one per year.

Pool -- The Savannah Swimming Pool has a leak. Activities Director Jason Smith contacted the construction company, Continental pool, who did the renovations a couple of years ago. Lundy has been in contact with the renovations engineer too. It seems the seal around the top of the pool walls where it meets the gutter has failed and is allowing water to run out in several places. The pool company is coming next Thursday, July 7th to repair it. The pool will have to close at 4 p.m. that day. The pool will be drained a bit and the company will put in the new seal that evening. The pool is expected to be able to open back up the next day.

Budget Time -- It is almost budget time. Department heads are working on capital requests.

Savannah Main Street Committee -- The Committee head Gary Swanson told Mayor Connie George last week that the Main Street Committee is dissolving and will no longer exist. Main Street Savannah has been active in Savannah planting flowers around the Square and has headed up the City Wide Garage Sale for years. The City thanks Swanson and the other members for their service. Another organization, RSVP, will look to take over Main Street's activities like the City wide garage sale.

Increased Sales Tax -- Earlier in the year the City talked about asking voters to increase the sales tax in Savannah by a ½ cent to benefit the General Fund. It is time to talk about that again and take those steps to put it on the November ballot. Lundy provided history on the sales tax. The sales tax in Savannah is currently 8.425 cents on the dollar. When he took on the City Administrator's position he was surprised to learn that only 2 cents of that total goes to the City. The City of Savannah General Fund receives one cent of each dollar spent in the City. A one half cent sales tax was approved by voters in 2005 for the Parks and one half cent sales tax is for City Streets. The other 6.425 cents per dollar is designated to the State, County, Museum, and Ambulance. He included a chart that showed the sales tax breakdown for the entire county. The one cent sales tax was approved in 1996 to replace vehicle stickers. It's been 20 years that the money has been spent wisely. The City does not want to get to desperate point. Based on current figures, ½ cent is about \$190,000 revenue a year. Lundy described all of the items that come out of the General Fund including the more recent storm sirens, police fire, street departments, and even the 313 street lights cost \$4400 a month. Utilities such as electric company KCPL have increased their rates and a lot of the expenses come out of the General

Fund. Don Dillman asked if the City's Financial Tionna Pooler could look at ways to enhance the General Fund. City Attorney Emily Bauman detailed all the ways the General Fund benefits residents. City Administrator Bruce Lundy checked with the county and only 15% out of all property tax goes to the City. An increased property tax is not likely. Sales tax is paid by purchases so includes residents and people who come through town and spend. John Parker asked if the City should ask for more than ½ cent. City Attorney Emily Bauman responded that there are caps on what can be requested. John Parker motioned to pursue putting the tax increase to the voters. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Fireworks stands -- Lundy spoke with Chief David Vincent, Former Fire Chief Tommy George and even Ralph Stanton regarding fireworks stands and why the City does not allow fireworks to be sold inside city limits. No one remembered the reason why they were not sold in the City. Joy Thompson understood that the City's original code came from another town that prohibited fireworks and that is why Savannah does not allow them. City Clerk Beth Kar put out the topic on the City Clerks group and several cities allow the sale of fireworks with specific times when they could be sold as well as safety regulations. Officer Daniel Zeigler commented that if fireworks will be shot off in the City, it would be good for the City to at least receive money off of it. City Attorney Emily Bauman will draft an ordinance for Council's review.

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

City Attorney's report -- City Attorney Emily Bauman reported it was a busy time. The police officers delivered three packets of tickets, which is almost twice as much as usual. She had created letters regarding zoning violations. She reviewed emails on fireworks stands. Bauman worked on the ATV ordinance language update so that it will inform the public, not allowed to drive from the county into the city. The ordinance would not exclude people in the county from driving around town. Council discussed liability from anyone driving from the county into the City. Bauman described it is a state law so there is no liability. Joy Thompson asked about the voluntary annexation. It will be going through the Planning & Zoning Commission next. It has taken time to clarify the title issues. She has been assisting through the probate process. There are 60 acres and 12 people who had interests, 16 to 19 with marital interest. Through the probate process, when the chain of title search came back, there were issues with the probate process. Titles had not been passed clearly through the estates. Don Dillman asked will the City be aggressive on trailer court concerns. What about trailers at other courts? This is not an isolated incident. The court mentioned earlier had been issued a summons. Bauman wrote a letter to go with the summons that explains what needs to happen to come into compliance, in particular the myth of grandfathering and that it does not mean they are excluded from all regulations. Summons is for August 3rd. Joy Thompson motioned to approve the report. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Second Public Testimony: Marshall White asked what the deadline was for sales tax to go on the November ballot. The deadline is August.

ELECTED OFFICIALS DISCUSSION

Mayor's Report -- Mayor Connie George attended the Planning & Zoning meeting. Michael Puckett was at the meeting regarding the proposed TIF project.

Council Members Discussion

John Parker received a call about the Boy Scouts and had them contact City Administrator Bruce Lundy on training.

Joy Thompson reported the property at 107 N. 2nd Street needs mowed. Lundy had spoken to the resident about it last week.

Don Dillman also noted the property at 2nd and Pearl needed mowed.

Adjournment -- No further business to discuss. Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on a motion by Joy Thompson and seconded by John Parker. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

Connie George, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Beth Kar, City Clerk